

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the Mitigation Work Programme

provided in line with the mandate given in November 2022¹

January 2025



Mitigation work programme submission

1. *Introduction and context*

The Global Stocktake outcome at COP28 emphasised that Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, as well as ‘the need for urgent action and support to keep the 1.5C goal within reach and to address the climate crisis in this critical decade’². It also recognised the need for global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 at the latest, and global greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, relative to the 2019 level.

2025 is the midpoint of this critical decade for climate action, with Parties’ next NDCs due this year. This should create the space for further consideration on how NDCs can reflect parties’ ‘highest possible ambition’ as set out in Article 4(3) of the Paris Agreement, keep 1.5C in reach, and implement the outcomes agreed under the Global Stocktake in this decade to put us collectively back on track.

The MWP has a key role to play in this. It has the potential to inform the development and revisiting of NDCs, in line with paragraph 39 of Decision 1/CMA.5. This would be consistent with the MWP’s mandate, which states that it ‘shall function in a manner that is consistent with the procedures and timelines for communication of successive [NDCs]’.

The window of opportunity for the MWP to fulfil its objective of accelerating mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade is getting smaller, and we must ensure sufficient progress is made this year through the Global Dialogues (GDs), Investment-focused events (IFEs), hybrid dialogues, and agenda item under the Subsidiary Bodies and CMA, to close the gap towards a 1.5C global pathway.

2. *Topic selection*

The CMA4 MWP Decision sets out that the scope of the MWP ‘**should be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade**’.

As stated in the UK’s submission on MWP topic selection last year, we support the MWP co-chairs selecting topics that:

- have been identified as a **priority commitment through previous decisions under the CMA.**
- involve **sectors and themes that require urgent action and will be impactful** in delivering the **highest mitigation abatement potential in the pre-2030 period.**
- are **aligned with the best available science** and findings on how to close the emissions gap.
- will lead to **recommendations that can be replicated to scale**, in a format **with which ministers can engage** at the Pre-2030 Ambition Ministerial Round Table, and **be taken forward domestically** in a nationally determined manner.
- have the **support of a range of Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS)** without requiring support from all.

Further to the above, the topic for the MWP should be selected **taking into account Paragraph 186 of Decision 1/CMA.5** which ‘invites relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement to integrate relevant outcomes of the first global stocktake in planning their future work, in line with their mandates’. As such, **this year’s MWP topic should integrate relevant mitigation outcomes from the Global Stocktake.** This is reinforced by the fact that the MWP was established ‘in a manner that complements the Global Stocktake’ and should lead to urgent action in this decade to deliver high mitigation abatement potential and fulfil the MWP’s purpose of accelerating mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

We propose that the Mitigation Work Programme Global Dialogues in 2025 should focus on solutions to scale ambition and accelerate action on delivering paragraph 33 of Decision 1/CMA.5¹ in a way consistent with greater NDC ambition in this crucial year.

Forests make up 65-75% of the global land sink, which is estimated to have sequestered around 44% of fossil fuel emissions over the last 30 years². Deforestation and degradation, driven principally by agricultural expansion as well as urban expansion, and infrastructure development, erode the global forests and their land sink potential, and contribute 10-12% of global emissions. However, the forest sector also presents a significant opportunity for delivering mitigation, alongside wider industrial and energy sector decarbonisation.

¹ Further emphasizes the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as

The UK has long been at the forefront of global efforts to protect forests. We are working in partnership with forest countries to deliver the shared commitment to halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 while supporting livelihoods. We are supporting efforts to improve forest governance, enable sustainable trade and investment and mobilise finance to support forest protection and restoration across the major tropical forest basins, and have committed £3 billion of UK International Climate Finance for nature over 2021-2026, of which £1.5 billion is earmarked specifically for international forests.

Given the vast potential for forests to support global and national ambition, we propose that the MWP should focus on the opportunities and challenges to implementation of strategies to protect, restore and manage forests sustainably, in a way that delivers the significant mitigation potential available through sustainable stewardship of global forests, alongside substantial co-benefits for livelihoods, prosperity, adaptation and resilience, including for smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities. **We recognise that this must be responsive to the needs of forest country partners, and have therefore sought to recognise their unique experiences and need for financial support.**

As examples of elements for discussion, we would suggest the following non-exhaustive list, with all elements to be discussed within the context of revisiting, developing and implementing NDCs:

1. Science-based pathways and best practice (including through integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems) for forest restoration and sustainable management, including science-based regulatory frameworks and policies;
2. Sharing expertise on measuring AFOLU emissions, sharing best practice on cost-effective measures to reduce emissions across the sector, and highlighting the support available for developing countries to identify and reduce emissions and accelerate removals from

sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by conserving biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

a) ² [Pan et al](#)

forestry whilst supporting nature, biodiversity and enhancing human livelihoods, adaptation and resilience;

3. Lessons learned from countries that have committed to halting and reversing deforestation;
4. Lessons learned from countries that seek to develop their forests to provide a carbon sink;
5. Lessons learned for ensuring permanence and additionality through restoration;
6. Lessons learned from using restoration programmes to enhance livelihood outcomes and minimise land conflict, including with regards to smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities;
7. A specific focus on challenges and opportunities for forest landscape restoration, including on innovative options for scaling finance from all sources, and an opportunity for strengthening food and water security, resilience and adaptation to climate change;
8. The role of science, innovation and technology in supporting evidence-based restoration in-line with Paris Agreement goals.

3. Organising the MWP

Activities in the second year of the MWP enabled useful conversations on action on cities, buildings and urban systems across the GDs and IFEs, and saw good engagement from Parties and NPS.

We appreciated the efforts of the Co-chairs and Secretariat to build a setting for solutions-focused exchanges that can foster international collaboration, as well as the work to improve and build on lessons learnt from one Global Dialogue to the next.

Paragraph 11 of the CMA6 Decision on the MWP provides further guidance on how to organise the work under the MWP, drawing on the experience of previous years, in such a manner as to

- 1) Enhance regional and gender balance among invited experts;
- 2) Increase the number of participants from each Party, particularly from developing country Parties, including by expanding virtual participation opportunities;
- 3) Enable Parties to contribute to determining the agenda, subtopics and guiding questions for the dialogues and events with a view to enhancing transparency;
- 4) Enhance the matchmaking function to assist Parties in accessing finance, including investment, grants and concessional loans;
- 5) Enhance understanding of regional perspectives.

To complement those elements, we would like to suggest the following improvements to the functioning of the Global Dialogues and Investment-Focused Events:

Inclusion

- 1) Better representation of experts from governments and NPS including implementation experts, investors, and academics, not simply as speakers and facilitators but also as part of the breakout conversations, including through:
 - a) Promotion of gender balance throughout the process;
 - b) Accessibility of online participation, including scheduling at times to facilitate maximum participation;
 - c) Given our proposed topic, the integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge on forestry and forest management into discussions;
 - d) Further use of interactive formats as in the second GD with World Cafe tables, based on a regional split, as this enables more dynamic engagement from Parties and stakeholders;
 - e) Co-chairs conducting a round of engagement with non-party stakeholders (NPS), drawing on the model of the Global Stocktake, through which the UN High Level Champions conducted expressions of interest for enhanced non-party stakeholder (NPS) participation.
- 2) For future global IFEs specifically, we would have the following suggestions:
 - a) Provide clarity to participants on the nature of the forum, including structure of pitches, and clear mechanisms for follow-up, including by facilitating engagement between financial stakeholders and those pitching for project support prior to the IFE, to provide assistance and help accelerate collaboration.
 - b) More interaction between Parties and NPS through break out groups on the solutions and opportunities for international cooperation, moving beyond a question-and-answer format.

Outcomes

- 1) MWP Co-chairs to organise consultations with Parties and NPS after the publication of a report on a GD and ahead of the next GD to further inform the design and outputs of subsequent MWP activities, drawing on the inclusive and learning-by-doing approach that has been applied by other UNFCCC processes such as the Global Stocktake.
- 2) Provision of space to follow up on previous dialogues and topics, especially on lessons learnt and any outstanding questions discussed by Parties and NPS. This could be done through the other in-person or hybrid dialogues mentioned in paragraph 9 of Decision 4/CMA.4.
- 3) Ensure the report on the next global dialogue is made available well ahead of sessions (at least six weeks before) to inform discussions.

- 4) In line with the MWP outcomes from COP29, recognition of the need to tailor solutions to sociocultural and economic contexts, noting that there is no 'one size fits all' approach owing to the diversity of national and local circumstances.