
2024: A Look Ahead

Discussion Paper

February 2024

A. Summary

1. The next round of nationally determined contributions (**NDCs**) are due in the first quarter of 2025.¹ Each Party is expected to communicate a new NDC representing a ‘progression’ beyond its previous NDC and reflecting its ‘highest possible ambition’.²
2. Parties need to show how they have responded to the outcomes of the global stocktake (**GST**), which concluded at CO28 in Dubai.³ The GST decision, as part of the UAE Consensus outcome, launched a GST dialogue to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practice on how the outcomes of the GST are informing the preparation of Parties’ next NDCs;⁴ announced a set of activities under a ‘Roadmap to Mission 1.5’; and set out a number of key, transformational signals to inform these new NDCs and enhanced international cooperation.⁵
3. 2024 is a crucial year to take forward the signals in the GST outcome, translate them into effective domestic policies and measures, as well as enhance international cooperation on climate action. The momentum needed to implement the outcomes from COP28 can be best built by activating and coordinating those coalitions, initiatives, and organizations that are well placed to focus attention and effort.

¹ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [hereinafter UNFCCC], “Paris Agreement,” Art. 4.9, conclusion date: December 12, 2015, United Nations Treaty Series Online, registration no. I-54113, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf. UNFCCC, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, 1/CP.21, ¶¶ 22-25 (29 January 2016), <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf#page=2>. Parties were requested to submit their last NDCs in 2020.

² UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Arts. 3, 4.3. UNFCCC, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I, ¶4(c) (19 March 2019), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf.

³ UNFCCC, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I, ¶4(c) (19 March 2019), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf.

⁴ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶¶ 97, 98, 187 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

⁵ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 79 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).



4. However, major barriers to each of the signals, such as those identified through C2ES's work⁶ and in the GST Synthesis Report of the Technical Dialogue,⁷ will need to be effectively addressed. The adoption of a robust new collective quantified goal (**NCQG**) on finance at COP29 will be an important element to create the best possible conditions for the ambition and implementation of the next round of NDCs.
5. Furthermore, there is still no clarity or a coherent vision for what 2024 will look like in terms of converting the signals emanating from COP28 to ambitious climate action through enhanced international cooperation.

Questions for consideration

- What are the main priorities for 2024?
- How are Parties planning to take forward the signals from the global stocktake decision in 2024?
- How can international cooperation be enhanced in support of more ambitious NDCs in 2025?
- What are the main challenges to be faced this year?
- What is required for COP29 to be a success?

⁶ Guilanpour et al., *A Solutions-oriented Approach to the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake* (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, November 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/document/a-solutions-oriented-approach-to-the-paris-agreements-global-stocktake/>; Lavanya Rajamani et al., *Re-invigorating the UN Climate Regime in the Wider Landscape of Climate Action* (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, November 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/document/re-invigorating-the-un-climate-regime/>.

⁷ UNFCCC, *Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake: Synthesis report by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue* (8 September 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2023_09E.pdf.



B. Introduction

6. The outcomes of COP28 reflected both historic successes and hard-fought compromises. Key outcomes include:
- the conclusion of the first GST
 - the operationalization of a fund for responding to loss and damage (**L&D**),⁸ including U.S. \$792 million in pledges⁹
 - the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, which was adopted as the framework for the global goal on adaptation¹⁰
 - the launch of the UAE Just Transition work programme to discuss pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement¹¹
 - guidance for the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme¹²
 - guidance to develop the framework for the NCQG on climate finance to be agreed at COP29¹³
 - the extension of the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue on making finance flows consistent with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.¹⁴
7. COP28 was also notable for several historic firsts. An agenda fight was avoided and agreement by Parties to fully operationalize the loss and damage fund on the opening day was the first time a key, substantive decision was adopted at the start of a COP. The decision and its timing signaled an intention to set the tone for a productive negotiation process. In addition, the UAE Consensus call to ‘transition away from fossil fuels’ was the first time a formal COP outcome explicitly mentioned the reduction of all fossil fuels.

⁸ UNFCCC, Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, Decision -/CP.28 -/CMA.5 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_10g_LnDfunding.pdf (Advance unedited version).

⁹ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 79 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹⁰ UNFCCC, Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3, Decision -/CMA.5 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_8a_gga.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹¹ UNFCCC, United Arab Emirates Just Transition work programme, Decision -/CMA.5 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_5_JTWP.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹² UNFCCC, Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme referred to in decision 4/CMA.4, Decision -/CMA.5 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_6_MWP.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹³ UNFCCC, Matters relating to finance: New collective quantified goal on climate finance, Decision -/CMA.5 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_10e_NCQG.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹⁴ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 8 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_10a_scf.pdf (Advance unedited version).



C. The Paris Ambition Cycle and the Global Stocktake Outcomes

8. The GST is a key part of the Paris Agreement’s ‘ambition cycle’. Set out under Article 14, Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to undertake a GST every five years to assess collective progress to the agreement’s long-term goals on mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation.¹⁵ The outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in: (i) updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support as the basis for their NDCs; and (ii) enhancing international cooperation for climate action.¹⁶

9. Under Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement, Parties submit new NDCs every five years. The next round of NDCs are due in the first quarter of 2025.¹⁷ The GST decision under the UAE Consensus sets out a number of key, transformational signals to inform these new NDCs and enhanced international cooperation.¹⁸

10. These signals include:
 - Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030¹⁹
 - Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing zero- and low-carbon fuels well before or by around mid-century²⁰
 - Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science²¹
 - Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible²²

¹⁵ UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Arts. 14.1, 14.2.

¹⁶ UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Art. 14.3.

¹⁷ UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Art. 4.9. UNFCCC, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, 1/CP.21, ¶¶ 22-25 (29 January 2016), <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf#page=2> . Parties were requested to submit their last NDCs in 2020.

¹⁸ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 79 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

¹⁹ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 28(a) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²⁰ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 28(c) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²¹ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 28(d) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²² UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 28(h) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).



- ...by 2027 all Parties have established multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation to support improved climate-related data, information and services²³
- Attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all.²⁴

11. Informed by the signals from the GST, each Party is expected to communicate a new NDC representing a 'progression' beyond its previous NDC and reflecting its 'highest possible ambition'.²⁵ Therefore, 2024 is a crucial year to take forward the signals in the GST outcome, translating them into effective domestic policies and measures as well as enhancing international cooperation on climate action.

12. Parties will also need to think about implementation and how to deliver a robust outcome on finance against a backdrop of extreme weather events, over 60 elections taking place worldwide, geopolitical strife, and economic stressors.

D. 2024 as a Year of Implementation, International Cooperation, and Finance

13. Parties need to use 2024 effectively to prepare their new NDCs for submission in the first quarter of 2025 and, in doing so, they need to show how they have responded to the outcomes of the GST.²⁶

14. The COP28 outcome: sets out important signals (see paragraph 10 above); provides some direction and guidance; and launches one or more follow-up processes to guide Parties in 2024. More specifically, the UAE Consensus launched a GST dialogue to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practice on how the outcomes of the GST are informing the preparation of Parties' next NDCs²⁷ and a set of activities under a 'Roadmap to Mission 1.5' to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling

²³ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 64(a) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²⁴ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 63(b) (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²⁵ Paris Agreement, Arts. 3, 4.3. UNFCCC, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I, ¶4(c) (19 March 2019), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf.

²⁶ UNFCCC, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I, ¶4(c) (19 March 2019), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf.

²⁷ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶¶ 97, 98, 187 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).



environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of NDCs.²⁸ While the modalities and objectives for these processes are not yet defined, if planned and executed well they could provide important opportunities to help guide Parties' implementation of the GST signals, which must inform their NDCs.²⁹

15. For 2024 to be an effective year of preparation and for Parties to respond quickly and effectively to the signals that have emerged from the GST outcome and reflect them in enhanced NDC ambition and implementation, major barriers to each of the signals, such as those identified through C2ES's work³⁰ and in the GST Synthesis Report of the Technical Dialogue,³¹ will need to be effectively addressed.
16. Insufficient climate finance is a significant cross-cutting barrier to implementation. The GST decision notes that developing countries need an estimated U.S. \$5.8-5.9 trillion for their efforts to implement their NDCs in the pre-2030 period.³² In this context, the adoption of a robust NCQG at COP29 will be vital for setting out a way forward on the scale and type of finance needed to sustain and augment the climate action necessary to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. A successful outcome on the NCQG at COP29 will be an important element to create the best possible conditions for enhanced ambition and implementation of the next round of NDCs.
17. While COP28 set out some guidance and processes that may assist Parties on NDC preparation (e.g., the annual GST dialogue), there is still no clarity or a coherent vision for what 2024 will look like in terms of converting the signals emanating from COP28 to ambitious climate action through enhanced international cooperation.
18. Take, for example, a Party considering how best to contribute towards tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. There is no clarity on what will happen in 2024 or a 'golden thread' linking the multiple events and meetings in the coming months in a way that builds capacity to put in place policies or plans necessary for the confidence to enhance NDC

²⁸ UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 191 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).

²⁹ UNFCCC, Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I, ¶ 4(c) (19 March 2019), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf.

³⁰ Guilanpour et al., *A Solutions-oriented Approach to the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake* (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, November 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/document/a-solutions-oriented-approach-to-the-paris-agreements-global-stocktake/>; Lavanya Rajamani et al., *Re-invigorating the UN Climate Regime in the Wider Landscape of Climate Action* (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, November 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/document/re-invigorating-the-un-climate-regime/>.

³¹ UNFCCC, *Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake: Synthesis report by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue* (8 September 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2023_09E.pdf.

³² UNFCCC, Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, Decision -/CMA.5, ¶ 67 (December 13, 2023), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf (Advance unedited version).



ambition. To put it in another way, what is the plan to enhance international cooperation in 2024 towards tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030? Which organisations or countries will lead on that? How does this translate into assistance to interested countries that need it?

19. Momentum to implement outcomes from COP28 can be best built by activating and coordinating those coalitions, initiatives, and organizations that are well placed to focus attention and effort.
20. The moment of truth as to whether the success of COP28 on the GST is fully realised will be in 2025 when the collective impact of the new NDCs is known. In any event, Belém should not be seen as a cliff edge— COP30 and beyond will need to respond to level of ambition we see in 2025.