Five Things You Need to Know

1. In September, the UNFCCC’s first ever Global Stocktake (GST) will give the world a clear review of our progress and shortcomings on climate leading into a political phase that will rally leaders towards real change.

2. It must be harnessed properly, as much more than an assessment, but as a global accelerator, by everyone who has the power to make climate commitments and influence change. From governments, to businesses and institutions, the GST is a tool to drive political momentum.

3. At COP28 in Dubai this December, world leaders will have a responsibility to future generations to use the GST to commit to and implement ambitious new action plans which result in a course correction at a global scale if we are to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C.

4. The GST will remove any remaining excuse for inaction - we have never before had such a thorough reflection of our collective wins and failures. If the world approaches the GST properly, it should drive bold new political commitments and roadmaps for action from industry and organizations.

5. The GST is just one step in our journey to a liveable future. From COP28, commitments must quickly be turned into implementation at a local, national, and regional level, as ambitious commitments are turned into decisive and impactful action.

What is the Global Stocktake?

- The GST is the heartbeat of the Paris Agreement. Conducted every five years, it is a cyclical process assessing progress towards Paris Agreement goals. Its results are designed to repeatedly compel world leaders toward deeper climate action and fast, enhanced international cooperation, and to ultimately drive progress for decades to come.

- The GST process occurs in three phases: ‘information collection and preparation’ where submissions of data and observations from countries, organizations and international bodies are gathered. This is followed by the ‘technical assessment’, where this information is compiled into an overarching look at progress in mitigation, adaptation and resilience and the final ‘consideration of outputs’ phase – also known as the political phase, when world leaders come together to agree a renewed course of action.

- The first GST began at COP26 in Glasgow. This summer, the technical phase ends with a clear review of where increased ambition is needed the most, setting the stage for the political phase—finalized at COP28—that will determine how world leaders will respond to the crisis.

Why the Global Stocktake Matters

- This is a critical moment, the world needs much more than just an assessment. The GST process ultimately must serve as a “Global Accelerator,” driving nations to step up their climate
ambition and pursue the fundamental change needed for a zero-carbon and climate-resilient future that leaves no one behind.

- The next six months will set the course not only for COP28 but also for the future of the fight against climate change. This first GST is an unmissable opportunity for the entire world to course-correct our climate efforts, and to build political will, while there is still time.

Real change requires the GST to contain:

- A successful GST will feature an outcome which sends an unequivocal signal that countries must put forward ambitious climate plans by 2025 that align with the best available climate science. This includes bolstered policies, investments, and ambitious emissions-cutting and adaptation-enhancing targets.

Five priority areas:

1. **Adaptation:** A step-change in the global adaptation response, to ensure adaptation can meet the current and future challenges. This must be based on a foundation of better data on existing responses and the most critical gaps, and include commitments to improved national planning paired with increases to adaptation finance, targeted appropriately and made accessible at a local level.

2. **Finance:** A pivot in how finance is understood, provided, and mobilized. This GST must bring the world together toward systematic reform that scales-up funding in developing countries—particularly the most climate vulnerable who have little historical responsibility for climate change—and rapidly reallocateds capital away from fossil fuels and other harmful activities.

3. **Mitigation:** A renewed political commitment to ambitious 1.5C-aligned Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This first GST should include clear guidance and new 2030 and 2035 benchmarks including for a just and equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels, food system transformation, and the protection of nature and biodiversity.

4. **Equity:** A balanced, equity-based approach to the GST will lend it a broad base of legitimacy among Parties and other stakeholders. The outcomes must include sufficient attention to all three long-term goals of the Paris Agreement as well as loss and damage and response measures, and include a needs-based assessment lens.

5. **Implementation:** Strengthened data and accountability mechanisms to ensure follow-through. Gaps in accountability and transparency, including tracking and enforcement mechanisms, have emerged as a clear theme in independent research. The Stocktake could include new commitments to expand accountability and disclosure requirements, with aligned tracking frameworks.

About the iGST

The [independent Global Stocktake](https://www.igst.org), or iGST, is a consortium of over 20 organizations from around the world working to support a strong outcome from the Global Stocktake (GST). The iGST engages a network of climate researchers and advocates to undertake research, fill critical data gaps, and participate in the GST’s technical dialogues. To learn more about iGST and its research, visit [here](https://www.igst.org).
Additional Detail: Priority GST Outcome Elements  
Views from the independent Global Stocktake network  
Summer 2023 Version

About
Views from the independent Global Stocktake (iGST) network on a set of potential outcomes to prioritize in the final GST decision at COP28.

These outcomes should be right-sized to be unambiguous and actionable in the near-term, but impactful enough to supercharge our transition toward a safer future. This work builds on previous research from the iGST network and broader civil society priorities and are informed by latest political intelligence. For questions, contact igst-info@climateworks.org or see more about the iGST at www.independentgst.org

Document will evolve throughout year. This version updated as of July 20 2023. See latest at www.bit.ly/igst

Five Priority Areas for the Final GST Outcome

1. **Adaptation: A step-change in the global adaptation response, to ensure adaptation can meet current and future challenges.** This must be based on a foundation of better data on existing responses and the most critical gaps, and include commitments to improved national planning paired with increases to adaptation finance, targeted appropriately and made accessible at a local level.

2. **Finance: A pivot in how finance is understood, provided, and mobilized.** This GST must bring the world together toward systematic reform that scales-up funding in developing countries—particularly the most climate vulnerable who have little historical responsibility for climate change—and rapidly reallocates capital away from fossil fuels and other harmful activities.

3. **Mitigation: A renewed political commitment to ambitious 1.5C-aligned Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).** This first GST should include clear guidance and new 2030 and 2035 benchmarks including for a just and equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels, food system transformation, and the protection of nature and biodiversity.

4. **Equity: A balanced, equity-based approach to the GST** will lend it a broad base of legitimacy among Parties and other stakeholders. The outcomes must include **sufficient attention to all three long-term goals** of the Paris Agreement as well as loss and damage and response measures, and include a **needs-based assessment** lens.

5. **Implementation: Strengthened data and accountability mechanisms to ensure follow-through.** Gaps in accountability and transparency, including tracking and enforcement mechanisms, have emerged as a clear theme in independent research. The Stocktake could include new commitments to expand accountability and disclosure requirements, with aligned tracking frameworks.
Additional Detail on the Five Priority Areas

Adaptation

1. We need a step-change in the global adaptation response. With this first Global Stocktake, there must be a clear call to mount a sufficient adaptation response this decade that both enhances adaptive capacities and reduces vulnerabilities to a 1.5/2°C scenario. This should aim to:

   • Provide a clear understanding of progress made towards the Paris Agreement’s adaptation goal, and implications for national action:
     o Highlight progress and gaps in adaptation action through measurable benchmarks, aggregated at a global level, and with clarity on how different contextual characteristics are addressed and reflected in the global assessment;
     o Provide clear information on the implications of these assessment results for adaptation actions at the national and sub-national level;

   • Support new political commitments for national action and international cooperation that meet the scale of further actions needed to adapt to 1.5/2°C scenarios, such as:
     o Modernize the way we deliver adaptation support, through improvements in access including by local actors, more appropriate concessional instruments, and use of needs-based assessments to plan and deliver targeted adaptation action;
     o Incorporate specific metrics and benchmarks coming from the Global Goal on Adaptation in future national adaptation plans and adaptation reporting;
     o Highlight the need for transboundary adaptation interventions that go beyond disaster risk reduction measures and encourage cross-boundary collaboration;
     o Promote participation of local communities, and integrate traditional, indigenous, and scientific knowledge into policy making for adaptation.

Finance, including Means of Implementation and Support

2. A pivot in how finance is understood, provided, and mobilized. Given that finance is a critical enabler of all other transitions, this first Global Stocktake must recognize that finance is not being provided at a scale commensurate with developing countries’ needs, and it must clarify pathways toward rapid reallocation of finance toward climate solutions and improvements in access to this finance in developing countries. This might include commitments to:

   • Rapidly reallocate capital and finance toward climate solutions:
     o Set out a clear, timebound roadmap for financial systems reform, including reorientation and restructuring of the multilateral development banks;
     o Push corporates to set the adoption of meaningful near-term climate targets with transparent data and reporting of subsequent shifts in capital expenditures;
○ Ensure financial institutions and investors are mandated to set their own climate targets and transition plans that signal an end to investments that that money won’t continue to flow into creating or exacerbating material climate-related risks;
○ Push for regulatory reforms that align financial policy and fiscal incentives - including new and reformed taxes and subsidy schemes - to support just and rapid decarbonization.

● **Scale-up finance and means of implementation capital to developing and emerging country economies**
  ○ Reduce the cost of commercial investment in climate solutions by maximizing the use of concessional and risk-taking capital;
  ○ Seek appropriate debt restructuring and concessional finance use to avoid debt burdens hindering climate action and sustainable development;
  ○ Scale climate finance provision and other means of implementation (capacity building and technology transfer) to match the scale of the actual needs, making use of concessional finance, as well as through new and innovative sources and simplifying and expediting access to climate finance, driven by local needs and expertise.

**Mitigation**

3. **A renewed political commitment to ambitious, 1.5°C-aligned NDCs by 2025:** Each stocktake is mandated to inform the next round of NDCs. This first Global Stocktake must include clear guidance for the next round of ambitious **2025 NDCs with revised 2030 benchmarks alongside 2035 commitments** that are aligned with a 1.5°C pathway and pursue systemic transformations. This might include:

● **Urgent actions to close the emissions gap**
  ○ Major emitters must revise their 2030 emissions reduction targets and all countries must put forward ambitious 2035 NDCs, before COP30;
  ○ Include specific benchmarks and time frames, where possible, especially covering sectoral and non-CO2 measures and targets in NDCs;
  ○ Countries must scale up implementation efforts to achieve their commitments, informed by the outcomes of the GST;

● **Send a clear signal on the need to transform all sectors and systems**
  ○ Tripling renewable energy capacity from an estimated 440 GW in 2023 to 1,500 GW by 2030 and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements across sectors by 2030, including ramping up electrification and enhanced cooling approaches. This will require investing in clean energy sources at a ratio many times greater compared to dirty sources by 2030.
  ○ Enabled by the increase in renewables, parties commit to a just and equitable phase out of all fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas in line with 1.5°C;
  ○ Instigate a food systems transformation that reduces strain on ecosystems and forest destruction, reduces emissions, and increases resilience;
○ Support systems transformations that can protect nature and biodiversity with holistic interventions.

Cross-cutting: Equity, Accountability, and Implementation

4. **A balanced, equity-rooted approach to the Global Stocktake and its implementation**: A comprehensive and equity-based approach to the GST will lend it a broad base of legitimacy among Parties and other stakeholders. The outcomes of this first Global Stocktake must include sufficient attention to all three long term goals of the Paris Agreement, loss and damage as well as response measures, and consider all work in the light of equity and the best available science. This might include commitments to:

○ Incorporate an overarching focus on **needs-based assessment**, in which the scale of collective pledges and means of implementation can be transparently and meaningfully compared to the demands of both science and equity.

○ Implications of the GST vary by region, audience, and thematic area, making it all the more important to **maintain an inclusive approach through the conclusion of the Stocktake**, valuing the knowledge and inputs of different stakeholders including scientific knowledge alongside local, informal, or Indigenous knowledge. We also encourage **framing the GST outputs in such a way as to make them clear and usable by these different audiences**, with a strong and detailed technical annex that supports a more targeted CMA decision/declaration.

○ Support **capacity-building for climate action at the national level**—across adaptation, mitigation, and cross-cutting areas such as transparency and MRV, and including targeted capacity building around implementation of new commitments extending from the GST.

○ Engage **national and regional civil society and policymakers** to support translating GST outputs into concrete policy.

5. **Strengthened accountability mechanisms to ensure follow-through**: Gaps in accountability and transparency, including tracking and enforcement mechanisms, have emerged as a clear theme in the first Global Stocktake. A final key outcome of this first GST must be to **support enhanced accountability mechanisms and address data gaps preventing this accountability**. This might include commitments to:

- Expand specific accountability programs and disclosure requirements for non-state actors, particularly those interfacing with the UNFCCC, as well as creative thinking about how to support enhanced accountability at the national level;
- **Cross-cutting**: Deploy better social and political indicators to track climate progress, including gender-disaggregated data;
- Adaptation: Improve disclosure regulation and technical guidance to track adaptation actions by the private sector and other non-Party stakeholders (e.g., cities); clarify conceptualization and operationalization of the ‘adequacy’ and ‘effectiveness’ of adaptation actions and supports in relation to GGA, and agreement on ways to measure them;
• Finance: Make progress on a sufficiently shared understanding of scope or actions that align national public and private finance flows with the Paris Agreement, such that global progress can be assessed;

• Mitigation: Introduce enhanced measures to strengthen the accountability of action by sub-national governments, non-state actors and voluntary sectoral initiatives;

• Loss and Damage: Improve data on non-economic losses and slow onset events to inform loss and damage conversations.
References and Additional Resources

The below section contains a list of research reports from iGST partners on addressing data and methodological questions in the Global Stocktake, upon which our above recommendations build.

iGST Formal Inputs into UNFCCC Process

- **Recommendations for Technical Dialogue 1.3, and messages for the technical synthesis report of the GST:** iGST final cross-network submission to the GST’s Technical Dialogue 1.3; March 2023. [Link](#).

- **Recommendations for organization of the GST’s political phase:** iGST and partners recommendations on organization of the ‘Consideration of Outputs’ phase of the GST; February 2023. [Link](#).

- **Problem statements for consideration in the GST Technical Dialogues:** iGST first cross-network submission to the GST’s Technical Dialogue 1.1; February 2022. [Link](#).

- **Deeper Dives: Standalone formal submissions on thematic and regional topics:**
  - Recommendations on [finance / means of implementation and support](#) for the final technical dialogue and in considering high-level outcomes at COP28; March 2023. [Link](#).
  - Views from [Latin America regional stakeholders](#) on the organization of the ‘Consideration of Outputs’ phase of the GST and technical inputs for TD1.3; March 2023. [Link](#).
  - Recommendations on taking a [needs-based approach to assessment and stocktaking](#) to improve the treatment of equity in the GST; March 2023. [Link](#).
  - Information on key [priorities for non-state actors in Southeast Asia](#) for the GST; March 2023. [Link](#).

  *All submissions can be found on the UNFCCC’s [GST Information Portal](#).*

Relationship between the Global Stocktake and National Ambition and Implementation:

- **Summary reflections on the below three reports from the iGST secretariat,** [available here](#).


Adaptation and the GST:

- Webinar on perspectives regarding defining ‘adequacy and effectiveness’ of adaptation, and how to assess this in the Global Stocktake, available here.

Equity and the GST:

- Webinar on *Equity and the Global Stocktake* available here. Specific focus on equity in loss & damage, and climate finance.
Finance – Piloting Methods to Assess Progress Against Article 2.1c at a National Level:

- Summary blog with reflections from this case study series, available here, summary webinar recording available here, and summary full report available here


- Forthcoming: Additional case studies underway on SIDS countries.

Finance – Exploring Thorny Topics of Relevance to the GST:


**Finance – Equity in Climate Finance and the GST:**


• Forthcoming: Additional research on assessing the equity of actions in support of Article 2.1(c) alignment, aligning public and private finance flows with the Paris agreement goals.

**Mitigation and the GST:**


**GST Design and Process Research:**


iGST and Partners (2023). Joint Submission to the UNFCCC on the Approach to the Consideration of Outputs Phase of the first Global Stocktake. Available at: [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202302151744---Joint%20Submission%20on%20GST%20Consideration%20of%20Outputs%20Phase_Feb%2015%202023.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202302151744---Joint%20Submission%20on%20GST%20Consideration%20of%20Outputs%20Phase_Feb%2015%202023.pdf)

**Regional Civil Society Stakeholders and the GST**

**Latin America and the Caribbean:**


**Southeast Asia:**