



Conference of the Parties, twenty-ninth session
High-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition
Baku, 18 November 2024

29 November 2024

2024 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition

Summary by the President

Summary

This is a summary prepared by the President of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, with the support of the secretariat, of the 2024 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, held during the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its fourth session, decided to convene an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, beginning at its fourth session.¹

B. Context

2. The Presidency of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) convened the 2024 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition on 18 November 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the start of the second week of COP 29.² A summary of the proceedings, including summaries of the opening remarks and scene-setting presentations, is contained in the annex.

3. The round table provided participants with a platform to share their views on the priorities they wish to see reflected in the mitigation outcome of COP 29. The event was attended by high-level representatives, including ministers, deputy ministers, climate envoys and heads of delegation, from more than 80 Parties.

4. The round table was co-chaired by Tore O. Sandvik, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, and Dion George, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment of South Africa.

5. The event was aimed at bridging the technical work undertaken during the sixty-first sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the political work to take place during the second week of COP 29 with a view to contributing to an ambitious mitigation outcome at COP 29.

6. The Presidency identified two guiding questions to facilitate the discussions during the round table (see the annex).

II. Summary

7. Ministers and participants engaged actively during the round table, sharing their views on the guiding questions. The following summary is aimed at providing a non-exhaustive overview of the discussions without prejudice to the various views expressed.

8. Commitment to urgency of mitigation ambition, 1.5 °C, action and support, informed by science and equity: many Parties stressed the need for enhanced ambition in mitigation action and support, particularly as global emissions remain inconsistent with the 1.5 °C target of the Paris Agreement. Many Parties underscored the critical significance of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and emphasized that decisions and actions must be firmly rooted in the best available scientific evidence. Findings from the IPCC were repeatedly highlighted as a compass for climate action, with Parties noting the clear call for urgent, deep, and sustained emission reductions by 2030 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Emphasizing that emissions must peak by 2025, they called for rapid reductions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels. Numerous Parties linked increased mitigation efforts to reducing adaptation needs and underscored the indispensable role of global stocktake (GST) insights in shaping the future. Several Parties also highlighted that emission reduction pathways must take into account equity and that equitable pathways to achieving the Paris Agreement goals must consider historical emissions, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, ensuring that no country is disproportionately disadvantaged in the global transition to low-carbon economies.

¹ Decision 1/CMA.3, para. 31.

² Further information on the event is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/2024-annual-high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-pre-2030-ambition-mandated-event-registered/ticket>.

9. Global solidarity, international cooperation and opportunities in climate action:

many Parties emphasized that international cooperation is an important lever for addressing the shared challenge of climate change, noting that collective action is essential for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Many called for greater global solidarity, particularly in technology transfer, capacity-building and financial support to developing countries, with a view to ensuring equitable transitions to low-carbon economies. Several interventions underlined the need to uphold multilateral principles, urging developed countries to lead in delivering on their commitments while fostering trust and mutual understanding. Parties also noted the importance of reducing barriers to cross-border technology access and of fostering partnerships across governments, academia, civil society and the private sector for driving innovation and implementation.

10. Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme: the work programme was recognized as a key platform for fostering ambitious mitigation action and as a facilitative space for bridging the gap between ambition and implementation. Many Parties expressed disappointment with the current rate of progress under the work programme, and some called for enhancements and improvements to be made with a view to enabling the work programme to realize its potential as a space or platform for inclusive, facilitative discussions that promote mitigation action. Several Parties also highlighted the potential for the work programme to carry substantive messages on mitigation aligned with the topic of the year.

11. Finance: finance was repeatedly emphasized as a cornerstone of effective climate action, with calls for predictable, adequate and accessible financial support to developing countries. Countries highlighted significant gaps in funding, calling for scaled-up international climate finance for developing countries that is concessional, accessible and tailored to their unique needs. Some urged developed countries to fulfil their financial commitments and provide comprehensive support for mitigation, with some also making reference to the implications for costs of adaptation and loss and damage.

Concerns were raised about whether current financial flows are sufficient, with a significant portion of support provided in the form of loans, which exacerbate debt burdens in developing countries. Parties observed that while investment in renewable energy has increased, it remains insufficient, and investments are unevenly distributed at the global level. Some Parties also noted that addressing inefficiencies in fossil fuel subsidies could unlock significant additional resources for supporting climate action. Some Parties highlighted the need for increased grants, concessional finance, and innovative mechanisms to mobilize resources for mitigation. Furthermore, integrating public and private sector investment was suggested as a potential pathway for bridging financing gaps and supporting transformative climate action at the global level.

12. No ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution: many Parties emphasized that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, or to implementing the outcomes of the GST. The principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of national circumstances was seen as key for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

13. Sustainable development: Parties highlighted the link between climate action and sustainable development, emphasizing that mitigation strategies and actions must align with broader socioeconomic objectives such as eradicating poverty, improving health and growing economic resilience. Many underscored the need for tailored policies that contribute to equitable growth, reduce inequalities and support sustainable livelihoods, particularly in developing countries. Some Parties stressed the importance of creating synergies between climate action and other sustainable development goals, ensuring that transitions to low-carbon economies support job creation, social inclusion and long-term prosperity.

14. Technology and capacity-building for enhanced mitigation action: many Parties underlined the transformative potential of technology, with innovation, technology transfer and cooperation seen as enabling factors for raising mitigation ambition. They emphasized the need for collaborative frameworks to ensure equitable access to advanced technologies, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, along with the need to remove barriers related to trade and intellectual property. In the context of advancing mitigation efforts, Parties also stressed

the need for targeted efforts aimed at enhancing technical expertise, knowledge transfer and institutional capabilities.

15. Nationally determined contributions (NDCs): many Parties advocated for the submission of ambitious NDCs by 2025, and encouraged to have ambitious economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories, that are aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, informed by the latest science and determined in the light of national circumstances. Several Parties noted that these new NDCs be grounded in the principle of equity and the best available science, and supported by adequate means of implementation. Some indicated that conditional elements of NDCs could only be implemented if the condition of providing finance was met. Many also highlighted the importance of ensuring that targets are informed by the outcomes of the first GST under the Paris Agreement.

16. The GST: several Parties highlighted the outcome of the first GST, which was seen as having a pivotal advancing collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and in driving the enhancement of action and support in a nationally determined manner. Parties emphasized the need to address gaps in current mitigation efforts and GST to inform the next round of NDC submissions, due by 2025. Many noted that the GST,³ in the context of the mitigation section, particularly in paragraph 28 thereof, could be translated into actionable measures for accelerating climate action in a bottom-up manner. Parties also reaffirmed the nationally determined nature of NDCs.

17. Robust mitigation outcomes: Parties noted that COP 29 represents an important moment to signal to the world the direction of travel towards achieving the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. Several Parties highlighted the link between the outcomes on mitigation from COP 29 and the global efforts on mitigation outlined in the GST, including the collective mitigation efforts outlined in decision 1/CMA.5. Additionally, for many, a substantive and improved Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme is a key part of a successful mitigation outcome at COP.

³ Decision 1/CMA.5.

Annex

Proceedings

III. Opening remarks

18. Mukhtar Babayev, President of COP 29, the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, welcomed the ministers and other high-level representatives participating in the round table, highlighting the urgent need to enhance pre-2030 ambition. He stressed that, with the midpoint of this critical decade approaching, much work is still required to achieve the highest level of ambition.

19. Mukhtar Babayev highlighted the importance of taking collective action at COP 29 to enable consensus to be reached and to eliminate barriers to meeting the 1.5 °C goal. He called on Parties to build on the momentum from the first week of COP 29 with a view to ensuring that mitigation ambition reflects collective decisions on fossil fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and is grounded in evidence and guided by the principles of a just energy transition and equity. Parties were also urged to incentivize emerging zero-carbon technologies, such as hydrogen, and to continue working flexibly, cooperatively and with determination, guided by the best available science, to achieve the necessary paradigm shift. He outlined the commitment to deliver a comprehensive mitigation package aligned with the outcomes of the first GST and stressed the importance of the green energy transition.

20. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, emphasized in his opening remarks the collective efforts needed to move global climate action in the right direction. Recent reports show that current efforts are not aligned with the targets, and that livelihoods are at stake if we fail to act swiftly and decisively. He stressed the need for the third round of NDCs to accelerate climate action, urging Parties to adopt stronger and more ambitious commitments. This, he noted, is not just about setting targets, but about policy action and political will for turning ambition into real-world progress. The President called for a focus on building momentum and moving forwards, and on taking concrete action that delivers on the Paris Agreement at the national level, and ultimately aligns efforts to secure a sustainable and resilient future for all.

IV. Scene-setting presentations

21. The opening session was followed by a scene-setting session, which consisted of two presentations that framed the round table discussion.

22. In the first scene-setting presentation, Jim Skea, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, shared findings from the contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on strengthening the response to climate change. Jim Skea highlighted the opportunities and benefits of near-term action, noting that the 1.5 °C limit is approaching, with risks escalating from moderate to high at higher temperatures. Without urgent action, countries could see up to 3 °C of warming this century, which would lead to irreversible impacts and make it impossible to adapt. He emphasized that there are viable options across all sectors to reduce emissions, with benefits that outweigh the trade-offs. Key sectors like energy, agriculture and industry offer pathways to emission reductions, from renewable energy sources like wind and solar, and fuel switching, to changes in food systems and waste reduction. While some sectors, like industry, face higher costs, others, such as buildings and transport, present negative-cost opportunities. Policies already in place have resulted in sustained emission reductions, and carbon pricing mechanisms now cover half of global carbon emissions. Professor Skea stressed the importance of closing investment gaps and addressing the necessary interventions in education, skills development and agriculture. He reaffirmed the need to focus on actions aligned with the principles of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the

interconnectedness of its three goals, namely mitigation, adaptation and finance. Finally, he stressed that only through progress on all fronts can countries secure a sustainable, resilient future.

23. This was followed by a presentation by Amr Osama Abdel-Aziz and Lola Vallejo, the Co-Chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme. The Co-Chairs shared key outcomes from the annual report of the work programme⁴, which contains findings from the two global dialogues organized in 2024 on the topic of “Cities: Buildings and Urban Systems”. They also highlighted the role of the investment-focused events, organized with the support of the high-level champions, in bringing together different financial actors with a view to unlocking finance for clean energy investment at both the international and regional level for mitigation action.

V. Round table discussion

24. Following the scene-setting presentations, the ministerial Co-Chairs, Tore O. Sandvik and Dion George, introduced the round table discussion.

25. They reminded participants of the guiding questions set by the COP 29 Presidency, which were:

(a) What elements of implementable outcomes do you expect to be part of an overall package on mitigation at COP 29?

(b) How can we harness the results from relevant work to shape the mitigation outcome at COP 29?

26. The ministerial Co-Chairs then opened the floor to participants for the round table discussion.

27. Following the round table discussion, the ministerial Co-Chairs concluded the round table.

⁴ FCCC/SB/2024/5 available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/641886>