Submission by the Arab Group

On the Work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) under APA Agenda Item 6

Views on matters relating to the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement:

(a) Identification of the sources of input for global stocktake
(b) Development of modalities of the global stocktake

Submitted by Saudi Arabia

On behalf of the Arab Group

The Arab Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on "matters relating to the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement: (a) identification of the sources of input for the global stocktake; and (b) development of the modalities of the global stocktake" pursuant to paragraph 25 a-h conclusion of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement on the second part of its first session.[1]

GST is an opportunity for the comprehensive assessment of Parties' actions and the support provided for those actions going forward, within the context of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

Context

(a) How to understand and assess the collective progress toward 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, while in the light of equity and the best available science?

In line with the description provided in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, GST should be established on the following **key guiding principles:**

- GST must be conducted in accordance to the principles and provisions of the Convention and relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, emphasizing that climate action is conducted in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- GST must be comprehensive, including mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support
- GST must be facilitative, party-driven, ensuring the nationally determined approach achieved in the Paris Agreement and honoring the nationally determined nature of Parties actions
- GST must take place in light of equity, considering individual developing country Parties national circumstances and limitations
- GST must take into account the best available science
- GST will inform Parties in updating their actions and support in a nationally determined manner that remains flexible and non-intrusive
- GST will take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and should be based on the progress that has been made, and not an ex-ante assessment of the subsequent NDCs

[1] FCCC/APA/2016/4

The Arab Group believes that achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement is to enhance the implementation of the Convention and its objective, which is to achieve the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."[2] Therefore Parties collective effort is to ensure the fulfillment of the objective of the Convention in addition to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. Therefore, sustainable development goals identified by the UN, will be an important driver to achieving the Paris Agreement.

This is the context that informs the Arab Group's understanding of GST and what purpose it serves, and it is imperative that Parties arrive at a common understanding of the context of GST before furthering discussion on its design.

Moreover, as the purpose of GST is to assess progress towards achieving all the global goals of the Paris Agreement, it will therefore take stock of the collective progress towards the global goal on adaptation (Article 7, paragraph 1) and the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (Article 2), and the long term vision of fully realizing technology development and transfer (Article 10, paragraph 1). This highlights the importance of identifying and giving equal weight to all climate action, including mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support for those actions, and will ensure the comprehensiveness and balance of GST.

Additionally, as GST is focused on the collective progress of Parties, it should help identify barriers related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, especially with regards to helping developing countries overcome obstacles in order to enhance their actions. It should also identify the impact of those actions and the effects of the implementation of response measures under the Agreement to ensure a cohesive understanding of actions and impact.

(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 global stocktake (GST)?

There is a distinct difference between Articles that are directly and indirectly linked to the GST. This difference should be reflected in the design of the technical work for GST. Articles that are directly linked will be the cornerstones of the design of GST, while Articles that may be indirectly linked may serve a purpose of further consideration.

GST is directly linked to several Articles in the Paris Agreement:

- Article 2 provides the purpose and the guiding principles of the Paris Agreement, and the linkage to the Convention.
- Article 3 identifies Parties common understanding of nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change to include ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13, and therefore establishes that climate action is comprehensive in nature

[2] See full Convention text, at http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/background/application/pdf/convention_text_with_annexes_english_for_posting.pdf

- Article 7 paragraph 14 identifies that GST needs to recognize adaptation efforts of developing countries, that it will enhance the implementation of adaptation action, and will review the effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for it. It will also review the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation, and raising the resilience to adapt to a below a 2 degree world.
- Article 9 paragraph 6 identifies that GST will account for the information provided by developed parties on climate finance efforts
- Article 10 paragraph 6 identifies that GST will account for support on technology development and transfer to developing countries.
- Article 13 paragraphs 5 and 6 establish that GST will be informed by transparency framework and the financial support provided.

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 the means of implementation and support.

Key sources of input for GST have been identified in paragraph 99 of Decision 1/CP 21 and in several articles in the Paris Agreement:

- The overall effect of NDCs as communicated by Parties
- The state of adaptation efforts, support, exercises and priorities from the communications referred in Articles 7 paragraph10-11, which includes National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Communications (NCs) and NDCs. More specifically, the state of adaptation efforts includes:
    - Recognition of adaptation efforts of developing country Parties
    - Enhancement of the implementation of adaptation action
    - Review of the effectiveness of adaptation & support provided
    - Review of the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation
- Mobilization and provision of support
- Reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Reports by subsidiary bodies under the UNFCCC
- Information provided by developed countries on climate finance efforts
- Efforts related to support on technology development and transfer for developing countries

The Arab Group believes these sources of input, extracted from the Paris Agreement and paragraph 99 of Decision 1/CP 21 provide a holistic and comprehensive account of Parties' collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement in enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its objective.

Modalities

(d) What modalities will ensure that the GST is 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?

GST is a process to take stock of the Paris Agreement, assessing the overall progress towards achieving its purpose and the ultimate objective of the Convention. This process, which will take place in 2023 and every 5 years from then on, must remain comprehensive, facilitative, and at a global level, honoring the nationally determined approach achieved in the Paris Agreement in light of sustainable development, equity and the best available science.

Establishing a bottom-up system is more resilient and flexible to meet the objective of GST, and providing such flexibility to Parties enables them to better assess their actions in a nationally determined manner. GST should include an aggregation of collective inputs, as defined above, and a communication of those inputs to Parties in order to inform their actions in a nationally determined manner. The mechanism in place should ensure sustainable development, equity, considering individual developing Parties national circumstances and limitations, as well as take into account the different roles and responsibilities between developing and developed Parties, highlighting how developed countries are taking the lead. Additionally, this mechanism should not entail any undue burden on Parties, and its outcome should be recognized and agreed to by all Parties. Therefore, the process needs to be concise and pragmatic. The CMA should conduct the GST, and its time frame should be limited.

As GST will be designed to inform Parties in updating their actions, the process must be one that encourages and incentivizes greater ambition. Establishing a process of positive communication that not only captures aggregated gaps, in light of sustainable economic development, but also potential opportunities for cooperation, provision of support and the transfer of technology and technical assistance to developing Parties is essential.

Finally, it should also take into account the best available science, as provided by the IPCC, which is the highest scientific body, providing objective, peer-reviewed science and is therefore the best source of technical input.

Outcome

(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?

To ensure that the outcome of the GST is informative, in a nationally determined manner, and enhances cooperation for climate action, it must deliver positive information that can be used by Parties. Information on good practices and positive experiences as well as what developing Parties lack in terms of support (finance, technology, capacity building) to enhance their actions, and the impact of climate action (response measures) and how to address them are all necessary to provide a cohesive picture of action and support needed. Moreover, in order to ensure comprehensiveness, GST should also highlight pre-2020 ambitions and gaps.

The outcome of GST can be a reference to Parties in identifying areas for international cooperation in addressing climate change, and this outcome needs to be agreed to by all Parties.

Finally, the Arab Group believes that Parties should arrive at a common understanding of the outcome of the GST in order to ensure that sources of input and modalities provided are fit for purpose and relevant to that outcome.