
Submission by Canada: First Technical Dialogue under the Global Stocktake

Canada is pleased to make this submission in advance of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement. We look forward to the technical dialogue taking place in conjunction with the 56th session of the subsidiary bodies (SB56). We are grateful to the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), with the support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, for advancing preparations for the first global stocktake in accordance with decision 19/CMA.1, and in consultation with Parties and UNFCCC observer organizations. We also wish to commend the United States and South Africa for their efforts to date as co-facilitators of the global stocktake technical assessment and look forward to working together at SB56.

CONTEXT

The global stocktake is a core element of the Paris Agreement ambition cycle. It serves as an important mechanism for holding the international community accountable to the collective climate goals we have set. Given the current state of the climate system, the timing of the first global stocktake is especially important.

As highlighted in the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted at COP26/CMA3, to date human activities have already caused approximately 1.1°C of global warming. As a result, the international community is already seeing adverse impacts to people, places, and nature from increasingly frequent and severe extreme climate and weather events. From the latest climate science, we know that the next decade will be critical for scaling up climate ambition to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Urgent, accelerated action is required to adapt to climate change, at the same time as making rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions aimed at achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century. To support an ambitious global response to climate change, Canada also recognizes the need to scale up climate finance, and make broader finance flows consistent with a low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development pathway. Across all climate efforts and actions, Indigenous peoples should be engaged in partnership as rights holders. This approach is legislated in Canada through the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

In this context, the global stocktake must provide the international community with a comprehensive understanding of progress made since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015. Even more critical, the global stocktake must inspire greater action and international cooperation at all levels, and identify the ways in which we can most effectively support and protect countries and communities on the frontlines of climate change.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

As envisioned in decision 19/CMA.1, the global stocktake technical assessment is a highly comprehensive process. It aims to bring together the broadest possible perspectives to engage in a series of open and frank discussions organized around the goals of the Paris Agreement and informed by the latest climate science. The series of technical dialogues taking place over the next year will help Parties to identify critical areas of action and will inform higher-level political decision-making at both COP27/CMA4 and COP28/CMA5 aimed at accelerating ambition and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. To ensure the efficacy of the technical assessment phase of this critically important process, Canada encourages the Chairs of SBSTA and SBI, along with the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue, to:

- **Maximize the inclusivity of the process.** Canada has long maintained that in order to be effective at assessing progress and informing ambition, the global stocktake must be *inclusive*. While the global stocktake is a Party-driven process, paragraph 10 of decision 19/CMA.1 mandates the participation of non-Party actors in the technical assessment. Ensuring non-Party actors, including youth, civil-society, the private sector, academia, regional and local governments and Indigenous Peoples, have a seat at the table in June is a top priority for Canada given their differing and important roles in climate change action. All non-Party actors have important views and perspectives to contribute across all themes of the global stocktake, and we encourage the co-facilitators to look for innovative ways to ensure open and inclusive participation of non-Party actors throughout the technical dialogue. We also encourage the co-facilitators to take steps to overcome possible barriers to participation, such as linguistic differences and internet connectivity. In accordance with decision 19/CMA.1, *equity* and the best available science will be considered in a Party-driven and crosscutting manner, throughout the global stocktake. For Canada, ensuring the equity of the global stocktake process itself is of the utmost importance. This means ensuring that the voices and perspectives of non-Parties and Indigenous Peoples are not just heard, but incorporated in a meaningful way in the summary reports, and reflected in the outcomes of the process.
- **Ensure a balanced assessment across the thematic areas of the global stocktake.** To provide a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, the global stocktake technical dialogues have a considerable number of issues to cover. The decision to organize the technical dialogues into the three thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support (which also captures broader finance flows as referred to in Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement) was intended to ensure that all aspects of the Paris Agreement and its goals receive equal and balanced treatment. We thank the SB Chairs for taking into account the need for balance in their preparations for the first global stocktake. The guiding questions for the technical dialogue,

which have been developed and refined over the previous several months, will be a useful tool for facilitating a robust exchange across the three main themes. We further appreciate the efforts made thus far to ensure the technical dialogue will also include a focus on cross-cutting issues, including fairness considerations and equity as reflected in Parties' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); human rights and rights of Indigenous Peoples; the integrity of all ecosystems, oceans and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity; as well as integrated and synergistic approaches to mitigation and adaptation.

- **Keep science at the center of the discussion.** Canada recognizes the strong science foundation underpinning global concern about climate change, the increasing risk that climate change poses to individuals and communities in Canada and around the world. Consideration of the best-available science is a foundational aspect of the global stocktake, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its work having an especially important role to play throughout the process. Science and ambition go hand in hand. As climate science has advanced, so has international cooperation. This is an important year for climate science, with the IPCC slated to finalize the release of all elements of its sixth Assessment Report ahead of COP27/CMA4. The opportunity to examine all of the latest special and working group reports of the IPCC and engage with IPCC authors and representatives on their findings, will be critical for assessing collective progress across all thematic areas, and identifying achievable pathways for meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **Ensure Indigenous Knowledge is included and considered in an ethical manner:** Alongside the best-available science, the inclusion and consideration of Indigenous Knowledge will also be essential during the technical dialogue. In addition to presentations by the IPCC, we encourage the co-facilitators to dedicate time for presentations by Indigenous peoples on the role of Indigenous Knowledge in the context of the Paris Agreement's long-term goals. We urge the SB Chairs and co-facilitators to consider how the global stocktake and the activities and outcomes may affect the rights, knowledge systems, practices and ways of life of Indigenous peoples, and how the process can ethically include Indigenous peoples and their knowledge systems while respecting the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. To inform their approach, we encourage the co-facilitators to seek out the necessary expertise when it comes to the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, including by working with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) Facilitative Working Group. Canada notes that the LCIPP has produced four webinars on the topic of ethical engagement of Indigenous Knowledge, which are available on the LCIPP webpage.

CANADA'S APPROACH TO TRACKING PROGRESS AND RAISING AMBITION

While the global stocktake is a collective process, it necessitates that each Party reflect on how they have responded to the Paris Agreement, and how their individual approach to addressing

climate change and scaling up ambition has evolved over time. In direct response to the Paris Agreement, the Government of Canada's domestic approach to tackling climate change has evolved and expanded substantially. Much like the Paris Agreement and the global stocktake, Canada's domestic approach to climate action includes built-in accountability and reporting mechanisms designed to take stock of progress achieved, revisit our climate change policies and measures over time, and periodically enhance our ambition in response to the latest climate science.

Over the past six years, the Government of Canada has taken action and invested over \$100 billion to reduce emissions, drive the emergence of clean technologies, and help Canadians adapt to the impacts of climate change. In 2016, the Government of Canada developed the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change in collaboration with provinces and territories, and with input from Indigenous peoples. Canada's emissions were on an upwards trajectory and were projected to increase 12% above 2005 levels by 2030 (814 Mt) until the Pan-Canadian Framework was adopted. Driven by measures in the Pan-Canadian Framework alone, Canada's emissions were projected to be 19% below 2005 levels by 2030 (227 Mt decrease). This represents the single-largest projected drop in emissions in Canadian history. Along with additional efforts by provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and local governments, Canada is on track to achieve historic emissions reductions. According to our most recent National Inventory Report, Canada's GHG emissions were 672 Mt CO₂ eq in 2020 (the most recent year for which data are available for this report), representing a net decrease of 69 Mt or 9.3% from 2005 emissions.

The Pan-Canadian Framework was an historic achievement and represented an important step for Canada. However, the progress we have made domestically has taken place in the context of increasingly urgent messages from the scientific community that collectively, the world remains off track to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Canada's climate is warming twice as fast as the global average, with the Arctic region experiencing warming at three times the global average. . In the face of a rapidly accelerating climate crisis, the Government of Canada committed to meet and exceed its previous 2030 goal, and delivered on that commitment in December of 2020 through Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan – *A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy*. To ensure Canada's efforts under the Paris Agreement reflected our highest possible level of ambition based on this new strengthened climate plan, in 2021 and ahead of COP26, Canada formally committed to an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reduce Canada's emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030. In addition to an enhanced 2030 NDC, Canada is also proud to have submitted its first adaptation communication in response to Article 7, paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement.

As part of the Strengthened Climate Plan, the Government of Canada also committed to develop Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy with provincial, territorial and municipal

governments, Indigenous peoples, and other key partners. The strategy will establish a shared vision for climate resilience in Canada, identify key priorities for increased collaboration and establish a framework for measuring progress at the national level. A National Adaptation Strategy offers the opportunity to unite actors across Canada through shared priorities, cohesive action, and a whole-of-Canada approach to reducing climate change risks. Canada's National Adaptation strategy will be finalized by the end of 2022. We look forward to drawing on our experience developing this strategy as part of discussions on adaptation during the global stocktake technical dialogue.

In addition to Canada's enhanced 2030 NDC, the Government of Canada is also committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. We know from the latest climate science achieving net-zero emissions globally by mid-century is necessary for meeting the 1.5°C temperature goal and to avert the worst impacts of climate change. In 2021, the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* became law. The Act legislates Canada's 2030 emissions reduction target as Canada's NDC under the Paris Agreement and Canada's 2050 target of net-zero emissions. The Act also establishes a transparent process for the government to plan, report, and course correct on the path to net-zero emissions by or before 2050. The Act requires that the Government of Canada set five-year national emissions reduction targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045 and develop an emissions reduction plan for each target. This legally binding process is aligned with the five-year ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement. It will ensure that Canada both sets and achieves climate targets that reflect our highest possible ambition, and ensure that the development of future climate targets and plans take into account the outcomes of each global stocktake.

One of the first requirements of the *Act* was the development of an emissions reduction plan for its 2030 target no later than March 2022. The 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) was tabled in Canada's Parliament and released on March 29, 2022. The 2030 ERP is a roadmap that goes sector by sector with the measures needed for Canada to reach its ambitious and achievable emissions reduction targets of 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2050. These commitments represent Canada's highest possible ambition, and are aligned with the Paris Agreement temperature goal. The plan builds on the actions outlined in the Pan-Canadian Framework and Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan and reflects input from over 30,000 Canadians, provinces and territories, Indigenous peoples, industry, and the independent Net-Zero Advisory Body. The 2030 ERP is designed to be evergreen, a comprehensive roadmap that reflects levels of ambition to guide emission reduction efforts in each sector. As governments, businesses, non-profits, and communities across the country work together to reach these targets, the Government of Canada will identify and respond to new opportunities. Progress under the plan will be reviewed in progress reports produced in 2023, 2025, and 2027. Additional targets and plans will be developed for 2035 through to 2050.

Retracing the evolution of Canada’s approach to addressing climate change since the adoption of the Paris Agreement reveals a pattern of increasing ambition on both mitigation and adaptation, informed by climate science. This pattern of increased ambition is also reflected in Canada’s support for climate action by developing countries. We recognize that developing countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, are the hardest hit by climate change. Many have limited capacity to prevent and cope with the consequences of climate change, like severe weather, drought and flooding. In response to the growing global impacts of climate change, in 2021 Canada announced a doubling of its international climate finance commitment, to \$5.3 billion over the next five years. This commitment supports developing countries to combat climate change, while striving to address biodiversity loss around the world. It will particularly help low and middle-income countries already affected by climate change to transition to sustainable, low-carbon, climate-resilient, nature-positive and inclusive development. This commitment will build on the successes of Canada’s previous \$2.65 billion commitment (2015-2021). Canada’s commitment to double its climate finance last year also included increasing the proportion of adaptation finance to 40%. This represents a near tripling of Canada’s finance dedicated to adaptation over the next five years, relative to the previous five years. This commitment responds directly to the Glasgow Climate Pact, which urges donor countries to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025.

Canada is also committed to implement Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, and is undertaking efforts to align broader finance flows with a pathway towards low-emissions and climate resilient development. For example in 2018 Export Development Canada (EDC), Canada’s export credit agency, became the first export credit agency in the world to commit to implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, joining Canadian commercial banks, along with a number of Canadian pension funds and large companies, in helping to advance the availability, consistency and comparability of climate-related information. More recently, in 2021 EDC committed to net zero emissions by 2050 across its business lines and in its own global operations. The Crown corporation’s plan will include interim reduction targets for the most carbon intensive sectors for 2023 and 2030, supported by sustainable finance objectives. Additionally, in July 2020, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Sustainable Finance Action Council (SFAC) aimed at developing a well-functioning sustainable finance market in Canada.

The experience of developing and implementing ambitious climate action in Canada has generated a number of important lessons learned that will fundamentally shape our contribution to and participation in the global stocktake. This includes the importance of undertaking a collaborative approach to scaling up climate ambition. Federal leadership is only part of Canada’s story, and the progress Canada has made to date has depended on the leadership of provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples. Canada’s participation in the global stocktake will also be guided by our commitment to respect, promote and consider human rights and the rights

of Indigenous Peoples, including in advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achieving its long-term goals.

INFORMING INTERNATIONAL ACTION, SUPPORT AND COOPERATION

As stated earlier in this submission, the aim of the global stocktake is to inform and inspire greater climate ambition with a view to accelerating progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement. To achieve this aim, the upcoming technical dialogue needs to include a strong forward-looking element and focus on helping us as Parties to identify where the greatest opportunities lie for scaling up ambition both near and long-term. For Canada, drawing from the actions we are taking at the domestic and international level, some of the key opportunities and high impact measures we look forward to examining through the global stocktake technical dialogue include:

- Expanding carbon pricing globally.
- Phasing out traditional coal-fired electricity.
- Addressing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, including methane.
- Supporting the development and deployment of clean and non-emitting energy technologies, including wind, solar, and Small Modular Reactors.
- Advancing the global transition to zero emissions vehicles.
- Leveraging nature-based solutions to support mitigation, adaptation and resilience and promote biodiversity, including promoting the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in this work and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Leveraging and scaling up private finance flows to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Canada looks forward to engaging with international partners on these and many other high-impact climate solutions this coming June, with a view galvanizing further action and cooperation at the global scale toward the goals of the Paris Agreement.

CONCLUSION

When the first global stocktake technical dialogue launches at SB56, nearly seven years will have passed since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Over this period, while significant progress has been made, collectively we have not yet reached the level of ambition needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Limited time remains to scale-up global action the levels needed. As such, this first global stocktake represents both an important milestone and a test for the Paris Agreement and international cooperation on climate change. Building on the momentum achieved at COP26/CMA3, Canada is prepared to engage on all aspects of international climate ambition. In the coming months, we will work with Parties, provinces and territories, stakeholders and Indigenous peoples to support a successful first global stocktake between now and COP28/CMA5.