

**Submission of the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)
On the Work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) under APA
Agenda Item 6**

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
on behalf of the Like-Minded Developing Countries in the UNFCCC (LMDC)

The Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) Group in the UNFCCC makes this submission¹ containing the Group's initial views in relation to APA Agenda Item 6, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the conclusions of the APA at its first session in Bonn in May 2016.²

ITEM 6, "MATTERS RELATING TO THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 14 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT: (A) IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCES OF INPUT FOR THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE; AND (B) DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODALITIES OF THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE", NOTING THE WORK UNDER SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AGENDA ITEM 6(B), "MATTERS RELATING TO SCIENCE AND REVIEW: ADVICE ON HOW THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE CAN INFORM THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 14 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT"

A. General Considerations and Principles for the GST

1. The global stocktake (GST) is critical to ensure continuing effort in addressing climate change. It offers an opportunity for the comprehensive and integrated assessment of Parties' overall efforts going forward, in a manner that is facilitative and Party-driven, within the context of the Parties Agreement and the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2. Paris Agreement and Decision 1/CP.21 provide clear provisions and mandates which should serve as the basis for the further work on the GST.
2. Several principles should be applied in designing the GST:
 - (a) *Comprehensive.* Article 14.1 of the Paris Agreement illustrates that the scope of the GST should be comprehensive, "considering mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, in the light of equity and the best available science." It should be emphasized that the means of implementation and support are essential to the success of mitigation and adaptation, and therefore should be treated together with the mitigation and adaptation actions. Cautions are needed when introducing the tailored approach for different elements, which will jeopardize the linkage between actions and support.
 - (b) *Facilitative.* Article 14.1 also mentions that the GST should be done in a facilitative manner to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals, which includes goals on mitigation, adaptation and finance as well as the long-term vision on technology development and transfer and capacity-building.
 - (c) *Party-driven.* Parties shall be the key players in the GST, not only during the design phase but also the implementation phase. As mentioned in Article 14.3 of the Paris Agreement, the outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in a nationally determined manner.

¹ This submission is without prejudice to additional submissions that the Group, or individual Party members of the Group, may make; and may also be further revised or supplemented.

² See FCCC/APA/2016/L.3, at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/apa/eng/l03.pdf>

- (d) *Transparent, balanced and holistic.* To ensure the comprehensiveness of GST and to enhance mutual trust among parties, it is important that the GST is conducted in a transparent, balanced and holistic manner, in particular balanced treatment between actions and support, between natural science inputs and social science inputs, and between opportunities and challenges.
- (e) *Equity and Sustainable Development.* The GST should be conducted in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. The inputs and outcome of the GST should also be considered in the context of sustainable development.
- (f) *Implementation Focused.* The purpose of the GST is to take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The GST should be based on the progress that has been made on the implementation, not an ex-ante assessment of the subsequent NDCs that will be implemented in the future.

B. Key issues to be addressed in the GST

3. Although the Paris Agreement has set up the general arrangements regarding of the scope and principles of the GST, a lot of work still needs to be done, such as the development of modalities and the identification of the input sources.
4. In designing the GST, three issues need to be addressed:
 - (a) What inputs should feed into the GST?
 - (b) How should be the GST conducted and organized?
 - (c) What should be the outcome of the GST?
5. More specifically, the following important questions need to be discussed:
 - (a) How to make the inputs and outcome of the GST comprehensive and balanced among all elements (mitigation, adaptation, and finance, technology and capacity building support)?
 - (b) How to understand and assess the “collective progress” or “overall effects” of all elements in a comprehensive, holistic and balanced way and in light of equity and the best available science?
 - (c) Which agency or agencies to organize the GST? What are the procedures and timelines of the GST? Which formats and activities are appropriate for the GST?
 - (d) How to ensure that the GST would assist in implementation and enhance actions? What kind of positive information can be obtained, such as on progress made, technical progress achieved, best practices and lessons learned, potential cooperative mechanisms to enhance actions, etc.? How the outcome of the GST to be produced and in which format?
 - (e) How to properly address the linkage between Article 14 and other articles of the Paris Agreement which mention the GST, including Article 4.9, 7.14, 9.6, 10.6, 13.5 and 13.6? What processes in the GST could potentially overlap with processes under other subsidiary bodies, e.g. next round of periodic review, and how do we address the overlaps if occurs?

C. Inputs of the GST

6. For information sources, many of the input sources for the GST have been identified in paragraph 99 of decision 1/CP.21. Two important criteria should be applied in selecting information sources:
 - (a) *Demands/question oriented*: The sources of information should be help to answer the questions related to the GST. Information shall serve for the content. In this regards, before deciding the sources of information, we need to address the question that what kinds of information are needed. The GST should assess the progress on implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular the progress in support. Thus, relevant information provided by the mechanisms on adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in particular the Standing Committee on Finance, Technology Framework and Paris Committed on Capacity-building, should be included.
 - (b) *Comprehensive and balanced*. The inputs should reflect the comprehensive scope of the GST under Article 14.1 of the Paris Agreement, “considering mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science” in a balanced manner. In addition, the inputs should also balance between IPCC and non-IPCC sources.
7. Specifically, the information sources should be broad and diversified. Besides the information mentioned in paragraph 99 of decision 1/CP.21, submissions and relevant reports by Parties should be key sources of input for the GST.
8. Since the objective of the GST is to assess the collective progress of Parties, national information officially provided by Parties should be prioritized.

D. Process and Outcome of the GST

9. As mentioned above, the GST should be conducted in a party-driven, transparent, balanced and holistic approach. Furthermore, design and operation of the GST should ensure full participation of all Parties, especially developing country Parties.
10. Existing experiences under the Convention with respect to the assessment and review of the adequacy of Parties’ actions to implement the Convention could be drawn upon.
11. The operation of the GST should consider the differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries Parties. Appropriate support should be given to developing countries Parties to encourage their full participation.
12. Article 14 of the Paris Agreement envisages the GST to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions, support and international cooperation for climate action. In order to achieve this goal, the whole process of the GST should be designed to deliver positive information. Messages beyond numbers and gaps, such as the progress undertaken, the progress achieved on finance, technology and capacity-building support, the best practices and lessons learned and the potential cooperative opportunities, shall be delivered for greater ambition both on actions and support.
13. The GST must assist in identifying and unlocking potential barriers to implementation, and further help connect developing countries with the support they need to overcome these

barriers in order to enhance actions. It is critical to ensure that the GST can inform the delivery of support and technical assistance through the Financial Mechanism, Technology Mechanism and related bodies on capacity-building.

14. The GST could include process on information gathering and exchanging of views among Parties. However, the process and organization of the GST should be concise and pragmatic, without undue burden to Parties. The overall timeframe of the GST should depend on the timeframe of information acquisition and implementation process. There can be various options on the format of final outcome of the GST, with further discussions among Parties. However, the content of the outcome should be recognized and agreed by the Parties. Any substantial outputs with policy implications should reflect all Parties' inputs in a balanced and comprehensive manner and be agreed in a party-driven and consensus-building manner.
15. The outcome of the GST shall be an information reference for Parties to determine their future actions and support as well as to enhance international cooperation on climate action. The timing, approach and content of the enhancement of climate action should be nationally determined and in accordance with relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement. Developed country Parties should further increase their ambition both in their existing NDCs and subsequent NDCs on emission reduction and provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing country Parties, in line with their historical responsibility and leadership on addressing climate change. Developing country Parties could further enhance their mitigation and adaptation actions, taking into account their circumstances, capacities and increased finance, technology and capacity-building support received.

E. Matters relating to science and review: advice on how the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change can inform the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement (SBSTA Agenda Item 6(b))

16. IPCC assessments have a role to play in providing Parties with policy-relevant information based on assessments of covered scientific literature in relation to topics covered by IPCC reports. This is clearly recognized under the UNFCCC process. However, the consideration of the policy relevance, feasibility, and normative impact of IPCC assessments in relation to the interpretation and implementation of Parties' commitments and their actions under the Convention and its related legal instruments such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are solely within the remit of the decisions of the COP.
17. Hence, while the IPCC has its own scientific independence which Parties would respect, the identification of information gaps and needs that would need to be addressed in relation to informing the GST can be made by Parties through their national submissions. However, any direct introduction or use of policy-relevant findings or assessments of literature made by an IPCC report into any UNFCCC process, including the GST, particularly in the context of producing normative effects on Parties' implementation of the Convention or Paris Agreement, should be done only through negotiated conclusions of the SBSTA as subsequently adopted by the COP in relation to specific IPCC reports.
18. This means that when using information from IPCC, the information should be used in a scientific, accurate and comprehensive way without any prejudice to or priori selection of specific policy-relevant findings or conclusions from the IPCC reports.
19. Finally, since IPCC reports would not be able to address all the information requirements that may be required in the GST, it is important to keep the balance between IPCC and

non-IPCC information sources and inputs, so as to ensure that Parties have a broad base of information.