



## Australian Government

### Submissions on matters relating to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in decision 4/ CMA.4

February 2025

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide views on topics for the mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (MWP) in 2025. The MWP is currently the only work programme within the Paris Agreement architecture dedicated to mitigation and plays an important role bringing Parties together to share experiences, best practices and key opportunities and challenges to reduce emissions.

Work under the MWP must align with its central objective in paragraph 1, decision 4/CMA.4 to ‘urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade in a manner that complements the global stocktake (GST)’. It is important to select topics with high mitigation potential, look for opportunities to build and expand on discussions in previous years, and support the implementation of the first GST.

#### 1. Topic for 2025

Australia supports **Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU)** as the topic under the MWP for 2025. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), AFOLU accounted for an average of 13-21% of total global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions between 2010-2019, while at the same time absorbing around one third of carbon emissions through terrestrial ecosystems acting as carbon sinks.<sup>1</sup> Rapid deployment of measures to mitigate emissions and enhance carbon sinks in the AFOLU sector are essential in all pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C. Combatting global deforestation and improving management practices in forests and other ecosystems, as well as agriculture and demand-side measures, offer significant near-term mitigation potential – up to 20-30% of the global mitigation need for 1.5°C or 2°C pathways to 2050.<sup>2</sup> Mitigation opportunities in the AFOLU sector can also offer significant co-benefits that promote sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, agricultural productivity, food security, enhanced adaptation and resilience, soil health, health and well-being and economic development. At the same time, many countries face challenges and barriers implementing these policies, significant knowledge gaps remain, and deployment remains slow globally.

In this context, we see significant value in discussing mitigation opportunities, barriers and solutions to address barriers through the MWP this year. We would recommend one dialogue focusing on the agriculture sector and one dialogue on forestry and other land uses, with a focus on nature-based solutions, sustainable forest management and combatting global deforestation.

<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2022), Chapter 7: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU), AR6, WGIII, pg. 750, [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_Chapter07.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Chapter07.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> IPCC (2022), pg. 750.

## **2. Topic for 2026**

Recognising the value of early consideration of topics for future years to improve continuity and planning, Australia supports focusing on **industrial decarbonisation** in 2026. This will not only allow for the coverage of all major IPCC thematic areas but offers the opportunity to incorporate and build on discussions under the MWP in previous years.

## **3. Process considerations**

Australia supports hybrid dialogues that maximise opportunities for participation from all interested Parties, as well as the active participation and attendance of relevant experts, international organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Organisations, civil society and other non-Party stakeholders. We also recommend organising dialogues in a manner that facilitates dynamic discussion between participants through breakout groups and World Cafe sessions, recognising this should allow for virtual as well as in-person participation.

As agreed at COP29, it is important to actively seek to enhance understanding of regional perspectives, particularly of regions that can be underrepresented such as Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. This can be achieved at global dialogues through representation on panels, presentations and sessions that focus on regional perspectives. We remain strongly supportive of additional regional dialogues, open to all interested participants but focused on specific regions, to allow for in-depth discussion of different regional issues and contexts. Recognising that Regional Climate Weeks will restart this year, we see an opportunity to organise regional dialogues under the MWP in 2025. Lastly, we also see value in the organisation of complementary, virtual-only dialogues between experts on specific subtopics. Outcomes from these meetings would not need to be included in annual summary reports and would be designed to leverage the MWP's convening power to support enhanced peer-to-peer exchange between countries on technical issues.

## **4. Implementing GST outcomes**

It is important to recognise the MWP's mandate to complement the GST (paragraph 1, decision 4/CMA.4) by integrating relevant outcomes of the first GST in planning future work, as agreed in paragraph 186, decision 1/CMA.5. The MWP's global dialogues and investment-focused events offer a valuable opportunity for countries to share experiences and explore opportunities to enhance cooperation to facilitate the achievement of the global objectives in the GST, including paragraph 28 and 33. There are linkages between the topic of AFOLU and paragraphs 28 and 33 of the GST, particularly with regards to substantially reducing non-CO2 emissions, accelerating zero and low emissions technologies and halting and reversing deforestation by 2030. GST outcomes can be integrated into the dialogues through bespoke sessions, guiding questions and/ or World Café discussions.