The EIG's views on the topics for the global dialogues referred to in paragraphs vii of decision-/CMA5, in relation to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CMA.3

Pursuant to paragraphs vii of decision-/CMA5, the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) is pleased to present its views on the topics to be discussed at the global dialogues to be held prior to the first and second regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies in 2024.

I. A Key Consideration for Topic Selection

The call of the CMA to follow up on the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST) is, in our view, the most important consideration in relation to the selection of topics for this years' global dialogues, and for the reasons explained below, the MWP should answer this call and focus on integrating the mitigation outcomes of the GST in its plans for this year's work.

Paragraph 21 of decision -/CMA.5 notes with serious concern that "significantly greater emission reductions are required to align with global greenhouse gas emission trajectories in line with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and *recognizes* the urgent need to address this gap."[1] And to address this gap, the CMA calls on Parties to contribute to the following few critical global efforts[2]:

- Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030
- Accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power
- Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing zero- and low-carbon fuels well before or by around mid-century
- 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 science
- Accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production
- Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions by 2030
- Accelerating the reduction of emissions from road transport on a range of pathways, including through development of infrastructure and rapid deployment of zero- and low-emission vehicles
- Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible

These mitigation outcomes are agreed and decided by the CMA as the necessary, urgent global efforts to scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this decade to address the gap and to achieve the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. But they are in essence aspirational common goals that, unless followed up through concrete implementation measures, will not in and of themselves have much material impact in terms of addressing the gap.

In paragraph 186 of decision -/CMA.5, the CMA calls on the work programs and constituted bodies relevant to the mitigation outcomes of the GST to take into consideration such outcomes in their future work plans.

[1] Decision -/CMA.5, para 21.
[2] Decision -/CMA.5, para 28.

> **[Decision -/CMA.5]**
> 186. *Invites* the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement ***to integrate relevant outcomes of the first global stocktake in planning their future work, in line with their mandates***[emphasis added];

The work programme most relevant to the mitigation outcomes of the GST is the MWP as it is the *only* work programme on mitigation. As such, the MWP has the responsibility to answer this call. Unless answered by the MWP, this call will remain unanswered, and as a result the critical global goals will not be implemented at the speed and scale necessary to address the gap. It must be emphasized in this regard that the very objective of the MWP is nothing but to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this decade.

With its global dialogues, the MWP is well equipped to answer the call to follow up on the mitigation outcomes of the GST. The purpose of the global dialogues is "to facilitate a focused exchange of views, information and ideas"[3] on "opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers"[4] in relation to thematic areas that are "relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade."[5] The global efforts enumerated in paragraph 28 are such thematic areas that Parties have agreed as the most relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

It is clear that the MWP is not only the sole work programme but also the most relevant and most well equipped one to follow up on the mitigation outcomes of the GST. It is incumbent upon the MWP to integrate the mitigation outcomes of the GST in its work plan by deciding on the topics for this year's global dialogues that have a direct bearing on the mitigation outcomes of the GST. And it is all the more proper for the MWP to take forward the work of the GST since it is part of the mandate of the MWP to pursue its objective in a manner that complements the GST.

> **[Decision 4/CMA.4]**
> 1. *Confirms* that the objective of the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CMA.3 *shall be to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade* ***in a manner that complements the global stocktake***[emphasis added];

II. Proposed Topic n°1 for the Global Dialogues: 'Accelerating Zero- and Low Emission Technologies

The EIG proposes 'Accelerating Zero- and Low-emission Technologies as a topic for this year's first global dialogue. This proposed topic is a reflection of the EIG's understanding of the fact that urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this decade requires as a prerequisite the development and deployment of innovative zero- and low-carbon technologies such as renewables, SMRs, clean hydrogen, transitional fuels and the like. The potential contribution of each of these technologies and the importance of enhancing global efforts to accelerate and scale up these technologies are highlighted below (see Box1). The EIG suggests this topic also because, beyond improving energy efficiency, accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies is the first and most fundamental step towards achieving many of the global efforts the CMA has agreed, particularly tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling the pace of energy efficiency improvements, accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and, above all, transitioning away from fossil

[3] Decision 4/CMA.4, para 10.
[4] Decision 4/CMA.4, para 14.
[5] Decision 4/CMA.4, para 4.

fuels in energy systems. Advancement in any of these global common goals pivots critically on advancement in technological innovation. Innovation in zero- and low-emission technologies is the most powerful game changer, which could enhance by an order of magnitude the speed and scale of global mitigation actions. Any significant technological innovation, however, requires long, sustained commitments in terms of time and resources, calling for urgent and committed actions. As such, in the view of the EIG, accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies is, as it were, the one key word in a crossword puzzle that needs to be solved first.

Furthermore, a pragmatic, science-based, just and technologically neutral approach based on a variety of zero- and low-carbon technologies could offer practical and feasible mitigation options to Parties with different national circumstances such as resource endowments and economic structure. For example, the development of carbon-free fuels and feedstocks will make possible decarbonization of industrial processes, which is more complicated and challenging than decarbonization of the power sector, where commercialized options are available. According to the IEA, energy efficiency is the single largest measure to avoid energy demand, along with the closely related measures of electrification, behavioural change, digitalisation and material efficiency. More work is needed to support countries in accelerating the replacement of old, inefficient equipment with new, compliant appliances can speed up progress. Therefore, zero- and low-carbon technologies can offer improvements in terms of energy efficiency as well.

This technology-oriented approach could also contribute to the growth of relevant future technologies and industries, further expediting carbon neutrality within major industries and sectors. And such an approach, above all, will enable Parties to examine every available energy source and take the most suitable low-carbon pathways for carbon neutrality.

Box 1: The Potential Contribution of Zero- and Low-emission Technologies

[Renewable Energy]

The contribution of renewable energy in the transition from fossil fuels is expected to be significant, with the installed capacity and Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of renewable energy increasingly becoming competitive with coal power generation. According to the IPCC (2023) AR6 Synthesis Report, solar and wind power are projected to be the most significant contributors to GHG reduction by 2030. Furthermore, as per IEA and IRENA, sustained increases in investments in the renewable energy sector by 2030 are essential to achieve the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, with a particular emphasis on expanding investments in transition technologies.

According to the IPCC, electricity systems powered predominantly by renewables will be increasingly viable over the coming decades, but it will be challenging to supply the entire energy system with renewable energy. Large shares of variable solar PV and wind power can be incorporated in electricity grids through batteries, hydrogen, and other forms of storage; transmission; flexible non-renewable generation; advanced controls; and greater demand-side responses. Therefore, the following solutions may be considered, noting that countries may have different positions with regards to their application domestically[6]:

[Nuclear Energy]

Nuclear power can play a significant role in achieving carbon neutrality. It can provide stable, continuous, large-scale electricity generation with minimal greenhouse gas emissions, complementing renewable sources such as solar and wind. According to the IEA(2023) World

[6] For example, Switzerland decided, in the wake of the Fukushima reactor disaster in 2011, to withdraw from the use of nuclear energy. Use of hydrogen is still being studied.

Energy Outlook, nuclear power is a significant low-emission energy source. But realization of its potential requires continual advancements in nuclear technology, more stringent safety measures, and greater investment in next-generation nuclear systems. Nuclear power can not only aid in achieving the carbon neutrality objective but also supports a diversified, resilient energy mix, crucial for long-term environmental sustainability and energy security.

Increase in global nuclear energy capacity relies on advanced reactor designs, improved safety measures, and efficient waste management systems. Best practices for nuclear safety and technology transfer include adopting next-generation nuclear technologies and enhancing international cooperation. Scaling up global nuclear energy capacity requires overcoming challenges such as public safety concerns, securing long-term waste disposal solutions, and ensuring cost-effectiveness vis-à-vis other low-emission technologies.

[Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS)]

According to IEA and IPCC, the role of CCUS is crucial in attaining global net-zero target. Particularly by 2050, approximately 7.6 billion tons (7.6 GtCO2) of carbon must be captured, with the majority being stored. In the industrial sectors where emission reduction is challenging due to the issues like fuel substitution or electrification, the use of CCUS becomes an indispensable method. It enables GHG reduction in hard-to-abate industrial sectors, cost-effective production of hydrogen, and the decarbonization of dispatchable power generation. To facilitate the utilization of this technology, it is necessary to ensure the availability of storage sites, revise related regulations and laws, establish market mechanisms, and encourage international cooperation. Finally, CCUS is still in a research and development stage, and its scalability of CCUS still needs to be studied. It is paramount to better understand opportunities and limitations in terms of deployment of these technologies.

[Low-carbon Hydrogen and Transitional Fuels]

The development of low-carbon hydrogen and transitional fuels technologies is opening up significant opportunities in clean hydrogen production and fuel cell advancements. Best practices in this area include leveraging renewable energy sources for hydrogen production, enhancing fuel cell efficiency, and establishing robust distribution networks. Creating and promoting a green and low-carbon hydrogen market requires concerted efforts in market incentivization, regulatory framework development, and international collaboration for technology sharing and standard setting.

Hydrogen can be produced in various ways. It is assigned a different colour depending on the type of production. Green hydrogen is particularly important for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Green and low-carbon hydrogen, as a versatile energy carrier and if produced in an environmentally sound manner, can be pivotal in decarbonizing various sectors like transportation, industry, and power generation. Transition fuels, if well designed, can also play an essential role in reducing GHG emissions, particularly in sectors where electrification is challenging. Supporting these technologies and ensuring their environmental integrity is important to align with environmental commitments and is crucial for energy security and economic resilience during the transition to a sustainable energy future. Further work is necessary to define environmental standards for transition fuels.

III. Proposed Topic n°2 for the Global Dialogues: ‘Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems’

According to the IPCC AR6 WG III, model results show that limiting warming to 2°C or 1.5°C will

require both faster diffusion of installed capacity of low-carbon energy options and a rapid phase-out of fossil-based options. This points to the importance of looking at what we need to do more of, for example focusing on overcoming real-life barriers to technology deployment, combined with looking at what we need to do less of simultaneously, for example focusing on overcoming policy schemes that lock in fossil emissions, like subsidies.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewables and other technologies is necessary to meet the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. The IPCC AR6 shows that it is technically possible and estimated to be relatively low in cost. However, the transition is also influenced by existing fossil fuel-based infrastructure and stranded investments. This highlights the importance of addressing emissions locked-in to existing infrastructure and overcoming real-life barriers to technology deployment. Both rapid diffusion of low-carbon energy options and a phase-out of fossil-based options are required to limit warming to 2°C or 1.5°C.

Box 2: The Potential Contribution of transition away from fossil fuels

[Overall transition away from fossil fuels]
The emissions that are committed through existing fossil fuel infrastructure may consume all the remaining carbon budget in the 1.5°C scenario, or two thirds of the carbon budget in the 2°C scenario (Tong et al. 2019, IPCC AR6). Decommissioning existing and planned fossil fuel infrastructure should therefore be a high priority. Phasing out fossil fuels from energy systems is technically possible and is estimated to be relatively low in cost, as well as to come with a range of health and energy security benefits. However, according to the IPCC AR6, even though the transition away from fossil fuels is desirable and technically feasible, it is still largely constrained by existing fossil fuel-based infrastructure and stranded investments. Targeted policies will be necessary to manage the share of stranded assets due to phasing out this infrastructure (Ansari and Holz 2020).

[Phase down of unabated coal]
According to the IPCC AR6, the role of coal in the global energy system is changing fast. Today coal-fired power plants account for 30% of all energy-related emissions (IEA 2019). Global coal consumption is being driven to a plateau followed by a reverse, by the effect of global trends, including concerns over air quality, water shortages, the improved cost efficiencies of renewables, and the technical availability of energy storage (Sator 2018; Spencer et al. 2018). The global coal sector needs a transition to near zero by 2050, and even earlier in some regions, to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goals (Bauer et al. 2018; IEA 2017; IPCC 2018). Therefore, the world should be prepared for a managed transition away from coal and should identify appropriate transition options for the future of coal, such as the penetration of renewable energy and improvements in energy efficiency (Shah et al. 2015).

[Inefficient fossil fuel subsidies]
According to the IEA, global fossil fuel consumption subsidies have doubled in 2022 from the previous year to an all-time high of USD 1 trillion (i.e. more than 10 times the USD 100 billion climate finance target), with a surge in subsidies between 2021 and 2022. Fossil fuel investments are estimated to be larger than the total tracked climate finance worldwide. Available inventories indicate a rise in fossil fuel subsidies to USD 340 billion in 2017, with slowed progress in reducing support among OECD and G20 economies (IPCC AR6). Removing fossil fuel subsidies would reduce emissions, improve public revenue and macroeconomic performance, and yield other environmental and sustainable development benefits. Subsidy removal is projected to reduce global CO2 emissions by 1-4% and GHG emissions by up to 10% by 2030, varying across regions.

According to the IPCC AR6, the benefits of gasoline subsidies in developing countries accrue mainly

to higher income groups, so subsidy reduction usually will reduce inequality. Distributing some of the revenue saved can mitigate the adverse economic impacts on low-income groups. Finally for oil and gas companies, which are amongst the world's largest corporations and sometimes government owned or backed, low-carbon solutions are estimated to represent less than 1% of capital expenditure. Shifting investments towards low-GHG solutions requires a combination of conducive public policies, attractive investment opportunities, as well as the availability of financing to finance such a transition (IPCC AR6).

IV. Focus of Discussion under the two Proposed Topics

Advancement in the development and deployment of zero- and low-emission technologies requires innovations in policies and regulations at the international as well as domestic levels to create new incentive systems for faster and greater action. It also requires a fresh look at existing technologies such as digital technologies to recognize and fully appreciate their potential contribution, particularly in terms of integrating different low-carbon technologies for synergistic effects. And it requires investment policies that support this transition whilst taking into consideration socio-economic considerations, for example for the removal of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, or the expansion of carbon pricing.

Such major transformations as clean electrification and decarbonization of both industrial processes and the global supply chain hinge on the advancement in the pace of innovation in zero- and low-emission technologies, which in turn depends more than anything on policy package that supports it.

Further, clear definition of zero- and low-emission technologies, the definition of standards, namely for transitional fuels or hydrogen, and application in industrial processes will facilitate effective integration of these technologies into various economic sectors. Additionally, examining how international organizations and initiatives can be effectively harnessed to advance these technologies is crucial. Engaging in comprehensive discussions regarding global best practices, policy measures, and cooperative frameworks will broaden our understanding of the widening scope and impact of these technologies.

a. Enhancing Market Competitiveness

To accelerate the expansion and development of zero- and low-emission technologies, enhancing market competitiveness of these technologies is essential. In particular, more work is needed to reinforce market integration of renewables and demand side flexibility. According to IEA(2019), there are two main drivers of new technologies: resource push policies and market pull policies. "Resource push" policies refer to the measures that stimulate technological innovation by allocating resources based on priorities, and "market pull" policies include measures that harness the market capabilities for innovation. The EIG suggests to exam how domestic policies and international initiatives can be effectively harnessed to advance zero- and low-emission technologies on the basis of these push and pull policies.

The EIG suggests to discuss at the global dialogue what policies and measures can be implemented to synergize the "resource push" effects with the "market pull" effects. Sustainable innovation policies require an adjustment of the balance between these two approaches, tailored to the characteristics of a given technology. Discussions need to focus on sharing knowledge to identify suitable policies and measures for each technology, aiming to enhance the market competitiveness of zero- and low-emission technologies with a just transition perspective.

b. Fostering Technological Innovation and R&D

It is also imperative that discussions at the global dialogue prioritize fostering technological innovation and research & development (R&D). The focus should be on concrete ways to bolster R&D through cross-sectoral collaboration and to maximize the benefits of interdisciplinary research efforts, considering the persistent gaps and challenges in technology development and transfer and the uneven pace of adoption of climate technologies around the world. The discussions at the global dialogue should also concentrate on specific ways to encourage joint usage of global research facilities and to launch joint international pilot projects that demonstrate innovative technologies.

The discussions could also focus on highlighting environmental standards for transitional fuels.

c. Managing infrastructure

In addition to scaling up zero- and low-carbon technologies, the transition to low-emission pathways will require policy efforts that also address the emissions that are locked-in to existing infrastructure such as power plants, factories, cargo ships and other infrastructure already in use, as well as stranded investments (IPCC AR6). The Global Dialogues could offer practical solutions on how governments can manage existing fossil fuel infrastructure, taking into account infrastructure build time and the risk of stranded assets. The Global Dialogues may further offer an overview of possible planning tools such as fossil fuel demand forecasts for supplies and suppliers, local, regional, or global analysis of 1.5-aligned transitions, analysis of cost-competitiveness of alternative energy sources, tools to balance grids, as well as reliability and downtimes of different energy plants.

With regards to the phase down of unabated coal, according to the IPCC AR6, there are three options for bringing down emissions from the existing stock of plants: to retrofit them with carbon capture and storage (CCS) or biomass co-firing equipment; to repurpose them to focus on providing system adequacy and flexibility while reducing operations; and to retire them early. The Global Dialogues could analyse and propose practical solutions to achieve these various options.

d. Designing incentive schemes, policy approaches, and regulatory instruments

The recent surge in fossil fuel subsidies represent a challenge to reaching the Paris Agreement objectives. The Global Dialogues could offer workshops where best practices with regards to eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies are presented. Indonesia is an example where fossil fuel subsidy removal was successful, helped by social assistance programmes and a communication effort about the benefits of reform (Chelminski 2018; Burke and Kurniawati 2018). To-date instances of fossil fuel subsidy reform or removal have been driven largely by national fiscal and economic considerations (Skovgaard and van Asselt 2019). Participants could also be presented with methodologies to better track fossil fuel subsidies domestically.

Discussions on fossil fuel subsidies could be complemented by workshops on carbon pricing schemes, in order to study opportunities and practical experiences with such policies.

To foster effective, fruitful discussions that can result in concrete actions on the ground, the global dialogues should be centered around specific policy approaches and incentives designed to accelerate the pace of innovation in zero- and low-emission technologies, so as to support the transition away from fossil fuels. In this regard, the EIG suggests that the first global dialogues should be organized as follows:

Global Dialogue 1

Day 1: Overarching Policy Approaches and Incentives for Zero- and Low-emission Technologies

Day 2: Overarching Policy Approaches and Incentives for Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems

Global Dialogue 2

Day 1: Policy Approaches and Incentives Tailored for Each Zero- and Low-emission Technology

Day 2: Policy Approaches and Incentives Tailored to support the phase down of unabated coal power and the phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies

V. Proposed improvements for the organization of work

The EIG requests the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the co-chairs of the work programme, future global dialogues and investment-focused events in a manner that enables effective engagement of participants. As discussed in the context of COP28, suggested improvements include:

1. Announcing the topic, date and venue and sharing the agenda well in advance;
2. Enhancing the participation of relevant experts, policymakers, local governments, investors, Indigenous knowledge holders, and other non-Party stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, including by expanding virtual participation opportunities, while encouraging the high-level champions to support the effective participation of non-Party stakeholders;
3. Holding virtual meetings to follow up on the topics and subtopics of previous global dialogues and investment-focused events, as necessary;
4. Issuing a technical note prior to the dialogues;
5. Enhancing the investment-focused events, with a view to unlocking finance, by enhancing the pitch-hub for matching projects presented by Parties with potential financiers and by inviting to the events more multilateral development banks, financial institutions and representatives of the Green Climate Fund;
6. Additional in-person or hybrid dialogues to be held each year in conjunction with existing events, such as the regional climate weeks, with a view to ensuring inclusive and balanced geographical representation at the dialogues pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision 4/CMA.4, noting that these dialogues may take place in different locations for more geographically balanced participation, include discussion of regional issues and will be open to participants from all regions, including through remote participation;
7. Promote the participation of the high level champions as well as the technology executive committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, to find opportunities for cooperation and build synergies within the tasks entrusted in the GST.

The EIG would in particular like to recommend holding virtual workshops, following each Global Dialogue, to help experts and practitioners continue their exchanges on a voluntary basis, so as to increase the impact of the Global Dialogue.

VI. A Note on the Consistency with the Mandate

As regards the process of topic selection, there is clear guidance to be adhered to by Parties and the Co-Chairs of the MWP. The topics for the global dialogues should be selected in a manner consistent with the guidance given in the relevant paragraphs of the pertinent decisions of the CMA, to ensure consistency with the mandate.

A few paragraphs of the pertinent decisions of the CMA constitute the overall guidance given in relation to the process of topic selection. Such relevant paragraphs are paragraphs 4, 12, 13, and 14 of decision 4/CMA.4, and paragraphs vii, viii, and ix of decision -/CMA.5. Together, these paragraphs set ① the scope of the MWP in line with which topics should be proposed (para. 4), ② deadlines for the proposal, selection and communication of the topics (paras. 12, 13, 14, vii, viii, and ix), and ③ a principle to ensure a balanced coverage at the global dialogues of the thematic areas included in the scope of the MWP (para. viii). Of these 7 paragraphs, three paragraphs cited below are particularly

important and relevant for the proposal and selection of the topics for the global dialogues this year.

> **[Decision 4/CMA.4]**
> 4. Further decides that ***the scope*** of the work programme should be based on broad thematic areas ***relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade*** and ***include*** all sectors covered in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, thematic areas in the contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,1 and relevant enabling conditions, technologies, just transitions and cross-cutting issues[emphasis added];
>
> **[Decision -/CMA.5 – the decision on the MWP]**
> (vii) *Also encourages* Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders ***to submit*** via the submission portal by 1 February 2024 ***suggested topics in line with the scope of the work programme*** to be discussed at the global dialogues in 2024[emphasis added];
>
> (viii) *Recalls* decision 4/CMA.4, paragraph 13, in which it was decided that the co-chairs of the work programme, considering the submissions referred to in paragraph 7 above, will decide on and communicate by 1 March 2024 the topics to be discussed at each dialogue in 2024, noting that ***successive global dialogues should cover different topics***[emphasis added];

These paragraphs provide two specific guidelines for the proposal and selection of the topics for the global dialogues:

- *Consistency* with the scope of the MWP
- *Inclusion* of different topics at successive global dialogues

The proposal and selection of topics should be done in accordance with these specific guidelines. As such, the suggested topics in the first place should be consistent with the scope of the MWP, which "should be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade."[7]

In the second place, the topics chosen by the Co-Chairs of the MWP on the basis of the proposed topics should include topics other than the ones covered in the previous dialogues. An important clarification to be made is that the guideline given in paragraph viii is *to include* rather than *to exclude* certain topics. What the guideline stipulates is that the topics for successive global dialogues should be inclusive of topics different from the ones covered previously. It does not say certain topics should be excluded. The guideline given in paragraph viii will exclude coverage of certain topics if it said either *that successive global dialogues should not cover the same topics or that successive global dialogues should only cover different topics*. Clearly, such is not the case. As such, paragraph vii *does not exclude or preclude* follow-up discussions at successive global dialogues on the previously covered topics.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the forgoing reflections on the guidance for the selection of the topics for the global dialogues this year:

1. Topics for this year's global dialogues should be inclusive of topics different from the ones covered at previous global dialogues but need not be limited to them.
2. Follow-up discussions on the topics covered at the earlier global dialogues are by no means disallowed and hence can take place, along with discussions on other topics
3. Any topics that are in line with the scope of the MWP can be suggested, and topics that are most relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade should be chosen for this year's global dialogues.
4. As has been agreed and decided by the CMA, the global mitigation efforts enumerated in paragraph 28 of decision -/CMA.5 are most relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation

[7] Paragraph 4 of decision 4/CMA.4

ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

5. The MWP is not only the sole work programme but also the most relevant and most well equipped one to answer the call of the CMA to integrate the mitigation outcomes of the GST in planning its future work.

Similarly, the following criteria or principles can guide our selection of topics moving forward:

1. *Urgency in view of keeping 1.5 °C within reach*: the dialogues should cover areas of work which urgently need to be addressed in the short-term in order to limit global warming to 1.5 °C in the long-term;
2. *Mitigation potential this decade:* the dialogues should focus on actions, solutions and opportunities which enable deep, rapid and sustained emission reductions by 2030;
3. *Alignment with best available science*: the dialogues should be based on the recommendations of the best available science about how to achieve sufficient emission reductions by 2030;
4. *Relevance to Parties*: areas of work covered under the global dialogues should be relevant to the solutions and opportunities (including co-benefits), challenges, and barriers faced by many Parties;
5. *Replication potential*: the dialogues should focus on areas of work which can provide actionable solutions with a high replication potential across Parties, e.g. being readily available, practical, and economically feasible in this critical decade;
6. *Complementarity to GST*: In order to fulfil its mandate the MWP needs to build upon the political momentum and strong signal resulting from the GST decision, and contribute to the implementation of this decision

Topic selection should take into account recent developments and political decisions. However, forward planning may be useful. As an early brainstorming, the EIG could foresee the following topics for the MWP in coming years, noting that the work programme will be subject to review in 2026:

- 2025: Fighting deforestation and enhancing emission reductions from LULUCF;
- 2026: Implementing nationally determined contributions: specific focus to be determined

These can be subject to changes.