

Today's Important Topic for UPSC CSE Aspirants (Global Stocktake)

Inside Story of the News (Global Stocktake):

- Recently, **the synthesis report of the first Global Stocktake was released by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the eve of the G20 leaders' summit.**
- Global climate efforts falling short of Paris Agreement goals, increasing chances of runaway climate crisis, says UN report.
- The synthesis report of the first Global Stocktake released by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the eve of the G20 leaders' summit presented some inconvenient, but not unknown truths — global efforts on climate crisis are falling short of meeting the Paris Agreement goals of keeping global warming under 2 degrees C (over pre-industrial levels) and pursuing efforts to keep it under 1.5 degrees C.
- The United Nations-led international climate change negotiations in Paris in December 2015 (COP21) trigger and enhance climate action across the globe.
- The twenty-first edition of the annual United Nations-led conference on climate change (Conference of the Parties, COP21) was held in Paris in December 2015.
- The Paris Agreement is an important step forward in international climate change negotiations.
- **It is established under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2016).**
- **Its main merits include a legally binding 2 °C target, the introduction of a five-yearly review process from 2018 onwards with a first global stocktake** scheduled for 2023 and an agreement on international climate financing.
- The stocktake will help the world determine whether it needs to do more — and how much more.
- To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, all countries must massively increase their climate change mitigation efforts.
- The Paris Agreement established a mechanism to regularly review progress towards the goals of the Agreement - the so-called Global Stocktake (GST).
- It's a process for countries and stakeholders to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement – and where they're not.



- The stocktake is a Party-driven process conducted in a transparent manner and with the participation of non-Party stakeholders. It includes inputs from countries, businesses, cities, civil society, and others.
- The Parties are required to undertake the two-yearlong GST process every five years to assess their progress on the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **The first stocktake got underway at the UN climate change conference in Glasgow (COP26) in November 2021 and will conclude at COP28 in Dubai this year.**
- Since the global stocktake is set to be completed every five years, this phase would occur again in 2028 and 2033, etc.
- **This will be conducted for the first time in 2023 and every five years thereafter.**
- **The GST is a two-year UN review to assess the collective global progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement.**
- The GST will thus take place two years before the resubmission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and is intended to set the course for further ambitious action.
- **Global emissions need to be nearly halved by 2030 for the world to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.** In addition, transformational adaptation is also needed to help communities and ecosystems cope with the climate impacts that are already occurring and are expected to intensify.
- The overarching goal of the Paris Agreement is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”
- **To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030.**
- To illustrate and understand the central priorities of the GST, we analyzed the Parties’ submissions until 9 March 2023.
- **It also recognizes that money needs to be made available for Loss and Damage and energy transition in developing countries.**
 - **Our findings are categorized under the following themes:**
 - ✚ **Mitigation:**
 - The majority of submissions emphasized the importance of higher and enhanced ambition, with 70 per cent of submissions highlighting this as a priority.
 - This was closely followed by 65 per cent of submissions calling attention to sectoral decarbonization, especially from the lenses of energy transition.
 - **However, only 20 per cent of the submissions noted the need to account for the pre- 2020 gaps identified by developing country blocs.**
 - ✚ **Adaptation:**
 - About 80 per cent of the submissions emphasized the various climate impacts faced by their countries.
 - Submissions also touched on the role of deploying nature-based solutions and leveraging the knowledge of indigenous communities and people.
 - ✚ **Means of implementation:**
 - The need for enhanced finance was mentioned in 80 per cent of the submissions, while capacity building and the importance of technologies for mitigation and adaptation were mentioned in 70 per cent and 85 per cent of the submissions, respectively.

Table 1 Topics of Party submissions

Countries	Mitigation				Adaptation				Means of Impementation					Cross-cutting				
	Ambition	Pre-2020	Sectoral intervention & pathways	Carbon markets	Impacts	Loss and damage	Nature-based solutions	Disaster risk reduction	Finance	Technology	Capacity	Science	Equity	Just transition	International cooperation	UN process	Data information	Implementa-tion
Australia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
China		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
France and EU		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Indonesia										✓				✓	✓	✓		
Iceland			✓		✓				✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Japan	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Bhutan and Nepal	✓				✓						✓						✓	
Norway	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Canada	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
United Kingdom (UK)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
United States of America (USA)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Submissions by Groups																		
Like Minded-Group of Developing Countries (LMDCs)	✓	✓						✓	✓				✓				✓	
Arab Group										✓								
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Group of 77 and China (G77)		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Group of Negotiators (AGN)	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)	✓		✓		✓						✓	✓				✓	✓	
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓		
Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						

Source: CEEW analysts



Cross-cutting themes:

- Of the cross-cutting themes, the need for science dominated the submissions, with 90 per cent of the submissions citing it and many referencing IPCC findings.
- Additionally, 65 per cent of the submissions emphasized the importance of international cooperation and many highlighted the need for robust and reliable data.
- **There was a total of 20 submissions from the negotiating blocs and Parties and many more from non-party stakeholders.**
- **However, this analysis focuses on only the Party and negotiating bloc submissions on mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity building), and cross-cutting themes – all larger themes of the GST.**

- **In this context, The Council offers a set of key recommendations that the final GST outcome should deliver, for it to be relevant for India and the Global South:**
 - **Account for the pre-2020 gaps by holding developed nations collectively accountable for inaction.**

- **Push for the best available science by ensuring equity in scientific scenario development, providing sector-specific guidelines, and establishing common definitions for adaptation and methodologies for estimating loss and damage costs.**
- Recognize the role of carbon markets as a cost-effective instrument for mitigating emissions across sectors and providing best practices that can benefit India and the world.
- Offer recommendations to realize an equitable and just transition along with enhanced financial support that can help India and other developing countries achieve their energy transitions.
- Accelerate finance flows by identifying the sources, types, and quantum of funds needed as well as highlighting market designs and institutional frameworks for finance delivery.
- Enhance technology partnerships and collaborations between countries for the co-development and co-ownership of promising technologies that have high mitigation and adaptation potentials, such as green hydrogen and CCUS.
- Nudge sustainable lifestyles through Mission 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment): Individual behaviours, consumption patterns, and lifestyles have a direct impact on emissions (NITI Aayog and MoEFCC 2022). The GST outcome must acknowledge the role of individual behaviours, highlight its potential to mitigate emissions, and share best practices of sustainable lifestyles from around the world.
- **Overview of the GST Process: What and how?**
 - The Parties are required to undertake the two-yearlong GST process every five years to assess their progress on the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
 - The assessment is performed across three themes: mitigation (which includes response measures); adaptation (which includes loss and damage among other aspects); and means of implementation (on mobilization and provision of finance, technology, and capacity-building).
 - So far, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes have guided the negotiations between the Parties that have signed the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
 - However, the GST is an inclusive process that allows non-party stakeholders (NPS) to actively participate in the process through formal submissions and the facilitation of technical dialogues, among others (Srouji, Warszawski, and Roeyer 2022).
- ✚ **Set to be conducted every five years, the GST process comprises and operates in three main phases:**
 - information collection.
 - technical consideration; and

- political consideration of the outputs (Figure 1).
- The GST process started in November 2021, during COP26, and is expected to conclude in December 2023 at COP28.
- It is facilitated at the UNFCCC by two co-facilitators, one from the developing world and one from the developed world.
- ✚ **Phase I:**
 - Information collection the first phase of the GST is the information collection phase.
 - A comprehensive set of inputs is received from the Secretariat, the constituted thematic bodies, the Parties, and non-party stakeholders on a broad range of subjects.
 - The inputs are then collated as part of the technical assessment process to identify opportunities for enhanced action and support to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
 - This phase was completed in March 2023.
 - The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2022), the annual NDC Synthesis Report (UNFCCC 2022a), and the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report (UNEP 2022a) and Adaptation Gap Report (UNEP 2022b) have been critical resources for this entire phase. Additionally, the Parties and non-party stakeholders (including UN NGOs and international NGOs) submitted their written inputs.
- ✚ **Phase II:**
 - Technical assessment the objective of this phase is to assess and evaluate the inputs submitted,

Figure 1 Steps to the Global Stocktake



account for the nations' efforts, and identify the key themes and takeaways that will shape outcomes under Phase III.

- The technical assessment is carried out through three technical dialogues held six months apart at the intersessional Subsidiary Body (SB) meetings and at the COP.
- This partially overlaps with the Phase I process to ensure that diverse data points can be utilized during the technical phase.
- The first technical dialogue (TD1.1) took place at Bonn during the SB56 meetings in June 2022, the second dialogue (TD1.2) was held in Sharm-El Sheikh during COP27 in November 2022, and the last and final one will be at the SB58 meeting in June at Bonn this year.
- The technical dialogues saw great participation from non-party stakeholders as technical experts and facilitators in several sessions.

- Further, the technical dialogues embraced an array of innovative formats including roundtables, world cafes, focused exchanges, videos, visual arts, and doodling to better disseminate key messages.

Phase III:

- Political consideration of outputs the final stage of the GST process is the 'political consideration of outputs', which concludes at COP28 in Dubai.
- This phase is critical in ensuring impact and demands astute craftsmanship from Parties to identify opportunities, challenges, measures, and best practices for enhanced climate action.
- Upon conclusion, a summary of the key political asks and outcomes is expected, which can then be incorporated into a COP decision and provide guidance for nations to adopt and inform their future efforts.
- Countries are expected to use the outputs from the GST and look domestically to increase and strengthen their ambition and update their NDCs.
- However, a meaningful GST outcome will depend on the collective ability of the Parties and their intent to identify gaps and enhance cooperation to deploy relevant solutions.
- A high-level committee, consisting of the COP27 and COP28 presidencies, and the co-chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), will lead the consideration of outputs (UNFCCC 2019).
- **This phase is expected to begin around June 2023.**
- **The questions for this phase have not yet been released by the SB and SBSTA Chairs, though some early consultations are underway.**
- In addition to the formal GST process, regional climate weeks have also been used to disseminate information about the GST and ensure that stakeholders understand its process, purpose, and importance in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- **Aims of the project :**
 - The project commissioned by the German Environment Agency "Technical and political support for the first Global Stocktake" is accompanying the first GST under the Paris Agreement.
 - The focus of the project is on mitigation issues.
 - **The overall objective is to contribute to ensuring that the results of the GST have an impact and that more ambitious NDCs are submitted in 2025.**
 - Furthermore, the results of the work aim to support the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) in the international climate negotiations.
- **Highlights of the report :**
 - **The global emissions are not in line with the modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement , a legally binding international treaty on climate change.**
 - **There is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambitions and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.**
 - **It said much more ambition in action and support is needed in implementing domestic mitigation measures and setting larger targets in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).**
 - This report of the first global stocktake is based on inputs received throughout the process and discussions held during each of the three meetings of the technical dialogue and serves as an overarching and factual resource that provides a comprehensive overview of discussions held

Do You Know about it ?

- At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.
- The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York.
- The Agreement is a legally binding international treaty.
- It entered into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after the so-called “double threshold” (ratification by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions) had been met.
- Today, 194 Parties (193 States plus the European Union) have joined the Paris Agreement.
- The operational details for the practical implementation of the Paris Agreement were agreed on at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018, in what is colloquially called the Paris Rulebook, and finalized at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021.
- Since then, more countries have ratified and continue to ratify the Agreement, reaching a total of 125 Parties in early 2017.
- The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) met for the first time in conjunction with COP 22 in Marrakesh (in November 2016) and adopted its first two decisions.
- The work programme is expected to be completed by 2018.