



Climate Action Network

Submission: Suggested topics for the Mitigation Work programme in 2024

February 2024

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.

In response to the call to Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders to submit suggested topics in line with the scope of the work programme referred to in paragraph 4 of FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.17, para. 12 to be discussed under the global dialogues, CAN provides views and suggestions below.

1. Reflections on the role of the MWP

CAN strongly supports the science stating that only immediate, ambitious, just and equitable emissions reductions will give the world a chance to stay within the 1.5°C survival limit. In this context, we highlight the Mitigation Work Programme objective “*to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade in a manner that **complements the global stocktake***”. The MWP is the only process where mitigation action pre-2030 is discussed and we expect it to deliver on its mandate in order to support the global climate regime to respond to the science. This is not what we have seen in the first year of the programme, so we expect it can be achieved in 2024.

One of the key features of the MWP is its **complementarity to the Global Stocktake**. Now that the process is finished and the high-level conclusions have been issued, the MWP must be a vehicle for technical conversations that will lead to climate action and decisions. Therefore, the technical discussions in the global dialogues and investment-focused events should focus on how to make the GST outcomes on mitigation actionable. Discussions should be action-oriented, cover what needs to be done in a given sector and provide concrete recommendations. Some of the GST guidance we would like to be considered by the MWP are: transitioning away from fossil

fuels, scaling up renewable energy and energy efficiency, halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 and reducing non-CO2 emissions.

We support the recommendations on paragraph 10 of the CMA5 decision to improve future dialogues and investment-focused events and enable the effective engagement of the participants. CAN also welcomes the request to the subsidiary bodies to consider progress, including key findings, opportunities and barriers, in implementing the work programme at each of their sessions from June 2024 to November 2026. **It's key that such progress assessment focuses on the substance of the discussions** and not merely the organization of global dialogues and investment-focused events and reports. Given the urgency of climate action and the opportunity, value and potential of getting parties together for focused exchanges of views, information and ideas, we need to see the MWP going beyond a 'tick box exercise'.

For that, **the summary report from the dialogues should highlight practical recommendations that can be taken up outside of the UNFCCC space and at the national and regional levels.** The report should also inform the number of new concrete and funded climate action and partnerships on the topics discussed, as a measure of success of the programme and the investment-focused events.

2. Topic for the MWP in 2024: Accelerating the Just Energy Transition

Suggested topic for 2024: Accelerating just energy transition, with a focus on:

- **Transitioning away from fossil fuels**
- **Energy in NDCs**
- **Energy transition as a driver for development - how to foster a people and environment- centered energy transition that addresses and does not reproduce current inequalities**

The chosen topic for 2023 was **accelerating just energy transition**, including by:

- Implementing policies and measures with global overview and country-specific experience;
- Addressing financial, technological and capacity-building needs in this area, such as through international cooperation, including with non-Party stakeholders, and provision of support to developing countries;

- Promoting sustainable development and understanding socioeconomic effects.

The first 2023 dialogue took place last June at the SBs session in Bonn and included presentations and breakout group discussions on the following subtopics: renewable energy; grid and energy storage; CCU and CCS and energy efficiency. The second dialogue took place in the UAE in October and discussed accelerating just energy transition in transport systems, with the following subtopics:

- Deploying and shifting to collective and non-motorized modes of transport (rail, urban public transit, cycling, etc)
- Energy and resource efficiency in the transport sector (design improvements, circular economy and material changes, vehicle vintage, carpooling, etc.)
- Electrification of vehicles (infrastructure, batteries and minerals);
- Shifting to low- or zero-carbon fuels (hydrogen, biofuels, biogas, compressed natural gas).

Despite the relevant discussions that happened in 2023, CAN believes that many aspects of the topic of the just energy transition, due to its breadth and complexity, haven't yet been discussed.

Given the mandate of the MWP is 'urgently scaling up mitigation action', **we believe the measure of success of the MWP is delivering new partnerships and projects with funding.** To the extent information is available, that didn't happen in 2023. According to science, the energy transition is the most impactful way of achieving significant reductions of greenhouse gases before 2030. This has also been recognized in the GST outcome, that must be complemented by the MWP process according to 4/CMA.4. So further work on the same topic is of the essence.

We suggest that the MWP continues the same topic for 2024 – **accelerating just energy transition** - until it delivers on its mandate of urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade. We would highlight the following subtopics to be addressed in 2024:

A. Transitioning away from fossil fuels

In line with the mandate of the MWP to complement the GST, the MWP should help to make tangible the GST decision to transition away from fossil fuels, discussing actions and measures to be undertaken by countries to contribute to the tripling of renewable capacity and the doubling of energy efficiency annual improvements between 2022 and

2030. The MWP dialogue should revisit current experiences from parties and non-party stakeholders, identifying best-practices and challenges as well as mobilizing new partnerships and actions on this crucial path.

The energy transition in this crucial decade has to focus on **real and readily available and scalable solutions, which can be deployed now and deliver results in this decade**, avoiding promises that lead to misguided investment and/or that are technically unsound, or harm frontline communities instead of providing development opportunities. Continuing the discussion on dangerous distractions such as CCS and Nuclear remains highly important.

B. Energy in NDCs

Current NDCs display a wide variety of granularity when it comes to detailing how to manage the energy transition. The topic “energy in NDCs” will allow parties to share experiences with drafting and implementing the energy relevant aspects of the NDCs and coupled policies, lessons learned and challenges faced in the national context. The dialogue should foster recommendations on best practices that are useful (a) to leverage regional and national climate action in this critical decade and (b) to prepare new NDCs 9 to 12 months ahead of COP30, including updated targets and actions for the 2030 time frame to ensure accelerated action in this crucial decade.

C. Energy transition as a driver for development

A just energy transition has a huge potential to catalyze development for people and communities across the globe in line with SDG 7 “ensuring access to clean and affordable energy”. This dialogue should focus on existing experiences with decentralized and community-driven renewable energy initiatives around the globe, grounded in a human rights approach, distill elements of success and reflect on the investment and policy implications to boost such initiatives in order to harvest the synergies of energy transition and development of communities and people.

CAN also believes that a higher number of dialogues throughout the year (at least 4) will be needed for an efficient MWP. We fully support regional dialogues that can allow for investment-focused events to be an enabler for regional and national projects.

3. Topics for the MWP beyond 2024:

Last year we highlighted the need for the Programme to conduct strategic and sectoral deep dives. We believe this is still key for the Mitigation Work Programme to deliver on its mandate and present below a few examples (non-exhaustive) of sectors to be discussed once the MWP has delivered and contributed substantially to scaling up mitigation ambition and action in this critical decade on the topic of “accelerating just energy transition”.

1. Land use and Forestry

Land use and land-use change, mainly deforestation, has contributed to one-third of cumulative CO₂ emissions since 1750, and currently accounts for approximately 13% of global annual GHG emissions. This sector is equally important for biodiversity conservation and delivering on the Global Biodiversity Framework. Recognizing this, we suggest that future dialogues within the MWP center on supporting Parties in implementing ambitious ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation in the land sector, that are grounded in a rights-based approach.

2. Industry

The steel sector (including scope 2 emissions from the power used) is accountable for 8% of all global ghg-emissions and the production volumes are projected to grow in the coming decades. One key driver for the growing steel demand is the crucial role of steel in clean energy infrastructure such as power grids and windmills. Accelerating steel sector decarbonization is of crucial importance in order to keep the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C alive. Cement and Buildings (heating and cooling) are also important sectors to be addressed.