Submission by the Republic of Mali on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators

On

Views on issues discussed under agenda item 6, taking into consideration the questions identified by Parties as relevant for this item

The African Group welcomes this opportunity to provide additional views on the modalities and inputs of the Global Stocktake (GST). This submission should be read in tandem with the Group's 2016 submission on the GST.

1. Linkages and context

(a) How to understand and assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals? How will this be done in a comprehensive and facilitative manner considering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science?

The 2015 Synthesis Report of the Aggregated Effect of INDCs and the preamble of Decision 1/CP.21 offer a stark warning about the inadequacy of the current collective response towards the attainment of the primary long-term objective of the Paris Agreement. The GST, which is the primary tool for assessing our efforts against the recommended pathways, would not have served its purpose if its output does not provide the basis for subsequent actions and support to be better informed and more responsive to the challenge of attaining those long-term goals.

For the GST to deliver an accurate and comprehensive assessment, there must be two sets of assessments. The first should assess contributions that Parties have reported with respect to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement against what the latest scientific assessment prescribes. The second assessment would involve a review of the adequacy of the pledges communicated by the Parties against pathways that would help achieve the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement.

In order for these sets of assessments to be comprehensive, they must cover all the key elements, namely mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. The scientific benchmarks against which these reported and communicated contributions would be assessed against ought to come primarily from the IPCC.

With regard to equity, the African Group believes there must be an agreed equity framework with defined indicators against which each Party should assess their own contribution. These indicators could include contribution to emissions, capability and development needs. An invitation for Parties to submit their views and proposals on such a framework and indicators would help advance the work.

(b) How to increase understanding of the linkages between Article 14 and other articles of the Paris Agreement, which are directly or indirectly linked to the GST?

There are several issues under discussion in the APA, the SBs and other constituted bodies of the Convention that are also linked to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. These items should remain cognizant of the implications of the outcomes of their work for the GST in terms of relevance of information, format, and timeline. Negotiations in these groups should factor in the need to provide information that would allow each GST to have a comprehensive, accurate and complete picture of what has been reported and communicated.

As a practical step to enhancing understanding of the linkages and ensuring consistency, the co-facilitators of these informal groups could provide periodic updates to the Agenda item 6 informal

group about the state of negotiations on their issue. There should be opportunities for Parties to engage in Q&A with the co-facilitators to clarify issues, or point out relevant guidance that they could consider in their deliberations.

2. Sources of input

(c) How to capture information relevant for assessing collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals from different sources of input in a comprehensive, manageable and balanced manner among all elements, including but not limited to, adaptation, mitigation, and means of implementation and support?

As stated above, for the GST to be comprehensive and balanced the information that would be assessed should first cover all the key elements. It should originate from a variety of sources that are broadly regionally representative. Inputs from the IPCC, the Subsidiary Bodies, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, various adaptation communications, Party submissions, reports from operational mechanisms and other bodies established by the Convention, among others, should inform the GST. Inputs from non-state actors that shed additional light on collective actions and support should also be considered. A transparent process for determining which information would be relevant for consideration at the GST could be necessary to keep the inputs at levels that would be manageable and relevant.

The inputs should be in a form that would allow for assessment at the aggregate level. This would require the standardization of information to allow for aggregation. In instances where the inputs would have to be synthesized, the Secretariat could be mandated to organize it as they have done in the past. Where appropriate and useful, the inputs to inform the GST could also include information that have been downscaled from the aggregate level such as information on the impacts of climate change, particularly from the IPCC.

3. Modalities

(d) What modalities will ensure that the GST will be facilitative, open and inclusive but also efficient and effective? How will the information that is reported and communicated be processed?

(e) How will the CMA be assisted in conducting the GST? What bodies and processes are linked to the GST and in what way?

(f) What could be the most appropriate timeline for the GST? What could be its phases and streams, if any?

The modalities that would ensure that the GST is facilitative, open, inclusive, efficient and effective can be drawn from experiences in the UNFCCC, the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) in particular. The process should be led by the CMA as this would offer all Parties a chance to effectively participate in the process. A decision of the CMA could establish a body similar to the SED that could conduct the stocktake and report back to the CMA with a report and recommendations, in a timely manner.

The African Group envisages a process that begins about a year and a half before the CMA in 2023. The first or preparatory phase begins with the submission of all inputs to the Secretariat by or before 30th June 2022. This should give them adequate time to take stock of and review the submitted information, and where appropriate, process the inputs into synthesis reports, before the CMA in 2022. These draft synthesis reports can then be reviewed through a "technical process" at the CMA in 2022 where the assumptions and methodologies will be subjected to interrogation and review, to enhance understanding of the inputs. The process for determining which inputs should be considered from non-

state actors could also be undertaken at the 2022 CMA. This technical process could be in the form of an in-session workshop or a joint contact group.

The second phase would take place in conjunction with the meeting of the SBs in June 2023 and would involve a technical assessment of the inputs that would be separate from the policy and the political aspects to ensure the integrity of the review and its recommendations. This assessment would include the interrogation of the synthesis reports from the transparency framework on progress on implementation, and the aggregate impacts of the proposed NDCs for the upcoming NDC cycle. The assessment would be done in 3 phases, one for each of the 3 key elements (mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation), by a body similar to the SED that would be open to the participation of all Parties and observers. There should be a final moment when the 3 streams would come together to finalize the reports. The outcomes of this phase should be in the form of a report that would include recommendations that would be considered with the policy and political aspects in the next and final phase.

The final or High-Level Phase, should begin prior to the 2023 CMA and involve decision-makers from the highest level of government. At the Heads of States level, the UN Secretary-General could raise awareness at the United Nations General Assembly or at other fora where they would be in attendance. At the CMA 2023, the outcomes of the technical stocktake would be considered along with the policy and political aspects in a process that should involve the Ministers.

4. Outcome/outputs

(g) How to ensure that the outcome of the GST would inform Parties in enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action?

(h) What information will support this outcome?

The GST would have served its purpose if subsequent NDCs have been updated to bridge any identified gaps between the sum of the aggregate effort of Parties, and what science prescribes. This can be facilitated through a number things. Firstly, a process in which all Parties have contributed to and effectively participated in, will strengthen their sense of ownership of the outcome and their need to act on the findings and recommendations.

Secondly, high-level participation in the stocktake itself would be important as again this would not only help raise awareness and understanding among this key group of stakeholders, but would also help stir self-mobilization of enhanced contributions.

The outcome of the GST should be a CMA decision that includes information on any identified gap, what and how much is required to bridge that gap, barriers and opportunities to address them, opportunities for international cooperation, and best practices, among others. A political declaration, at the highest level, pledging support for enhancing the NDCs by the Parties would also be desirable.

All Parties should then enhance and update their NDCs based on the outcomes of the GST and self assess the updated version against the agreed equity framework to ensure their contributions are being made in light of equity, as mandated by Article 2.2 and 14.1, before finalizing their NDCs.