



New Zealand submission on APA agenda 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**
- b) Development of the modalities of the global stocktake**

October 2017

Introduction

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to present views on “the possible elements of a textual outline for the identification of the sources of input to and development of the modalities for the global stocktake”. In New Zealand’s view the global stocktake is centrally important to the long-term effectiveness of the Paris Agreement. Therefore it is critical to ensure this platform for greater ambition is planted on a solid foundation to ensure its durability and workability.

2 Designing a durable and workable global stocktake in the short time remaining to us requires us to show greater discipline in our negotiating process. Specifically, we need to structure the informal group’s discussions in a manner that more directly responds to our mandate. Our submission first addresses the approach to our work, before setting out New Zealand’s substantive views on the sources of input and modalities for the global stocktake.

Views on structure

3 Work to develop the sources of input and modalities must support the purpose of the global stocktake (as stated in Article 14.1 of the Paris Agreement) and, to this end, respect the mandate given to the APA. Our task is specific, and the Agreement gives a clear purpose, context, and outcome for the global stocktake.

4 The purpose of the global stocktake is made clear in Article 14.1:

- a) to take stock of the implementation of the Agreement, in order to*
- b) assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.*

5 Moreover Article 14.1 provides the context for the global stocktake in clear terms that need no further negotiation. The global stocktake shall take stock and assess collective progress:

- a) in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and*
- b) in the light of equity and the best available science.*

6 The intended outcome of the global stocktake is also clear in the Paris Agreement. As stated in Article 14.3:

the outcome of the global stocktake shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

7 We should focus on the matters that have yet to be resolved. Specifically, Article 14 does not provide guidance on what information the stocktake should draw from; nor how it should operate (other than giving an instruction for it to occur every five years, starting in 2023). This is why the direction for us to work on sources of inputs (paragraph 99, 1/CP.21) and modalities (paragraph 101, 1/CP.21) has been made so explicitly.

8 Previous discussions on possible sources of input and modalities have been constructive, and have generated a rich flow of ideas. However, in order to deliver on our mandate (in time to forward it to the CMA for adoption at its resumed first session in 2018), we should now focus our discussions on the inputs and modalities we need to produce.

9 New Zealand's preference would be to discuss the facilitative/comprehensive nature of the global stocktake and the relevance of equity and science in the course of our work on both modalities and sources of inputs; however, we acknowledge the very clear calls at previous sessions to pay particular attention to these issues. We suggest we add a component on context to the structure of our discussion, in order to enable a meaningful exchange of views.

10 There is also a sequencing issue to consider; it is clear we need to discuss modalities (how the process should operate) before we can develop appropriate sources of input in the necessary detail. For example, if Parties explored the modalities of a technical phase that encompassed dedicated dialogues on each of the three broad themes of the stocktake, this would allow for more a meaningful discussion of the specific sources of input that would be appropriate for that phase.

11 New Zealand proposes we adopt the following headings to collate possible elements of the informal group's output:

1) Modalities

- a) timing and duration
- b) overall structure and management
- c) potential phases of work, their format and potential outputs
- d) governance (e.g. roles and responsibilities of the CMA and other constituted bodies)

2) Sources of inputs

- a) sources of inputs defined in paragraph 101, 1/CP.21
- b) a non-exhaustive list of inputs building on paragraph 99, 1/CP.21, to assist in:
 - i) taking stock of the implementation of the Agreement; and
 - ii) assessing collective progress towards the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals

3) Context

- a) how the modalities and sources of inputs can help ensure the global stocktake will:
 - i) be facilitative and comprehensive;
 - ii) occur in the light of equity and the best available science.

12 Applying this structure to our forthcoming discussion will allow us to:

- follow the mandate as closely as possible to avoid losing time to exchanges of views about the way we work; and
- immediately begin identifying elements of text that will respond directly to our mandate.

Views on substance

Modalities

13 We think it would be appropriate for the stocktake to comprise a technical phase and a political phase. The modalities for the technical phase, which would serve as a preparatory process for the political phase, should be efficient and designed to produce an output that can be readily digested at the political level. The technical phase should allow Parties to take stock of the implementation of the Agreement and assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.

14 We propose this technical phase could encompass dedicated dialogues on each of the three broad themes of the stocktake, to help ensure a comprehensive and appropriate assessment of mitigation, adaptation, and finance flows and means of implementation. Moderators of these discussions should be mandated to produce a (non-negotiated) summary for consideration in the political phase of the stocktake.

15 Modalities for the political phase should enable Parties to reach and capture consensus on the key considerations for Parties “when enhancing and updating their actions and support, in a nationally determined manner”. We suggest the phase comprises a high-level event, held over one or two days using an interactive format that includes presentations (for example, from the IPCC, the moderators of the technical phase, the Indigenous Peoples Platform). Procedurally, the output of a ministerial segment at the 2023 meeting of the CMA (and every five years thereafter) could be captured by a political declaration and/ or a CMA decision.

Sources of input

16 There has been rich discussion among Parties as to which sources of input would be appropriate. Paragraph 99, 1/CP.21 provides a good basis for identifying sources of inputs, and should be the starting point for the informal group’s work.

17 To ensure the manageability of the process, we suggest the addition of further sources of input should be determined in accordance with agreed criteria. It would be timely to begin consideration of relevant and useful criteria at our next meeting. As a starting point, New Zealand proposes that the information from any source proposed should be:

- appropriate to assess collective implementation and/ or progress;
- directly relevant to the technical stream under discussion;
- presented in a concise, easily digestible and accessible format;
- open access, to ensure availability to all;
- of a high standard of quality and integrity – ie current, drawing from relevant expertise, and peer reviewed where appropriate;
- technical in nature (rather than political).

18 New Zealand considers the moderators of the technical phase should be mandated to nominate additional sources of inputs for Parties' agreement on the basis of the agreed criteria.

Context

19 Parties' responsibility to address the requirement to take stock in a manner that recognises equity and the best available science will need to be reflected in both the modalities and sources of input to the stocktake.

20 As recognised by paragraph 99, 1/CP.21, it will be useful to have the IPCC provide input in both phases of the stocktake, particularly through its latest reports. IPCC input will be critical to ensuring the stocktake is carried out in the light of the best available science. A special presentation from the IPCC could be used to provide context for discussions during the political phase.

21 Presentations by Indigenous Peoples, Youth, and other key stakeholders could be used to ensure the global stocktake is carried out in the light of equity. Inviting such presentations would ensure due consideration of these interests (including the mainstreaming of gender issues). Potentially, constituted bodies that serve key stakeholder interests, such as the Indigenous Peoples Platform, could also provide input to the technical streams.

22 New Zealand seeks to continue engaging in discussions on how to ensure the global stocktake is carried out in the light of equity in ways consistent with the Paris Agreement. This important discussion should not be diverted by reopening debate on modalities on which we were unable to achieve consensus in Paris.

Conclusion

23 The language on Article 14 is clear and concise in terms of what we agreed in Paris – the global stocktake's purpose, its context, and its outcome. The mandate given by paragraphs 99 and 101, decision 1/CP.21 is equally clear – we are asked to operationalise the stocktake by identifying the sources of input and the modalities under which it will operate. We look forward to further constructive technical discussions at APA 1-4 and the pre-session roundtable on 5 November to help discussions forward from Paris and continue to build a solid platform for greater collective ambition.