



The GSTI Process

The undertaking of the first GST has been an inclusive process to date, with considerable participation by non-Party stakeholders: an ‘all of economy, all of society approach’.¹ More than 170,000 pages of reports and information were gathered to inform the findings of the Technical Assessment.² The co-facilitators of the Technical Dialogue, Dr Farhan Akhtar and Harald Winkler, introduced innovative and interactive discussion formats at in-session events held at SB56, SB57 and SB58, including roundtables, plenaries, poster sessions and a world café.

Their work culminated in the production of a [Synthesis Report on 8 September 2023](#). Alongside other summary reports, this Synthesis Report will form the basis of the discussions as the GST process moves into

the third, political phase.³ The Report is based on inputs received throughout the process and discussions held during each of the three meetings of the technical dialogue. It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of those discussions, identifying key areas for further action to bridge gaps and addressing challenges and barriers in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Report contains 17 key findings shown in the diagram below, addressing general implementation (1-3) and the three thematic areas of the GST: mitigation, including response measures (4-8), adaptation, including Loss and Damage (9-13) and means of implementation and support and finance flows (14-17).

Source: LRI

A) Context / General findings

1. The Paris Agreement has contributed significantly to mobilize climate action, yet the world is not on track to meet the long-term goals.
2. Governments need to support systems transformation towards climate resilience and low emissions development considering a multi-actor approach, with significant engagement by non-party stakeholders.
3. Inclusion and equity must underpin transformations to minimize harmful disruptions caused by rapid changes.

B) Mitigation, including response measures

4. Emissions currently exceeding 1.5°C and action window is closing.
5. Much more NDC ambition and domestic implementation are needed. The report urges support for rapid implementation of available mitigation measures nationally.
6. Systems transformation to achieve Net Zero needs to consider increase renewables, phase out unabated fossil fuels, halt deforestation, reduce emissions, change market behaviors and more credible and substantial international cooperation.
7. Promote Just Transition principles to materialise equity in implementation.
8. Address impacts of response measures with economic diversification.

17 Key Findings of the Technical Dialogue GST I, Sep 2023

C) Adaptation, including loss and damage

9. Increased action on adaptation and loss and damage is urgently needed, there is a rapidly closing window to secure a livable future for all.
10. Adaptation ambition is increasing collectively but not uniformly across regions and sectors.
11. Locally driven adaptation governance is more adequate and effective.
12. Averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage is urgent. This requires an adequate comprehension of risks and adequate support, as well as limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.
13. Rapidly scale up and diversification of funding for adaptation and loss and damage, as well as monitoring to limit maladaptation.

D) Means of implementation and support

14. Need to enhance support and access to strategic international public finance for developing country climate action.
15. Trillions of dollars could be unlocked for climate finance if financial flows and investments are shifted to align with low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development.
16. Greater cleaner technology to be deployed and transferred to developing countries.
17. Increase country-led and needs-based capacity building given its centrality to sustained and broad ranging climate action.

The authors of the Report have stressed that the structure and section titles are provided for ‘ease of reference’ rather than intended as a political statement on their inter-relationships.⁴ For example, the Report ‘does not take a view’ on the relationship between the means of implementation, capacity-building and the mobilization of support.⁵ Controversy over the wording of the titles is reflected in current disagreements over the structure of the pending GSTI COP [indicative draft decision](#).

¹TD Synthesis Report, para 129.

²These contributions have been made publicly available and searchable online through the [‘Global Stocktake Explorer’](#).

³TD Synthesis Report, para 108.

⁴TD Synthesis Report, para 73.

⁵TD Synthesis Report, para 176.

The third phase of GSTI commenced with a high-level summit in Abu Dhabi on 12-14 October 2023. Building on the informal and intersessional consultations held in March and April 2023, Parties exchanged initial responses to the technical dialogue outputs, as well as their more detailed expectations for GSTI outputs, based on submissions made earlier. These were summarized by the Secretariat in a Synthesis Report ‘Views on the elements for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake’ dated 4 October 2023⁶. The Report outlines these views, and also offers an idea on the proportion of Parties promoting the same view: all the parties’, ‘most parties’

‘some parties’ to assist the reader in understanding the extent to which each view or idea is commonly held.

This Report follows the proposed structure for the draft GST I CMA5 decision, prepared by the Co-Chairs of the GST negotiations during SB 58: it starts with a preambular and context section, then follows with the collective progress of the Parties towards achieving the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement, divided by theme: (i) adaptation, (ii) mitigation, (iii) loss and damage and (iv) response measures. These are summarised in the snapshot diagram below.

Source: LRI

Snapshot of parties’ views on possible outputs

(based on the Secretariat’s synthesis report, Oct 2023)

Crosscutting issues: All Parties emphasized the significance of and made reference to equity and the best available science to be considered in a Party-driven and cross-cutting manner as reflected in decision 19/CMA.1, with significant agreement on recognising IPCC AR6 as the best available science, but more disagreement what equity actually means, where some parties place a higher emphasis on historical emissions, while others on interpreting equity as a need for further ambition of developing countries.

Mitigation: There is broad agreement in including a recognition on how the PA has contributed to climate ambition, but the mitigation pathways need to change. Looking backwards, and in assessing collective progress, most Parties emphasized the need to take stock of pre-2020 progress, highlighting pre-2020 gaps in ambition and implementation, as a practical step towards understanding gaps in action, considering equity and enhancement of commitments. As a forward-looking proposal, almost all Parties proposed that the global stocktake outcome invite countries to provide an indication, in the NDC, on how their NDCs have been informed by outputs from the first global stocktake and how it aligns with the 1.5°C pathways. Many Parties strongly encouraged a global stocktake outcome with collective global targets, with some emphasizing that this is done without encroaching the self-determined nature of climate action.

Adaptation: With significant backward-looking input describing concerns with maladaptation and with gaps in adaptation efforts and implementation, including insufficient finance, the forward-looking input on adaptation stresses the need to strengthen action in early warning systems, channel more finance for context-driven adaptive action (overcoming maladaptation), and enhance domestic capacity and governance on adaptation, among others. There are various proposals to include global goals in the decision, for example, achieving at least 50% of allocation of finance for the finance mechanism.

The Report also includes sections on international cooperation, guidance and a way forward.

In relation to the guidance and way forward, suggestions include:

1. The production of guidance on NDC formulation and updating to assist the Parties;
2. Guidance on relevant processes within and outside the UNFCCC that can contribute to urgently reducing emissions and put the world on a pathway to 1.5°C, such as the work under the Mitigation Work Programme, the Article 2.1.c Dialogue, and the Work Programme on Just Transition; and
3. Proposed future action to be taken by the Parties, UNFCCC bodies and other stakeholders: for example, using the GST outcome during COP 29 submissions, and/or acknowledging the role of non-state actors in this GSTI process.

The Report categorises views as either ‘backward looking’ (relating to the diagnosis and gaps as perceived by the Parties), and ‘forward looking’ (future commitments).

In his report on the summit in October 2023⁷, the President-Designate for COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, indicated that, whilst there is a level of convergence on the need to deliver a meaningful outcome that responds to the existing gaps, to progress achieved, and informs ambition and implementation going forward, differences remain on some very important issues such as addressing equity considerations, ensuring that there is coherence between the ambition on action and ambition on implementation and support, and the consideration of pre-2020 elements in the context of the GST outcome. The Report and subsequent discussions will inform the COP28 negotiations in November and December 2023.

⁶<https://unfccc.int/documents/632292>

⁷COP28 Publish Letter October 2023 EN (unfccc.int)

