



WWF Submission on the 1st 2025 Global Dialogue of the Mitigation Work Programme

January 31, 2025

In response to the call for submissions from Observers, WWF is pleased to submit our recommendations on the theme for the first 2025 Global Dialogue of the Mitigation Work Programme.

Summary

WWF proposes that the Mitigation Work Programme dialogues in 2025 cover steel sector decarbonization, within the context of industrial decarbonization. As steel is a key material used in construction, there would be potential synergies between the topics of 2024 and 2025.

Measures aimed at industrial decarbonization should build on and advance efforts to transition away from fossil fuels (including metallurgical coal) and to achieve 100% renewable energy.

Motivation

The steel sector (including scope 2 emissions from the power used) accounts for 7-8 percent of total man-made global GHG emissions, and the production volumes are projected to grow. Accelerating steel sector decarbonization is crucial to keep the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C alive. Measures aimed at industrial decarbonization should build on and advance efforts to transition away from fossil fuels (including metallurgical coal) and to achieve 100% renewable energy.

In recent years, several science-based pathways, including the IEA Net Zero pathway, have outlined how the steel sector can align with the 1.5°C global carbon budget. These reports confirm that the necessary technology is known, but also highlight the urgent need for rapid deployment of breakthrough technologies, such as hydrogen-based reduction of primary iron ore.

In 2025, an obligation for countries under the Paris Agreement is updating the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Mitigation Work Programme can play a crucial role in informing the NDC 3.0 by facilitating knowledge-sharing and exchanging experiences on steel decarbonization among Parties and highlighting key resources developed by non-Party stakeholders. For instance, we have noted with appreciation the recently launched NDC 3.0 Guidebook for Industrial Decarbonization by the Net zero Partnership.

We believe there is a great need to build bridges between the workstreams of the Paris Agreement and the extensive industrial decarbonization efforts showcased at previous COPs. These include

- Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), a Clean Energy Ministerial coalition designed to stimulate global demand for low-carbon industrial materials, is developing procurement criteria for steel products.
- Climate club launched at COP28 is focusing on decarbonizing the production of steel and cement.
- Industrial Transition Accelerator launched at COP28 and hosted by the Mission Possible Partnership.

UN bodies such as UNIDO and UNFCCC TEC have developed deep expertise in industrial decarbonization. We are confident that a broad spectrum of stakeholders besides WWF are willing to contribute with knowledge and experience to dialogues focusing on industrial decarbonisation and steel in particular.

Industrial decarbonization is one of the key sectors yet to be the topic of the Mitigation Work Programme dialogues. In 2024 the work program focused on “Cities, buildings and urban systems”. As steel is a key material used in construction, there would be potential synergies between the topics of 2024 and 2025.

For more information contact:

Bernt Nordman

Head of Climate Program

WWF Finland

Email: bernt.nordman@wwf.fi

Fernanda Viana de Carvalho

Head of Climate and Energy Policy

WWF International

Email: fcarvalho@wwfint.org



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1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111. Fax. +41 22 364 0332.

For contact details and further information, please visit our international
website at www.panda.org/climateenergy