

Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) comprising Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland

EIG Submission on Matters Relating to the Global Stocktake Referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement

May 2017

The Environment Integrity Group (EIG) welcomes the opportunity to make a further submission, built upon the previous submission of August 2016, on Article 14 of the Paris Agreement in line with paragraph 17 of the conclusions (FCCC/APA/2016/L.4) of the second part of its first session (APA 1-2).

1. General matters on the global stocktake

The global stocktake established by Article 14 of the Paris Agreement is to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals, so as to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support and also in enhancing international cooperation. This indicates that the global stocktake functions as both backward and forward looking moment by tracking the current state of implementation and catalyzing the necessary increase of climate action over time. It also identifies opportunities and promotes best practices, which will deliver necessary information for Parties to strengthen domestic actions and international support and cooperation. In this regard, the EIG believes that the global stocktake is of critical importance ensuring progression toward the long-term global goals and the ultimate success of the Paris Agreement.

In accordance with Article 14.1 of the Agreement, the global stocktake encompasses all elements of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support. This overarching nature of the global stocktake makes evident in the linkage with other articles of the Paris Agreement that are Article 4.9, 7.14, 9.6, 10.6, 13.5 and 13.6. These articles directly or indirectly indicate the purpose and the outcome of the global stocktake and what information to look at to take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Further details are to be explained in the later sections of this submission.

2. Sources of input and information for the global stocktake

(1) IPCC reports

The Paris Agreement stipulates the global stocktake responsive to the best available science. The EIG is of the view that IPCC reports provide the best available scientific and technical knowledge. For

example, they are providing benchmark information on 2°C and 1.5°C temperature scenarios and emission pathways, climate impacts and adaptation needs and economic implications consistent with the scenarios through the assessment reports and the upcoming special report.

In this regard, the EIG believes that the IPCC reports should be the primary sources of input for the global stocktake. In order to ensure that the global stocktake is informed in a timely manner by the best available science, the EIG encourages the IPCC to continue consideration of aligning its assessment cycle with the global stocktake, as well as filling in its future assessment cycle scientific information gaps that the global stocktake may identify.

(2) Synthesis report on the aggregate effect of NDCs and on adaptation undertaking

The forward looking feature of the global stocktake particularly requires the overall effect of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to be employed as key information for the global stocktake. Hence, the EIG requests the CMA to give a mandate to the UNFCCC secretariat to continue publishing a synthesis report on the aggregate effect of NDCs in line with the Parties' NDCs communication every five years. In a similar context, the EIG suggests that the secretariat publishes a synthesis report on adaptation communications referred to in Article 7.10 .

(3) Information submitted by Parties

The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and further toward 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, and to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.¹ In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal, it especially requests Parties to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter, so as to achieve carbon neutrality in the second half of this century.²

¹ Article 2.1 of the Paris Agreement

² Article 4.1 of the Paris Agreement

This implies that information on, inter alia, projected emission levels, low greenhouse gas emission strategies and peaking would help take stock of progress towards the purpose of the Paris Agreement and the long-term goals. Thus, the EIG recommends that Parties provide, to the extent possible, information on emission levels for the NDC target year. Furthermore, the EIG encourages Parties to provide information on the expected time for peaking in their NDCs, if appropriate, and to submit the long-term greenhouse gas emission strategies in accordance with Decision1/CP/21, paragraph 35.

(4) Information from the enhanced transparency framework

The EIG recognizes that information from the enhanced transparency framework for action and support is another crucial input to the global stocktake as the global stocktake also features the backward looking properties. In particular, the national inventory reports which provide time series information on greenhouse gas emissions will be of the utmost importance in tracking overall progress. Further, the information necessary to track progress made in the implementation and the achievement of NDCs, which is regularly reported, and outputs from the technical expert review will be valuable inputs as well.

In this sense, the enhancement of the transparency framework providing a clear understanding of Parties' climate change action and support is crucial to inform the global stocktake as referred to in Article 13.5 and 13.6 of the Paris Agreement.

(5) Relevant Convention bodies' reports

In addition to this, Parties should consider requesting relevant Convention bodies to prepare the reports on elements they are responsible in order to capture information necessary for the global stocktake in a comprehensive but efficient manner. This should include but not be limited to:

- The Adaptation Committee with assistance from the LEG³ should prepare a report providing information on the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation and the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation.
- The Standing Committee on Finance mandated to serve the Paris Agreement⁴ should prepare a report providing information on the collective mobilization and provision of

³ Least Developed Countries Expert Group

⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 63

support.

- The Technology Mechanism should prepare a report providing information on efforts related to support on technology development and transfer.

The above list of sources is not exhaustive so that other relevant sources including reports by bodies outside the UNFCCC could be added if necessary.

3. Modalities and outputs of the global stocktake

The EIG is of the opinion that the global stocktake should have sufficient time to prepare and consider technical inputs, and culminate at the relevant CMA.

While the CMA shall be the responsible body undertaking the global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter in accordance with Article 14.2 of the Paris Agreement, the EIG suggests establishing a joint contact group of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to assist the CMA by means of conducting technical assessments beforehand.

Drawing from the experience of the 2013-2015 review, the EIG requests the joint contact group to organize technical workshops in a format such as the structured expert dialogue (SED) for the consideration of the technical/scientific information and a focused exchange of views.

The workshops will function as an open, inclusive and facilitative vehicle that Parties engage with not only experts but also relevant stakeholders including non-state actors outside the UNFCCC, and also promote substantive discussions in an effective and efficient way. The EIG recommends establishing three thematic workshops for 1) mitigation, 2) adaptation and 3) the means of implementation and support. The same amount of time should be assigned for each topic.

Each workshop will be led by two co-facilitators, one from developed country Parties and the other from developing country Parties. The workshops will be open to all Parties and observers and organized by the secretariat. They can be basically proceeded with presentations made by, for instance, experts about the recent scientific findings, representatives of Convention bodies about their focused reports, Parties about best practices and challenges of their climate actions and relevant stakeholders about opportunities, and then followed by questions and answers and further discussions on key issues raised.

The EIG suggests that the co-facilitators of each workshop produce a report as an intermediate output, which synthesises the technical inputs considered and summarizes discussions done under each workshop. The reports may also include key messages capturing important findings related

to the collective progress in achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, as well as opportunities to fill out the gaps.

The output of the joint contact group with all information considered in the course of the technical process including, inter alia, the workshop reports will feed into the political discussion among high level participants, taking place during the CMA in the year of the global stocktake. Also all inputs and outputs should be open to public through the UNFCCC website.

The high level event at the CMA in 2023 and every five years thereafter would mark the culmination of the global stocktake, creating political momentum.

4. Outcome of the global stocktake

The outcome of the global stocktake shall provide political guidance for Parties to update and enhance their actions and support and also promote international cooperation pursuant to Article 14.3 of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it should, inter alia, reflect the information on the ambition gap between the collective efforts and the long-term goals.

Also, the key opportunities and possible solutions on bridging the ambition gap should be addressed in the outcome to send a positive signal and facilitate the strengthening of Parties' domestic climate actions and their international support and cooperation. In this sense, the EIG recommends that the CMA requests each Party to reflect how it has taken into account the outcome of the global stocktake when communicating its subsequent NDCs.

In addition to this, the CMA should invite the scientific community including the IPCC to consider the outcome of the global stocktake so as to fill scientific information gaps in its next assessment.

5. Other matters related to the global stocktake

The EIG acknowledges that the views on the inputs and modalities presented above constitute our initial standpoint. As a matter of fact, available sources of input will expand as a result of scientific evolution, and also Parties will gain more insights into how to assess the collective progress over time. In this regard, the EIG sees that identifying inputs and specifying modalities for the global stocktake is to be rather an iterative process. We are thus in favor of a periodic revisit and possible improvement over time after an initial set-up of sources of input and modalities in 2018.

Also, experiences gained and lessons learned from the 2018 facilitative dialogue could provide

valuable inputs to the further elaboration of the global stocktake.

The periodic review which was established by the Cancun Agreement⁵ is also relevant to the global stocktake since both review overall progress towards achieving the long-term global goals. The first review was conducted in 2013-2015 and the subsequent reviews will take place following the adoption of an assessment report of the IPCC or at least every seven years⁶, meaning that there is a possibility of the next periodic review to be held in 2022 in consideration of the IPCC decisions⁷ to approve the sixth assessment reports until 2022. Yet, decision 10/CP.21, paragraph 9, requested to avoid duplication of work and conduct the periodic review in an effective and efficient manner. Therefore, the EIG is of the opinion that it is necessary to find a systematic way for the review to complement the global stocktake, or to integrate the periodic review into part of the global stocktake.⁸

⁵ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 138

⁶ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 167

⁷ IPCC/XL III-6 and IPCC/XL III-7

⁸ That would be discussed under the agenda item of SBSTA and SBI, Scope of the next periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it, from May, 2017.