

Emissions Gap Report 2025 Briefing Note – SC Call on January 15, 2025

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Agenda

After a brief welcome, the following agenda items are envisaged:

1. Context and content of the Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2025
2. Steering committee composition and potential new members
3. Identification and selection of lead and contributing authors
4. Next steps and timeline
5. Any other business

1. Context and content of the EGR 2025 (45 minutes)

The SC is kindly invited to reflect and discuss the following, using the notes below as a point of departure:

- a) Context and chapters of the report
- b) New areas and areas where deeper analysis should be provided, or methodologies can be improved
- c) Coordination with and potential inclusion of key findings from other reports and initiatives

Context and content of the report

- The overall context for the EGR 2025 is the submission of new nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which countries – in accordance with the Paris Agreement – are requested to submit at least 9 months before COP 30. However, late submissions are expected and together with the authors, we must decide and plan for:
 - o Continuous updates the assessment of NDCs as they are submitted
 - o Potential updates after the cut-off date for the report, and possibly even during COP30.
- During the debriefing in 2024, there was consensus among SC members and LA's that these new NDCs and the assessment of them and their implications for the emissions gap and for projections of global warming should be the core focus of the 2025 edition of the report and provide the framing for its overall narrative.
- Generally, the SC furthermore advised UNEP to limit the number of chapters beyond the core chapters of the report (i.e. the first four chapters) in 2025. UNEP's Chief Scientist strongly supports this.
- For the 2025 report, it is therefore proposed to focus on further assessment related to the core chapters with the potential inclusion of one additional chapter (i.e. what is typically referred to as Part II). See below.

New focus areas and methodological improvements or updates

- Depending on the level of ambition of the new NDCs, there are several issues associated with the core chapters of the report that it would be pertinent and plausibly expected that the 2025 edition of the report provides a thorough assessment of. These include assessment of the possibility of limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or low overshoot and messaging around

this, as well as a deeper exploration of the concept of overshoot – including assumptions around carbon dioxide removal.

- In terms of methodological updates and improvements, a central issue is the extent to which it will be possible to update the least cost pathways to start in a more recent year than 2020. Such pathways are expected to become available. However, the sample may not be large enough for a robust assessment and the report could potentially continue with the IPCC scenario database selection and compare findings with an assessment based on available updated least-cost pathways. If the SC agrees, this will be explored further with the lead authors. Addressing this relates to the ongoing discussion about “excess emissions” and the credibility of the gap analysis and numbers.
- In terms of new chapters, one option is for the report to continue and expand on last year’s underlying analyses to further explore how key concepts such as ‘highest possible ambition’ and ‘fairness’ can be interpreted and assessed in the context of the new NDCs, including at the G20 level (collectively and individual).
- This would respond to some of the 2025-topics proposed during the debriefing last year (the debriefing presentation is available [here](#) and a list of topics proposed provided at the end of this document). Specifically, it could provide a foundation for moving towards tracking sectoral progress and policies in future reports. It is proposed to postpone any deep assessment of these aspects until the 2026 edition of the report. However, we need to decide on a robust and feasible approach to assessing recent G20 policy updates.
- Another proposal made as part of the debriefing was to mark that this year it is ten years since the Paris Agreement was adopted, and to provide a recap of the developments since the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

Coordination with other reports and initiatives

There are at least five aspects to consider in terms of coordination and collaboration. These are briefly listed below for expanded discussion during the SC call:

- a) Production Gap Report: there will likely be a report this year, and one option is to include key findings / messaging from the PGR either in a Box, section or chapter of the EGR.
 - b) Methane assessment: we usually receive a request from CCAC colleagues to include information about methane and progress towards the Global Methane Pledge. It is yet unsure how much analysis is available.
 - c) G20 meetings and influence: UNEP would like to explore opportunities for the EGR and supporting analysis to feed into the G20 process and potentially the declaration.
 - d) Collaboration and underlying analysis for and with the UN-SG’s Climate Action Team and the UNFCCC Secretariat – follow up discussions are planned for next week. If moving forward with this, additional work should be designed to also feed into the G20 process track.
- Other assessments of NDCs will be undertaken by various partners and institutions. We will schedule meetings with key institutions to discuss timing, approaches and collaboration. It will be particularly important to coordinate and collaborate with the UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Report.

2. Steering Committee composition (15 minutes)

Current members of the SC:

No.	Name	Affiliation	Email address
1	Ruta Bubniene	UNFCCC	rbubniene@unfccc.int
2	John Christensen	UNEP-CCC	john.christensen@un.org

3	Navroz K. Dubash	Princeton University	ndubash@gmail.com
4	Simon Evans	Carbon Brief	simon.evans@carbonbrief.org
5	Niklas Höhne	NewClimate Institute	n.hoehne@newclimate.org
6	Jian Liu	UNEP	jian.liu@un.org
7	Shonali Pachauri	IIASA	pachauri@iiasa.ac.at
8	Katia Simeonova	Independent	ksimeonova111@gmail.com
9	Youba Sokona	IPCC	ysokona@gmail.com
10	Oksana Tarasova	WMO	otarasova@wmo.int

New potential members:

- Invite COP30 Presidency representative
- A new member from the LAC Region – suggestions from the SC?
- Potentially a member from South Africa to foster G20 links – suggestions from the SC?

3. Identification and selection of lead and contributing authors (15 minutes)

- Move ahead with invitations to ‘core’ lead authors from previous reports.
- In parallel, identify additional lead and/or contributing authors that can add diversity in terms of perspectives, regions, etc.
- Ensure good regional and gender balance of author teams.

4. Next steps and timeline (15 minutes)

Timeline

- COP30 takes place on 10-21 November 2025 – this implies that overall the production timeline is similar to last year (see a copy of last year’s timeline at the end of this document). The SC is kindly invited to express ideas for potential adjustments or revisions of the timeline for this year’s report.
- Further potential complications:
 - o Potential late submissions of new NDCs
 - o US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement
 - o ...

Proposed next steps

The Secretariat will:

- Draft a content note and share with the SC for feedback and for suggestions on lead and contributing authors.
- Start engaging core authors.
- Get authors’ feedback on content note and on additional lead and contributing authors.
- Get authors’ feedback on key issues, methodological updates and collaboration with main partners and initiatives and make proposal.
- Develop and share a timeline for the 2025 report.
- Look into possibilities for a face-to-face meeting.

The SC will provide suggestions on potential new SC members.

List of topics proposed as part of the 2024 debriefing

1. **Assessment of the new NDCs and overall framing, including:**

- Focus on the new NDCs (not many other chapters)
- Recap the developments in the 10 years since the Paris Agreement was adopted
- How to assess if an NDC represents a country's "highest possible ambition"
- Grappling with the reality that 1.5C is passing us by, and that we now need to focus on holding as far below 2C as possible.

2. **Policies and start tracking sectoral progress:**

- Progress towards key climate action indicators (e.g. tripling of renewables, transition away from fossil fuels, etc.) and individual greenhouse gases (methane, f-gases)
- Positive tipping points, sectoral progress (compared against the sectoral potentials), sectoral policy discrepancy (similar to production gap)
- Learning from climate policy implementation. A chapter assessing the climate policies that have been implemented to date, and asking how effective they were (how much emissions have been avoided to date?) and what their social and economic outcomes were (e.g. have they increased social inequality?)
- Deeper dive on sectoral mitigation potentials, including 1) regional breakdown, and 2) feasibility of potentials (including barriers/policies). Perhaps include cities or lifestyles and behaviour?

3. **Trade and Article 6:**

- Modalities of Article 6
- Climate action and international trade. A chapter looking at embodied/trade emissions (how are global emissions being reshuffled by trade?), reflecting on new policy developments (how could the EU's CBAM and/or US tariffs influence global emissions?) and broader supply chain issues (is trade helping or hindering the energy transition?)
- Chapter on traded emissions, esp as we may be in the middle of a trade war by then. Some work on CBAMs would be part of this.
- Something on how to make carbon markets work better

4. **Other suggestions:**

- Looking more closely at the development aspects in the NDC analysis; finance; CDR
- Nature based solutions/forestry in markets as this will be relevant to the "nature" theme of COP30
- More space given to finance

Last year's production timeline

Timeline for the Emissions Gap Report 2024

To the extent possible, flexibility will be built into various chapter timelines in discussion with authors

Month	Activities and milestones
January-February	Establish Steering Committee (SC), including bringing new SC members on board

	<p>Conference call with SC to discuss new steering committee members and overall topics for the 2024 report, 25 January</p> <p>Consultations with key stakeholders to ensure the assessment credibility, integrity, impartiality and relevance</p> <p>Initiate recruitment of Lead Authors (LA's) and Contributing Authors (CA's)</p> <p>Develop the draft content note, work plan and timeline for the report production</p> <p>Conference call with the SC to decide on the content of the report and discuss lead and contributing authors, 23 February</p> <p>Scoping of underlying analytical studies on sectoral emission reduction potentials beyond 2030 and the scope for significantly enhanced mitigation ambition of G20 members and emerging economies completed</p>
March	<p>Lead and contributing author teams are approved by the SC and established, and contracting of LA's is initiated</p> <p>Work on underlying analytical G20 and sectoral emission reduction potentials studies commences</p>
April	<p>Zero order drafts, including of underlying studies, are completed and shared with the SC, 19 April</p> <p>Virtual SC and LA meeting(s) to discuss zero-order drafts and agree on ways forward for first-order drafts, 23 and 24 April</p> <p>Work on first order drafts commences</p> <p>Identification of external reviewers commences</p>
May	<p>Work on first-order chapter drafts, including appendices, continues</p> <p>Identification of external reviewers completed</p> <p>Procurement of production services is initiated</p>
June	<p>First order drafts, including draft appendices and sketch figures, completed, 3 June</p> <p>Meeting in Bonn during the 60th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies for authors and SC members who are already in Bonn (i.e. no travel costs will be reimbursed), 5-10 June TBC</p> <p>SC feedback – potentially followed by chapter teleconference(s) – on revisions to be made to the first order drafts before external review and country vetting by 10 June</p> <p>Meeting with the UNFCCC NDC SYR report team, 3-14 June, exact date TBC</p> <p>Workshop in Bonn for invited participants on ambition raising and implementation acceleration (both for 2030 and 2035) based on a presentation of the preliminary findings of the underlying studies, 6 or 7 June, TBC</p>
July	<p>Revised first order drafts are completed, 5 July</p> <p>External review, 5-29 July</p> <p>Country vetting, 5-29 July</p>
August	<p>Authors and SC members consider the country vetting and external review comments received. Calls are set up as/if needed.</p> <p>SC members communicate their main general and chapter-specific feedback, based on their reviews, to the Secretariat by 5 August at the latest.</p> <p>Authors work with the scientific editors to prepare final draft chapters, including addressing external review and country vetting comments, before the in-person meeting in Copenhagen.</p> <p>Development of figures and infographics commences with the designer.</p> <p>Overall outreach strategy developed by UNEP.</p>
September	<p>Final draft chapters are shared ahead of the meeting in Copenhagen, 4 September.</p> <p>Zero-order draft of the Executive Summary developed and shared ahead of the in-person meeting in Copenhagen, 9 September.</p> <p>Two-day in-person SC and LA meeting to discuss narrative, key messages, and zero-order draft of the executive summary and to agree on science editing required to the drafts/overall report, 11-12 September.</p> <p>Revisions and editing of final draft chapters for consistency, integrity, and language in close collaboration between the scientific editors and the lead authors continues.</p> <p>First-order draft of the Executive Summary (ES) completed and shared with SC and LA's for comments, 19 September.</p>

	<p>SC members and LA's are kindly requested to provide their comments to the ES on 24 September at the latest.</p> <p>SC call to discuss final issues related to chapters, figures, ES, etc., and any other business, 24 September.</p> <p>Editing final draft chapters for consistency, integrity, and language completed, week of 30 September.</p> <p>Executive Summary completed and sent for last tweaks, 30 September.</p> <p>The report goes to production (language editing and layout), week of 30 September</p> <p>Detailed planning of global launch and outreach events completed.</p>
October	<p>Figures and infographics completed 7 October</p> <p>Foreword completed, 8 October (TBC)</p> <p>Embargoed materials completed, 17 or 18 October</p> <p>Production (layout and translation) completed, 23 October</p> <p>Translation and layout of executive summary into 5 UN languages completed, 23 October</p> <p>Editing, proofreading and layout of annexes completed in time for global launch, 23 October</p> <p>Global launch of the EGR 2024, 24 October</p>
November	<p>Outreach events and webinars</p> <p>Printing of the report ahead of COP29, week of 4 November</p> <p>Outreach during COP29 in Baku, 11-24 November (side events and briefings)</p> <p>Bilateral briefings and webinar(s)</p>
December	<p>EGR internal satisfaction survey is conducted in advance of the debriefing meeting, and the external uptake survey is initiated</p> <p>Meeting of the SC and LA: Debriefing and discussion of topics for the EGR 2025, 5 December TBC</p>