



Australian Government

Submission on APA Item 6 –Global Stocktake

October 2017

The conclusions adopted at APA 1-3 on 18 May 2017 invited Parties to make focused submissions on the possible elements of textual outline for the identification of the sources of input to and development of the modalities for the global Stocktake ('the Stocktake').

Building on Australia's previous submission, made in the lead up to SB46,¹ this submission provides further details of how the Stocktake's modalities and inputs might be constructed to achieve its mandate to "assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose" of the Paris Agreement "and its long-term goals", in light of equity and the best available science. Following from this, the pre-session round table scheduled for 5 November could identify which elements are most in need of further clarity and discussion and thereby suggest a forward work plan for in-session negotiations. As a starting point, Australia proposes the following elements as most in need of further clarity and discussion.

A. MODALITIES

The following aspects of the Stocktake's modalities will need to be agreed by parties to give effect to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement:

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| I. | Overall structure and organisation of the Stocktake, including phases and participation |
| II. | Timing and duration |
| III. | Work streams and outputs; including |
| | a. list of questions which each work stream will be charged with answering and process for addressing these; |
| | b. process to identify inputs (see Section B for further details); |
| | c. process to develop outputs |
| IV. | Governance, including the roles and responsibilities of the CMA and other constituted bodies |

Overall Structure and Organisation

Australia supports a two-phase Stocktake, comprised of a technical phase followed by a leadership phase to encourage enhanced action.

Timing and duration

The Stocktake could take place over a period of 12 to 18 months. Technical discussions could

¹ http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/261_324_131383592627510793-2017-Global-Stocktake-Submission-Australia.docx

commence at the Subsidiary Body sessions in the year prior to the Stocktake year, concluding prior to the start of the leadership phase occurring in the lead-up to, and during, the CMA in the Stocktake year. The leadership phase could involve political, civil society and business leaders and should be aimed at building global momentum and action at the scale necessary to achieve the Agreement's purpose.

Work streams and outputs

The technical phase should include three work streams reflecting the three goals of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, adaptation, and finance flows and means of implementation and support. These work streams should each be given sufficient time to conduct their assessments of progress towards each goal. Technical discussions taking place as part of these work streams should consider the relevant agreed inputs, contribute to Parties' technical understanding of progress against the relevant goals, and inform the subsequent political phase.

The technical phase should be organised according to guiding questions formulated to produce outputs that provide clear and accessible information. These questions should focus on collective progress toward the long-term goals of the Agreement, and further global action required to achieve them.

As with sources of input (see below) this need not necessarily entail a static list of guiding questions agreed by COP24, but could entail a provisional list with a mechanism for finalising it in the lead-up to, or in the conduct of, each Stocktake.

Governance

The Stocktake should be conducted by the CMA to ensure the process is party-owned. The Subsidiary Bodies could potentially host the discussions of the technical phase.

Given the large amount of work likely to be required by the Stocktake, particularly intersessionally, Australia envisages a special role for the CMA presidency, in consultation with Parties, and supported by the Secretariat.

This could include: identifying additional inputs to the Stocktake; overseeing the aggregation of inputs such as national greenhouse gas inventories where necessary; determining the exact questions that guide the Stocktake's work; and organising the events that constitute the leadership phase.

B. SOURCES OF INPUT

In Australia's previous submission, we noted that there would necessarily be fundamental, or 'core', inputs to the Stocktake but that the total list of inputs would vary from Stocktake to Stocktake (for example, as different kinds of reports are published or ceased), requiring agreement on a mechanism to identify additional inputs to the Stocktake. The inputs should be selected to inform the guiding questions for each work stream.

The COP has identified a range of sources of input which should be included to inform the Stocktake. In addition it is recognised that additional inputs are likely to be necessary and helpful. Australia considers that by COP24 it will be useful to list:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">I. Core sources of input which are agreed and are expected to be durable across Stocktakes<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Including those identified in the Paris Agreement;b. Those noted in paragraph 99 of decision 1/CP.21;c. The conclusions of SBSTA 45 Item 8(b) relating to IPCC Assessments; andd. Other sources agreed by PartiesII. Modalities for the selection of relevant additional inputs in the lead-up to each Stocktake, including potentially from a non-exhaustive list in addition to those listed above |
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Given that some of the goals of the Paris Agreement can be met quantitatively and others qualitatively, different kinds of inputs will be required to satisfy the Stocktake's mandate to assess collective progress towards them.

Regarding the Paris Agreement's temperature goal outlined in Article 2.1(a), Australia identifies the following as core inputs to the Stocktake:

- Reports of the IPCC (potentially including Assessment Reports, Special Reports or other products, depending on the IPCC's approach to aligning its work to the Stocktake), to inform the Stocktake's understanding of emission pathways compatible with the Paris Agreement's temperature goals and the effort required to meet those goals, noting that the Stocktake shall take place in the light of the best available science;
- Relevant information reported under Article 13.7, in particular Parties' national inventory reports to establish most recent emissions levels and trends, including as a baseline for NDCs, presented in an aggregated format;
- Parties' current NDCs, to inform the Stocktake's understanding of likely future emissions trends, presented in an aggregated format; and
- Parties' long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies as described in 1/CP.21 Paragraph 35, presented in an aggregated format.

Regarding the Paris Agreement's adaptation goal outlined in Article 2.1(b), Australia identifies the following as core inputs to the Stocktake:

- Parties' adaptation communications submitted in accordance with Article 7.10

Regarding the Paris Agreement's finance flows goal outlined in Article 2.1(c), Australia identifies the following as core inputs to the Stocktake:

- Biennial assessment produced by the Standing Committee on Finance;
- Information provided by Parties in the context of Article 9.5; and
- Information provided by Parties in the context of Article 9.7.

Alignment of the IPCC's work with the Global Stocktake

As described above, the work of the IPCC is a core input to the Stocktake. Australia supports the IPCC's efforts to align its work with the needs of the Stocktake. We look forward to the IPCC proposing an approach that would provide information relevant to the Stocktake on a schedule aligned to the cycle of the Stocktake. In this regard, it is important that the timelines adopted by both the UNFCCC and the IPCC facilitate a Stocktake which can make use of the best available science.