

DELIVERING ON THE TARGETS AND SIGNALS FROM THE FIRST GLOBAL STOCKTAKE



With the adoption at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of the final guidance needed to implement Article 6 on carbon markets, the Paris Agreement is now fully operational. But progress toward achieving the Paris Agreement's long-term goals (including staying within the 1.5 degree C limit) is incremental and not at the pace and scale needed. To foster transformative levels of climate action, Parties and key leadership must:

- follow up on the signals and targets of the first global stocktake (GST1), including through implementation of new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) informed by the GST outcome
- focus just as much on enhanced international cooperation on implementation as the setting of headline NDC targets—including the leadership on each of the GST targets and signals
- prepare for a robust and effective second GST, which will start in 2026.

C2ES has published a series of papers that: (i) examine some of the targets and signals agreed at GST1 at COP28; (ii) explore how international cooperation could be enhanced to deliver implementation and further raise ambition; (iii) and make a number of recommendations to that end.

- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Tripling of Renewable Energy Capacity Globally by 2030*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Doubling of Energy Efficiency by 2030*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Early Warning Systems*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems*
- *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-Based Approaches*
- *Accelerating the Substantial Reduction of Methane Emissions by 2030*

INTRODUCTION

As Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS) head to COP30 in Belém, Brazil, of critical importance will be to take stock of Parties' progress in implementing and achieving the targets and signals from GST1 and how they have been reflected in Parties' new NDCs.

Parties must consider the outcomes from GST1 when they formulate their new NDCs, which were due February 10, 2025. Additionally, the most transformational outcome from COP30 has been the restructuring the global climate action agenda to align with taking forward the outcomes of

the GST. Now stabilized through the five-year plan of the Climate High-Level Champions, this development represents the most radical evolution of the UNFCCC process since the Paris Agreement was adopted and responds directly to the need to navigate the transition to implementation, driven by enhanced international cooperation between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, through international cooperative initiatives. The COP30 President's new structure effectively co-opts the action agenda as a delivery arm of the GST process. Ultimately, the achievement of the GST targets and signals will help the world get closer to a pathway to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C..

The GST1 outcome called for countries to respond to a number of key, transformational global targets and signals, relating to mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. The outcome also urged Parties and NPS to join efforts to accelerate climate action, encouraging enhanced international cooperation, including on the implementation of multilateral environmental conventions and agreements.

OUTCOMES FROM THE FIRST GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to undertake a GST every five years to assess their progress toward the achievement of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, considering mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support (e.g., finance, capacity-building, and technology transfer), in light of equity and the best available science. The outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in: (i) updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support (including their NDCs); and (ii) enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

The conclusion of GST1 at COP28 in 2023 marked a critical moment in the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle. Under the Agreement, Parties are obliged to pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving their NDCs, communicate a new or enhanced NDC every five years, and ensure that each successive NDC “reflect its highest possible ambition.” Parties have significant *guidance and requirements* for formulating their NDCs. As set out at COP24 in Katowice, Parties shall provide specific information for “clarity, transparency and understanding” and “information on how the preparation of their [NDCs] has been informed by the outcomes of the [GST].” As such, the GST1 targets and signals form part of the guidance and requirements, and the outcome of GST1 must inform Parties’ enhanced efforts through their NDCs.

Parties were required to communicate their new and

more ambitious NDCs by February 10, 2025, with an end date of 2035. As of May 2026, 138 Parties have submitted their NDCs.

FROM INCREMENTALISM TO TRANSFORMATION:

The period from the end of the GST1 in 2023 through to 2025’s COP30 is critical. It was touted as ‘the moment of truth’ as to whether: the GST, in the wider context of the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle, succeeded in increasing ambition; countries had taken into account the outcomes GST1 in formulating their NDCs; and they have started to put in place the required domestic plans and legislation—a legally binding requirement in Article 4 of the Paris Agreement—as well as the finance and investment needed to implement those new targets. However, at the time of publication of the UNFCCC Secretariat’s synthesis report in October 2025, only 64 countries had submitted NDCs, providing an incomplete picture of the collective level of ambition.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

While the GST1 outcome gave some guidance on the way forward, Parties and NPS may find a more elaborated vision helpful in guiding them in effectively actioning each of the GST targets and signals, reflecting them in new NDCs, and subsequently implementing them. Major barriers must be meaningfully identified, acknowledged, addressed, turned into opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, and translated into development priorities and domestic policies.

C2ES’s papers—linked above—identify the following recommendations for taking forward key targets and signals from the GST outcome:

- Parties should include, outline, or commit to the following, in their NDCs, long-term low emission development strategies (LT-LEDS), NAPs, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as relevant:
 - specific targets for total renewable power capacity and energy efficiency by 2030, and mainstream them in their domestic planning processes and arrangements
 - no new unabated coal-fired power generation plants
 - integration of just transition strategies or plans
 - implementation and integration of early warning systems by 2027 (per UN Secretary-General’s call for Early Warning Systems for All)
 - national plans for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, indicating, ideally with quantified targets, how these efforts contribute to their emissions reduction targets
 - national strategies and plans for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems
 - the actions they are taking to achieve the SDGs, with an aim to leverage synergies coherence between climate action and development.

- Parties should take bold steps to enhance synergies between their NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs to include national strategies for implementing and integrating ecosystem-based approaches (EBA) and nature-based solutions (NBS).
- Parties should encourage or require oil and gas companies to increase transparency in their transition strategies, by measuring, monitoring, publicly reporting, and independently verifying their greenhouse gas emissions, particularly on methane, and their performance and progress in reducing emissions from their operations.
- Regional-level leaders should support the development of energy efficiency goals and implementation roadmaps for specific geographic areas and sectors.
- Parties could usefully support a dedicated, inclusive “umbrella” international cooperative initiative to drive enabling conditions applicable to all carbon dioxide removal (CDR) approaches for their integration across sectors, as relevant, and be transparent in their NDCs and LT-LEDS as to the extent to which they intend to rely on CDR to achieve their climate targets.
- Parties could explore the feasibility of a legally binding international framework on methane reduction, drawing on lessons from other agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol. Such a framework could, among other things enhance accountability, monitoring, and transparency in achieving global methane goals.

CONCLUSION

Parties must respond tangibly to the GST1 targets and signals in their new NDCs. And key leadership, particularly the COP30 Presidency, must focus as much on enhanced international cooperation on implementation as the setting of headline targets for new NDCs. In that context, there is a need for clear leadership that is inspiring, inclusive, respects the nationally determined nature of NDCs and meets Parties and NPS where they are in terms of capacity, to drive progress on each of the GST targets and signals. A number of solutions exist to help overcome challenges and make the most of the opportunities to achieve them. A strong foundation of implementation and ambition is needed to prepare for a robust and effective second GST starting in 2026, which will be the second—and last—GST during this critical decade.

C2ES RESOURCES

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Tripling of Renewable Energy Capacity Globally by 2030

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Doubling of Energy Efficiency by 2030
Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Early Warning Systems

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-Based Approaches

Accelerating the Substantial Reduction of Methane Emissions by 2030



The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to secure a safe and stable climate by accelerating the global transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and a thriving, just, and resilient economy.