

# Views on the elements to the consideration for the outputs component of the first global stocktake

*Submitted by Adaptation Working Group of the independent Global Stocktake<sup>1</sup>*

Responding to the SBSTA and the SBI's invitation for submissions on views on the elements to the consideration for the outputs component of the first global stocktake, the Adaptation Working Group (<https://unepccc.org/project/the-adaptation-working-group-awg-of-the-independent-global-stocktake-igst/>) under the independent GST program (<https://www.climateworks.org/programs/governance-diplomacy/independent-global-stocktake/>) is submitting the following key messages to the GST.

## 1. Cross-cutting recommendation

**GST outputs should focus on addressing its mandate.** GST has four adaptation-related functions: (a) recognize adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, (b) Enhance the implementation of adaptation action taking into account the adaptation communication, (c) Review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation, and the support provided for adaptation, (d) Review the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation. As such, the GST has a dual mandate on adaptation of assessing collective progress on adaptation and informing the update and enhancement of national-level adaptation actions. The final GST outputs shall address whether and how this dual mandate as well as the four functions are achieved.

However, summarizing the discussion made through the Technical Dialogue (TD) and other negotiation processes, it was observed that discussions on the GST seems to be heavily skewed towards the second mandate focused on guiding future political decisions and national action. However, the primary function of the GST and the foundation for providing 'stocktake-based' political conclusions and guidance on future mitigation and adaptation action is necessarily a comprehensive, politically neutral, and methodologically strong technical stocktake of progress. In many on-going GST discussions, however, emphasis have seemingly been put more on regarding GST as a forum for discussing and resolving various negotiating tracks (e.g. on means of implementation, including finance), rather than an opportunity to understand the adaptation implementation gap at a global level and how Parties can enhance their adaptation implementation. While, the importance of the GST outputs guiding political discussions action, cannot be questioned, there is thus clear risk that an unbalanced focus on those elements will distract efforts from the GSTs' technical function, and instead become a forum for promoting pre-conceived political agendas and priorities.

For the time being, the exact format and content of the GST outputs remains to be seen but what is clear, however, is that the final GST output will need to cover each of the four functions and dual mandate mentioned above. However, the narrative may not necessarily follow the same ordering as the one in the original decision. A more logical ordering of the four functions in the GST narrative, using slightly adjusted language, would be:

- 1) What adaptation efforts have been made by Parties globally including, particularly, by the developing countries?
- 2) Is current adaptation action and support adequate and effective? If not, where are the gaps?
- 3) What does the above indicate about progress made towards the GGA?
- 4) What are key messages to guide Parties in enhancing their adaptation action and support?

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## 2. Inputs responding to the specific guiding questions

### For guiding questions 1

*What has been the collective progress to date towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including under Article 2, in the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support, taking into account efforts under the Agreement that address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures, and that avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change?*

**Consideration of adequacy and effectiveness in the 1<sup>st</sup> GST.** In providing such an assessment on the collective progress made towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, the GST is expected to look into the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation actions and support at a global level. However, as concluded in the recently published “Synthesis report on the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake”, the two concepts ‘Adequacy’ and ‘Effectiveness’ are not conceptually clear, neither in literature nor in UNFCCC negotiations. Before they can be operationalized in a GST, a global consensus will need to be reached on a basic question: ‘Adequate and Effective: for whom, when and why? The answer to that question will then point to how a stocktake of A&E could be structured and implemented, including what metrics and methodologies that should ultimately be applied. Despite the still developing conceptual definition of A&E, for the consideration of outputs phase of the current GST cycle, the following points could be considered, in light of the research conducted through the independent Global Stocktake (iGST) 2022-2023:.

- 1) Considering the expected data and methodological limitations, it might not be realistic for the 1<sup>st</sup> GST to strive for a quantitative assessment of the degree to which global adaptation action is adequate and effective. Instead, it could, based on technical phase’s review of submitted national adaptation reporting, ‘take note’ of the often-lacking assessment of adequacy and effectiveness, as well as the heterogeneous methodologies and approaches used in those that do include an assessment of this element.
- 2) Building on the above, the 1<sup>st</sup> GST could take a clear step forward towards improved assessment of A&E in future GSTs by calling for the setup and testing of a pilot assessment framework based on semi-quantitative assessment approaches either through coding and assessment systems or through guided processes of structured expert judgement. The primary purpose of such a pilot assessment would be to provide a more quantitative representation of progress on A&E in the second GST and to generate experience and learning for a more refined system in following GSTs. Furthermore, the framework should provide clear guidance to countries on the type and format of information to include in the next round of NDC/AC submissions to be aligned with the assessment framework.
- 3) The 1<sup>st</sup> GST could call for more research at the interface of GGA and GST, particularly on methodology development targeting the definition and operationalization of adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation in the context of the GGA. Such a methodology is expected to be facilitated by the potential GGA framework which is currently being discussed. With the help of such a GGA framework, where hopefully the three elements of the GGA would be conceptualized into measurable goals and targets (either qualitatively or quantitatively or both), adequacy and effectiveness could be further defined with indicators under each of the three elements, e.g., what is considered as adequate or effective adaptive capacity enhancement, resilience strengthening or reduction of vulnerability. As such indicators will largely be outcomes-based, it will complement the current practice of mainly applying inputs-based indicators for adaptation assessment.

## For guiding questions 2

*What are the opportunities for and challenges in enhancing action for collective progress in relation to the above-mentioned thematic areas, as well as possible measures, good practices and examples of international cooperation in this regard? How should contextual elements be considered in these?*

**Greater reflection of the private sector in the GST.** Although the GST is a Party-driven process, inputs from Non-Party stakeholders including private sector provide important contributions. Greater reflection of the private sector in the GST has been called for by all three TDs, due to considerations of: 1) private sector provides important expertise and experience in, as well as pledges and commitments to climate actions, 2) it's inputs for adaptation finance and capacity building are particularly important and, 3) the benefit, costs and risks for its adaptation shall be taken stock of by the GST. However, as there is no existing systematic approach to collecting and reporting such data, the limited transparency and accountability of the private sector's adaptation action and support makes it difficult to track and assess those adaptation actions under the GST.

To address how the private sector can better contribute to and benefit from future GSTs through increased quantity and quality of adaptation data generated by private sector, and established pathways that link available data sources for private sector adaptation to the GST, the following points could be useful for the first GST to take into consideration:

- 1) The GST could facilitate standardizing private sector reporting on adaptation by providing guidance targeting key stakeholders:
  - a. For climate-related disclosure initiatives and other relevant business organizations, such guidance could focus on building capacity for companies to report on physical risks and their management within corporate disclosures
  - b. For national governments, such guidance could focus on facilitating the establishment of national bespoke reporting systems for private sector reporting and, further mandating domestic corporate disclosures in alignment with existing principles, e.g. the TCFD (Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures) recommendations
- 2) The GST should further ensure it remains open to including information reported by private sector by providing guidance on how those data from various channels will be included in the feature GSTs.

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## Supporting documents

**Publication:** [Perspectives: Adequacy and Effectiveness of Adaptation in the Global Stocktake](#)

**Publication:** [Private Sector Adaptation Reporting as a Source of Input to the Global Stocktake](#)

**Publication:** [Understanding adaptation in the Global Stocktake](#)

**Poster:** [IGST Adaptation Working Group poster for SB58 in Bonn](#)

**Graphic Flyer:** [Flyer presenting main results of the iGST Adaptation Working Group for SB58 in Bonn](#)