



Policy Recommendations for Engaging Regional Non-State Actors in the Follow-up Period of the First Global Stocktake: Insights from the Independent Global Stocktake Southeast Asia Hub

Submission to the first Global Stocktake in response to the invitation of SB58 for Party and non-Party stakeholders to submit their views on elements for the consideration of the outputs component.

These policy recommendations are made based on the discussion that emerged from the Independent Global Stocktake Southeast Asia Hub (iGST SEA Hub) launch and workshop in May 2023 and several online workshops that preceded it. The initial draft was written by the iGST SEA Hub Secretariat (Philippine-based Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and Japan-based Institute for Global Environmental Strategies), and was reviewed by the workshop's participants during an online validation meeting held on August 24, 2023.

I. Introduction

Non-state actors (NSAs) play a large and critical role in tackling climate change, increasing ambition, and building resilience. The Paris Agreement has opened the door for NSAs to engage directly in the international climate process. The Global Stocktake (GST) of the Agreement treats Parties and NSAs with relatively equal consideration, providing clear procedures for NSAs' participation. This enables NSAs (e.g. academe, civil society organizations) to contribute directly to the GST process by providing inputs and participating in technical dialogues. However, while Parties have a responsibility to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and enhance international cooperation based on the outcomes of the GST, it is not yet clear whether and how NSAs can continue engaging during the follow-up period of the GST and contribute to the NDC updating.

This policy paper highlights the potential contributions of NSAs in the follow-up period of GST1, and presents recommendations to governments to unlock and maximize these opportunities. It draws lessons from our experience in developing the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) Southeast Asia Hub (SEA Hub), which was officially launched in May 2023. The iGST is a consortium of NSAs working together to support the formal process of the GST. The regional hubs, as one of its workstreams, were established to provide the space for such collaboration. The SEA Hub works with stakeholders in the region to leverage their knowledge and experience, and seeks collaboration with governments to strengthen actions in order to contribute to the NDC update.

II. Potential Areas of NSAs' Contributions to GST1 Follow-up activities

Based on the discussion that emerged from the iGST SEA Hub's three-day workshop in May 2023 and several online workshops that preceded it¹, this section outlines what the participants of the iGST SEA Hub identified as crucial contributions across sectors in the follow-up period of GST1. It highlights the essence of the skills and knowledge that they can offer for this purpose, as well as the potential benefits for governments. It is important to note that participants were from universities, academia, and non-government organizations (NGO) and that the following proposals are especially related to their expertise.

Translate research results into policy and actions in the national context.

- Many researchers at universities and think tanks in Southeast Asian countries have been conducting research to inform governments at the national and sub-national levels in support of their policy decision-making on climate action. Some of the researchers are well-positioned to directly provide inputs to the NDC updating process of governments by making concrete recommendations based on research.
- The SEA Hub makes it possible for a group of policy researchers to collaborate on the regional-level stocktaking of climate policy and action in Southeast Asia, and use this information to translate the outcomes of the GST into the regional and national context. This process can include: (a) providing a list of policies and actions from evidence-based information from in-country researchers; (b) synthesizing and analyzing collected lists to identify good practices and gaps; and (c) making recommendations to inform country-tailored and specific policies based on the outcomes of the GST.
- Regional stocktaking of climate policy and action can inform governments as to which types of policies and actions could be strengthened based on the outcomes of the GST. It can also identify areas where international and regional cooperation can play important roles in driving those good practices into implementation.

Translate community-based research outputs into action, including policy change and transformation at national and sub-national levels.

- Some NSAs, especially practitioners and researchers, not only conduct research for policymakers but also consider communities and vulnerable populations, including ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, women, children, and people with disabilities.
- Leveraging their experience in working with different groups of people, NSAs can offer customized technical skills, knowledge, and expertise to national and regional partners through training and capacity-building.
- Incorporating traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into climate action and policy processes is a crucial aspect of community-based

¹ Summary Report on the Independent Global Stocktake Southeast Asia Hub Launch and Kick-off Workshop (2023).

research. It is important to note that these researchers and practitioners have networks with governments. They can deliver their data, information, and research results to inform decision-making at national, sub-national, and regional levels, which could be useful in updating NDCs and facilitating international cooperation.

Advocate the voices of local NSAs and create networks of NSAs committed to GST.

- To incorporate local contexts into government submissions to the UNFCCC, non-state actors are actively engaged in local-level implementation. Advocacy plays a crucial role in conveying the perspectives of local stakeholders to national and international levels.
- The responsibilities of NSAs involved in local-level implementation include representing the diverse positions of local actors, communicating with government agencies, and advocating for the implementation of decisions made at the national and international levels to the local level.
- In cases where it proves challenging for governments to acknowledge the contribution of local actors and their respective actions, NSAs can serve as intermediaries in conveying various viewpoints. Additionally, it is essential to present the outcomes of the GST in a manner accessible to local communities and to conduct campaigns aimed at promoting concrete actions.

III. Policy Recommendations

In order to unlock and maximize the opportunities of NSAs to contribute to the NDC update, it is crucial for the outcomes of the GST1 to explicitly acknowledge the valuable contributions of NSAs in advancing climate action. It should also clearly define the roles and responsibilities of NSAs post-GST1 and convey a strong message to Parties about the importance of strengthening cooperation with NSAs during this timeframe. We present the following recommendations for Parties to consider:

Integrate the role of NSAs identified in the GST1 outcomes into the national policy-making process during the follow-up period.

- NSAs can contribute to the follow-up period in multiple ways, including but not limited to directly engaging with governments, putting pressure on policymakers to push for laws supported with concrete evidence and research, and promoting on-the-ground climate action initiatives and campaigns.
- By clarifying the roles and responsibilities of NSAs, Parties can acknowledge their contributions and NSAs can be better equipped in engaging with the process in the GST1 follow-up period.
- This includes ensuring opportunities for NSAs to engage with Parties in updating their NDCs, as well as providing financial support for NSAs to implement their activities in support of the GST.

Make use of NSAs' regional collaboration platforms that can facilitate a regional stocktake to translate the outcome of GST1 to region and country-specific contexts in updating and enhancing NDCs.

- At the regional level, it is proven that NSAs can share good practices and explore areas for regional and international cooperation to overcome gaps, challenges, and opportunities specific to each region. For instance, the SEA Hub has identified thematic areas of focus for Southeast Asia, namely energy transition, forestry and land use, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)². It should also be noted that climate finance in respective countries can tap into the potential of regional collaboration.
- Regional assessments can help Parties translate the outcomes of GST1 into their respective NDC updating, including identifying additional concrete actions and areas for cooperation. This approach can bridge the gaps between global and national levels and lead to more realistic and robust actions such as implementation and policy enhancement.
- While regional initiatives for NSAs such as the iGST SEA Hub play a pivotal role in facilitating a regional stocktake, it is crucial to connect with other diverse stakeholders, including governments. Existing regional and national high-level policy forums, such as the ASEAN and G20, as well as policy advocacy forums organized by NSAs, can be useful entry points to implement a regional stocktake.

Establish in-country mechanisms for incorporating the outcomes of GST1 in updating and enhancing NDCs, including consideration of NSA voices, and for monitoring and reporting of the implementation of those NDCs.

- This ensures that Parties systematically integrate the outcomes of GST1 into the NDC updating and implementation process with the active participation of NSAs. Facilitating the engagement between governments and NSAs has a huge potential to enhance ambition in a realistic and concrete manner.
- Efficient in-country mechanisms can be tailored to the specific needs of each country, such as a series of public consultations for governments to update NDCs. Existing in-country mechanisms for informing and updating NDCs (e.g. National Panel of Technical Experts in the Philippines) can be also utilized by inviting the representatives of NSAs.
- In line with the GST1 concept of learning-by-doing, the post-implementation reporting of Parties' experiences and lessons on how they incorporate the outcomes of the GST1 can be highly valuable for designing GST2 and beyond. The iGST SEA Hub and other initiatives can also continue offering spaces for sharing experiences and lessons among NSAs during the follow-up period.

2 Submission to the UNFCCC: Key priorities of non-state actors (NSAs) in Southeast Asia for the Global Stocktake (GST) (2023)

IV. Conclusion

The iGST SEA Hub seeks to bring together NSAs from Southeast Asian countries, providing a collaborative platform for in-country and regional engagements related to the GST and the updating phase of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The following policy recommendations have emerged from the collective discussions among current members of the SEA Hub, offering guidance for Parties as they navigate the post-GST landscape. These recommendations highlight the potential roles NSAs can play and the opportunities for their active engagement.

By implementing these recommendations, governments can harness the substantial potential of NSAs to contribute to the NDC update, promote international cooperation, and accelerate climate action in a practical, effective, and sustainable manner. The iGST SEA Hub is committed to strengthening and fostering collaboration with NSAs in the region to pursue the objectives of the GST, aligned with the collective goals of the Paris Agreement and the principles of climate justice.

V. Reference

Summary Report on the Independent Global Stocktake Southeast Asia Hub Launch and Kick-off Workshop (2023) Available at: <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/summaryreport-igstseahub-launchandworkshopmay2023/en>

Submission to the UNFCCC: Key priorities of non-state actors (NSAs) in Southeast Asia for the Global Stocktake (GST) (2023) Available at: <https://www.iges.or.jp/jp/pub/gst-td3/en>

Annex. Signatories

Organizations

APIK Indonesia Network
Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)
Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia (HCWH)
Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)
Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR)
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
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