

Submission from Norway on topics for the Mitigation Work Programme for 2025, referred to in paragraph 4 of decision 4/CMA.4

19. February 2025

Norway welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the topics for the Mitigation Work Programme for 2025. We suggest that the MWP for 2025 address the topic “Forests and land use”.

Overarching considerations and proposal

The topics for the mitigation work programme should be in line with the scope of the work programme, i.e. be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade outlined in decision 4/CMA.4.

The objective of the mitigation work programme is to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation. In Norway’s view, the objective implies that we should work on topics where there is a large potential for fast and deep emission reductions before 2030.

The topic for the 2025 Mitigation Work Programme should be “Forests and land use”. The IPCC AR6 reports notes that the rapid deployment of AFOLU measures is essential in all pathways staying within the limits of the remaining budget for keeping 1.5°C within reach, and that mitigation measures in forests and other natural ecosystems provide the largest share of the economic AFOLU mitigation potential. Also, the GST decision notes the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. The topic can easily be divided such that the first global dialogue covers either forests or land use, and the second global dialogue covers the other.

The IPCC AR6 report and the IPCC special report on climate change and land give a solid basis for discussion by Parties and non-party stakeholders, to share expertise and experience. Chapter 7 on Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) are the most relevant, but other chapters may also be considered, given the interconnected nature of mitigation solutions.

Norway propose that it will be sufficient for MWP to include Forestry and Land Use, and not take a deep dive into agriculture, as agriculture is subject to a separate and dedicated workstream under the SBs, the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, SSJW. Norway foresees that the two workstreams should build upon each other, to highlight interconnections between these related topics and ensure coordination between the workstreams, while avoiding duplication.

Consideration should be given to how the GST outcome on this topic best can inform parties and the Mitigation Work Programme.

Possible sub-topics for the two dialogues

Subtopics and guiding question for the dialogue will foster focused discussions and help to ensure relevant experts are present and able to lend their expertise. We believe such relevant areas to explore could include:

- the carbon uptake of forests including underlying factors such as forest types and climate,
- measures to increase uptake,
- permanence of measures and uptake,
- drivers of deforestation,
- sustainable management,
- rights of indigenous people and local communities, and
- support and finance aspects.