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**USING THE GLOBAL
STOCKTAKE TO IMPROVE
NATIONAL CLIMATE
POLICY AMBITION
AND IMPLEMENTATION**

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

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Using the Global Stocktake to Improve National Climate Policy Ambition and Implementation

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



01	BACKGROUND	04
02	KEY FINDINGS	05
03	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IGST	09

BACKGROUND

This Summary of Key Findings document accompanies a more detailed report with the same name: “Using the Global Stocktake to improve national climate policy ambition and implementation”. The report was commissioned by the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) and is aimed at:

- a.** exploring how guidance from United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes have been and are being used at the national level to influence policy and politics in specific countries, and
- b.** examining the implications of these findings for the framing and use of the outcomes from the Global Stocktake (GST) in 2023 as an important input into the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025.

Seven countries participated in the study that led to the report. These countries reflected different levels of economic development, different governance typologies, different greenhouse gas emission levels, and a wide geographic spread with regional balance. The countries were: two Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - Burkina Faso from Africa and Nepal from South Asia; two Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - Jamaica from the Caribbean and Samoa from the Pacific; two large developing countries – Chile from South America and Indonesia from South-East Asia; and one large industrialised country – Germany from Europe.

A survey was developed and disseminated to government officials, and seven countries provided responses to the survey. The conclusions and recommendations in the report are drawn from information provided by in-country decision-makers and implementers of policy in these seven countries. Six countries were selected for in-depth case studies and these are presented in the main report.

The main research findings were as follows:

- 01.** There are measures in place in each country to ensure that UNFCCC guidance eventually reaches the appropriate policy level persons in each of the participating countries.
- 02.** The extent to which the guidance is used varies among countries depending on the institutional structures in place and other localised challenges.
- 03.** In all countries, domestic processes have incorporated the use of UNFCCC guidance on reporting and other mandates in a variety of ways, with the level of structure and formalisation of these processes varying depending on development status.
- 04.** Domestic incorporation of the COP guidance is influenced by a number of factors. These include:
 - a.** The **quality of the UNFCCC guidance**, in terms of the clarity in relation to the relevant required processes and deadlines. This factor is enhanced where there is broad political support for the guidance, but unclear and general guidance which is open for interpretation at the local level creates problems for implementation. Related to this a lack of understanding of the guidance, which occurs in some cases as a result of the guidance being vague or new, and therefore subject to interpretation. This is compounded by poor quality guidance.
 - b. Weak enabling environments at the domestic level**, especially with regards to SIDS and LDCs, including:
 - i.** Inadequacy of the **institutional frameworks** in place. The institutional arrangements in SIDS and LDCs are primarily at the policy level and do not provide for follow-up and implementation where technical capacity is required.
 - ii.** Lack of **local human capacity** to interpret and implement the guidance. Some guidance is technical in nature e.g. IPCC Guidance on GHG inventories, and many of the countries do not have personnel who are trained in these areas.
 - iii. Absence of required inputs e.g. data and other technical information.** Many of these countries do not have a history of data management and the data required for some of the reporting and participation requirements simply does not exist in these countries.
 - iv.** Unavailability of **external support** to interpret the guidance and provide technical resources.

KEY FINDINGS *cont'd*

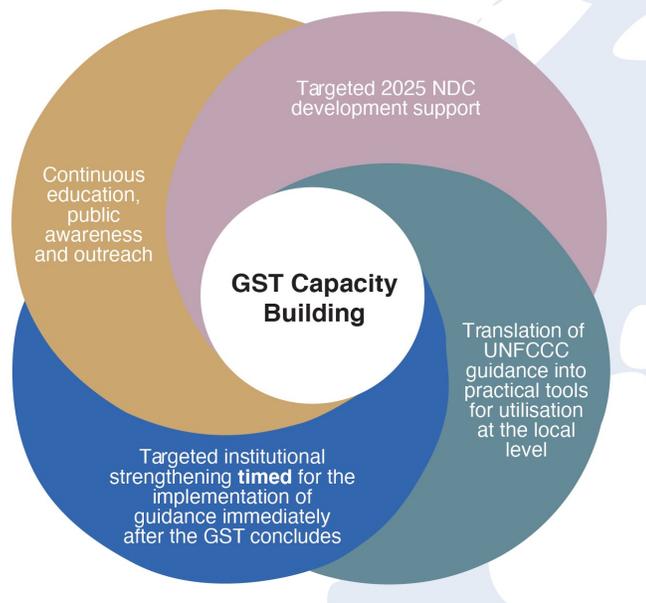
- v.** Inadequate mechanisms for building awareness and understanding of the guidance and the need to implement it.

- 05.** The developing countries surveyed have been able to address some of these constraining factors through (a) the receipt of technical and financial support from third parties and external experts and (b) access to training and capacity building support that have provided an understanding of the need for implementing the guidance and provided the skill sets needed for local experts to engage.

- 06.** Respondents also identified a number of additional domestic factors that can facilitate the use of UNFCCC guidance in national processes. These included:
 - a.** Securing political buy-in at the highest levels of government.
 - b.** Use of inclusive approaches that involve a wide range of stakeholders.
 - c.** Ensuring that the right stakeholders are involved, so that the desired information is received.
 - d.** Public education.
 - e.** Inclusion of the need to translate guidance into national climate legislation. This could include automatic policy triggers to kick off the discussion on an updated target, e.g. by asking a scientific or political body to give a recommendation on the new climate target, based on the results of the global stocktake.
 - f.** Use of the national media for sensitisation and fostering buy-in for action at the national level.

- 07.** Access to external support for capacity building and the strengthening of institutional processes will also assist in enhancing the ability of LDCs and SIDS to interpret and implement the guidance coming from the GST. The delivery of these areas of support does not all have to take place at the same time or be delivered by the same agency or institution. There are some aspects that need to be done in advance of the 2023 GST. Other aspects will need to be done in parallel with/as part of the GST processes, and/or after the completion of the GST.

Strategic Elements for GST Capacity Building in Developing Countries



- 08. Support in advance of the GST** (in the 2021 – 2023 period) include those areas focused on national institutional and human capacity building. These will include training in understanding previous UNFCCC guidance and institutionalisation of processes to incorporate UNFCCC guidance into national decision-making. These areas will help to ensure that decisions taken on use of the guidance are followed up and that relevant national institutions are equipped to monitor the implementation and impact of the guidance. The support required could include technical training activities, design of organisational systems and processes, and strengthening of data and MRV systems.

Successful implementation will require leadership from senior officials at the national level, who could request support and collaboration from appropriate agencies and projects e.g. the CBIT and the NDC-Partnership.

- 09. Support in parallel with the GST processes** (during 2022-2023) to assist countries in participating effectively in the GST. Effective participation requires countries to contribute inputs to the GST process, to participate in the GST Technical Assessment and to participate in the negotiations on the guidance that will be included in the final COP and CMA Decisions.

Effective participation by all countries is crucial in this stage to ensure that the outcomes and decisions taken, and guidance provided from the GST, are sensitive to national realities. It is important that these decisions be as clear as possible on their requirements so that they can be easily understood and implemented. Effective participation is one way of ensuring that this clarity is brought to the final UNFCCC guidance.

KEY FINDINGS *cont'd*

The responsibility for effective participation will be in the hands of national officials, but they will benefit from guidance on the inputs required and the implications of proposals that are under discussion. Some of this guidance will come from the UNFCCC Secretariat, and countries can also source support from within their negotiating blocs, from other partners within the negotiating process and from international organisations equipped to provide on-demand technical support.

10. Support after the completion of the GST (between the end of the GST in 2023 and the submission of new NDCs by March 2025) will be focused on interpreting the guidance that comes out of the COP and CMA Decisions on the GST, unpacking the detailed requirements for implementing these decisions, designing national processes for preparing the NDC and implementing these processes to prepare the NDC in a timely fashion. It will be important that:

- The UNFCCC guidance from the GST outcome is translated into simple, practical tools for utilisation at the local level. The UNFCCC guidance and decisions should be translated into an understandable format for local actors that will help to facilitate ease of incorporation into domestic processes.
- Support is provided for building local capacity in implementing the guidance immediately after the GST concludes. This should include the elaboration of a targeted institutional strengthening and capacity building programme focusing on promoting technical capacity, data management, institutional collaboration, expansion of pool of nationals to be immersed into the UNFCCC process and maintain the momentum for urgent and ambitious actions at the national level.
- Countries initiate comprehensive and continuous education, public awareness and outreach with an inclusive and engaging whole of society approach, to demonstrate the expressed linkages between ambitious climate action emanating from UNFCCC processes, and national socio-economic development. This could include extensive use of the media in fostering buy-in for climate action at the national level and provisions for inclusive, consultative stakeholder inputs into the 2025 NDC development processes.

11. The responsibility for accessing such support will be in the hands of the national governments. However, the experiences in 2020 with the revision of NDCs have highlighted the utility of the support provided by agencies like the NDC Partnership and the UNDP Climate Promise. Despite the capacity building that took place during this period, the need for such support will continue through to the next round of NDCs in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE iGST

- 01.** The iGST is not an implementing entity and therefore will not be in a position to provide specific technical support to countries along the lines described above. However, its focus on analysis and advocacy and its objective of increasing the accuracy, transparency, accountability, and relevance of the GST, provides it with a platform from which it can help to enhance the ability of all countries to implement the guidance resulting from the GST in 2023.
- 02.** Actions that could be taken by the iGST include:
 - a.** Raise awareness of the need for the provision of support to developing countries in building capacity to engage effectively in the GST processes and the implementation of its outcomes;
 - b.** Advocate on key issues e.g. on the quality of the GST outcome and related guidance for the preparation of the 2025 NDCs; on the need for clear and precise guidance from the UNFCCC on all the GST outcomes, including with respect to the preparation of the 2025 NDCs; and on the need for the translation of UNFCCC guidance from the GST outcome into simple, practical tools for utilisation at the local level;
 - c.** Support inclusive, consultative stakeholder inputs into the 2025 NDC development processes.
- 03.** The iGST can therefore play a critical role by signaling the need for such support and encouraging members of the iGST and their wider networks, who are in a position to do so, to partner with developing countries or related regional organisations to develop support programs in specific areas of expertise targeted at these countries.
- 04.** The iGST could also review draft GST outcome documents and make recommendations through its members on ways in which outcomes can be strengthened to improve clarity and ease of use.

Through activities like these the iGST can assist in ensuring that the guidance and outputs from the GST are understood and that countries have the capacities to deliver more ambitious 2025 NDCs.



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