

Submission by Ireland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Dublin, 31/08/2026

Subject: Views on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topic of the 8th Mitigation Work Programme Global Dialogue and Investment Focused Event.

Summary/Key messages:

The EU believes that the outcomes of the 8th Global Dialogue need to contribute to a negotiated CMA decision, offering clear guidance and constructive signals for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to close the ambition and implementation gaps in alignment with GST outcomes and 1.5°C pathways.

Given their high GHG mitigation potential and broad relevance the EU proposes addressing carbon pricing for industries, methane emissions in energy industries, industry electrification and food systems transformation as sub-topics for the 8th Global Dialogue and Investment Focused Event.

The EU suggests the 8th MWP Global Dialogue and Investment Focused Event should address the agriculture sector in 2026, as well as the just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels, including in the industry sector, in the context of following up on the energy transition goals agreed upon at COP28.

1. Introduction

The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), as mandated by Decision 4/CMA.4, provides a crucial platform for Parties to enhance ambition, implementation, and transparency in climate change mitigation efforts.

The European Union and its Member States (EU) welcome the opportunity to submit views on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topics for the 8th Global Dialogue (GD), which focuses on best practices and actionable solutions in addressing challenges and barriers, including the enablers of ambition and implementation of mitigation action in industries, drawing on national and regional experiences and other cross-cutting issues. In that context, the EU refers to its previous submission that remains relevant, highlighting below some areas that have received less attention during the 7th GD or could benefit from further in-depth exchanges, also in the light of recent developments. In this regard, the EU considers agriculture an essential sector that has yet to be addressed in the Global Dialogues, given its significant mitigation potential and the important contribution of agricultural measures in reducing emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration and contributing to food security.

2. Experiences of best practices and actionable solutions in addressing challenges and barriers, including the enablers of ambition and implementation of mitigation action in industries

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report highlights the critical role of industrial decarbonisation in achieving climate goals. It emphasizes that without rapid and deep reductions in industrial emissions, particularly in energy-intensive sectors, the world will fall short of the Paris Agreement goals. The report calls for integrated approaches that combine technological innovation, policy support, and circular economy principles to transform industrial systems.

Carbon pricing and emissions trading system

The Paris Agreement Decision 1/CP.21 recognizes in its paragraph 136 “the important role of providing incentives for emission reduction activities, including tools such as domestic policies and carbon pricing.” Major principles to carbon pricing include a high enough price to steer changes and investments choices; a stable and predictable price to provide clarity for economic and financial stakeholders; a coordinated price to make it a tool for cohesion rather than competition.

Carbon pricing at national or regional levels can bear concrete benefits. For instance, since 2005, the EU has put forward carbon pricing through its emission trading system (ETS), which covers sectors such as energy, industry, aviation and maritime. Since the ETS was launched in 2005, the system has halved emissions in these sectors and is aiming for a –62% reduction

in 2030. Effective carbon pricing constitutes an actionable solution to move forward barriers in decarbonising industries as it incentivizes companies to shift their production to low-carbon processes.

The EU has expanded its international cooperation on carbon pricing with third countries, inter alia through its Task Force on International Carbon Pricing and Markets Diplomacy, engaging more than 25 partner countries — including South Africa, Chile, India and Kazakhstan — in policy dialogues and capacity-building drawn from EU ETS experience to advance carbon pricing policies and high-integrity carbon market approaches aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Brazil, China and the EU launched and co-chair the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets. The Coalition aims to enhance the effectiveness, integrity, and transparency and of domestic carbon markets and explores pathways for long-term interoperability of compliance carbon markets worldwide, supporting the delivery of the Paris Agreement. It provides a platform for cooperation on the development and strengthening of domestic carbon markets and carbon pricing policies. Its work focuses on key elements such as robust monitoring, reporting and verification systems, sound carbon accounting methodologies and the potential use of high integrity offsets to promote environmental integrity.

Methane emissions in energy industries

Methane emissions represent almost one-third of global warming to date. Achieving rapid and sustained reductions in methane emissions is critical for limiting near-term warming. In the IEA net-zero scenario, methane emissions from fossil fuel operations are reduced by around 75% by 2030 and around 85% by 2035 compared to current levels.

Methane emissions from the fossil fuel industry can be reduced rapidly at a cost of only a few per cent of the sector's net annual income using existing technologies and practices. Reduction in methane emissions from fossil fuel industries can be achieved through the reduction of fossil fuel production and consumption and through direct methane mitigation measures. According to the IEA, around 30 percent of methane emissions from fossil fuel operations could be avoided at no net cost, and fully deploying methane abatement in oil and gas would require spending equal to less than 2 percent of the industry's net income.

During the 2026 London Climate Action Week, the UN Secretary General (UNSG) has called for decisive action across methane emitting sectors, including the fossil fuel industry, through priority actions by 2030. These priority actions include fixing leaks and eliminating routine venting and flaring. The Call to Action further highlights the importance of comprehensive measurement and reporting of methane emissions in line with robust MRV frameworks, such as OGMP 2.0, and calls for the development of science-based methane intensity standards to support the transition towards near-zero methane intensity fossil energy supply chains. Methane-intensive equipment could be replaced and upgraded and methane emissions from coal mining should also be addressed.

Global action on reducing methane emissions therefore include a mix of measures combining technology deployment and practice change, policies and regulations; transparency; an increase in investments; and international cooperation.

As Co-Convener of the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) the EU welcomes the Call to Action on methane by the UNSG of June 2026. Achieving the GMP target of reducing global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030 is crucial for meeting our overall climate goals in the Paris Agreement. The GMP has catalysed significant progress on methane mitigation since launched in 2021, but accelerated efforts are needed to reach our 2030 collective target. The actions outlined in the Call are a blueprint for achieving this. With its robust membership of 159 participating countries and the EU, GMP members remain committed to getting this work done.

Industry electrification

One of the key pathways for industrial decarbonisation is the electrification of industrial processes wherever technically and economically feasible. The IPCC identifies electrification and fuel switching as core mitigation strategies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the industrial sector. Electrification enables the replacement of fossil fuel-based energy use with clean electricity, particularly when supplied by renewable energy sources.

While a large share of low- and medium-temperature heat applications can already be electrified using commercially available technologies, the electrification of high-temperature processes may require more advanced solutions. Throughout the dialogue, practical examples of industrial electrification across different sectors could be explored, highlighting technological readiness, enabling policies, infrastructure needs, and opportunities to accelerate the transition towards net-zero emissions in industry.

In July 2026, the European Commission published a [study on pathways and policies for accelerating electrification and use of renewables in industry](#). It identifies key barriers including high electricity costs, grid constraints, investment needs, competitiveness concerns, and policy uncertainty. The analysis highlights substantial technical potential for industrial electrification in Europe, exceeding 2 000 TWh by 2040.

Food systems transformation

Food system accounts for around one third of global GHG emissions and offers significant mitigation opportunities. Food systems depend on a wide range of industries for the production of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs, machinery, food processing, refrigeration, packaging and transport. As highlighted in Paris Agreement, climate change significantly impacts food security. Food systems in many regions including Europe are already stressed by energy price volatility, supply chain disruptions, changing weather patterns and extreme weather events. With between 608 and 696 million people, especially women, facing hunger ([FAO 2026](#)) there is urgent need to move towards sustainable agriculture practices and food systems transformation.

The transformation of food systems towards lower-emission and more resilient production has potential to strengthen food security and this requires ambitious mitigation action across the industries that underpin food production. A range of industrial solutions are already available, including the decarbonisation of fertiliser production, the production of low-emission agricultural inputs and machinery, renewable energy and electrification of food processing and storage, more efficient refrigeration and cold chains, reducing food loss and

waste, and circular approaches to nutrients and organic waste.

Several industries also rely directly or indirectly on the agricultural sector and the products it provides. Strengthening sustainable food systems can consequently support the decarbonisation and resilience of these industries, while creating opportunities for economic and social development and the protection of resources such as water, soil and biodiversity. In this regard, it is important to reaffirm the commitment to sustainable agriculture and food systems, to stipulate the move towards deforestation and conversion-free supply chains by 2030 and to encourage integrated policies that address the full range of drivers of deforestation.

The EU experience demonstrates the importance of enabling frameworks and targeted action across the value chain. Through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Member States implement CAP Strategic Plans, combining economic, environmental and social objectives and supporting farmers in the transition towards more sustainable production

The EU therefore proposes addressing carbon pricing for industries, methane emissions in energy industries, industry electrification, and food systems transformation as sub-topics for the 8th Global Dialogue.

3. Cross-cutting issues as mandated in decision 4/CMA.4, paragraph 4

Just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels

According to the IPCC AR6, the projected cumulative CO₂ emissions from existing and planned fossil fuel infrastructure are approximately equivalent to the remaining carbon budget compatible with limiting warming to 2°C, while existing fossil fuel assets already place severe constraints on achieving the 1.5°C limit. The IPCC further warns that continued operation and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure risks locking-in emissions far beyond pathways consistent with Paris Agreement goals.

The transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) is not a sector-specific challenge but a systemic transformation that cuts across all dimensions of the global economy. Fossil fuels remain embedded in energy systems, industrial production, transport, trade, public and private finance, and development pathways. Consequently, TAFF is a cross-cutting challenge that constitutes one of the central pillars of climate change mitigation and a prerequisite for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The first Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28 called for a just, orderly, and equitable TAFF, reflecting the scientific consensus that climate goals require a rapid decline in fossil fuel production and consumption. As discussions on the second GST are to begin, the 8th GD should look into progress made and consider how to integrate the TAFF agenda as a cross-cutting theme in relation with the MWP.

Recent international processes, particularly the TAFF roadmap being developed under the COP30 Presidency to be published ahead of COP31 and the outcomes of the First Conference on TAFF in Santa Marta, provide important foundations for advancing a globally coordinated approach.

At the same time, recent geopolitical tensions and associated fossil fuel price volatility have once again demonstrated the structural vulnerabilities created by fossil fuel dependence. Sudden increases in oil and gas prices disproportionately affect vulnerable households, exacerbate energy poverty, strain public budgets, and generate risks for economic stability at both national and global levels.

Countries face different challenges and capacities in TAFF. Many countries continue to face barriers such as high debt levels, limited fiscal space, high capital costs, technology gaps, and dependence on fossil fuel revenues. The GD should explore differentiated pathways for fossil fuel-producing countries (economic diversification, labour transition, managing declining revenues, industrial transformation, and public finance reforms) and fossil fuel-consuming countries: demand reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, electrification, and sustainable consumption patterns.

In line with our rationale provided above and to ensure a comprehensive and action-oriented discussion, the EU proposes the following sub-topics for the just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels of the 8th Global Dialogue:

- **Technological readiness to transition away from fossil fuels.**
- **Socio-economic benefits and aspects from transitioning away from fossil fuels.**
- **Improvements necessary to reduce GHG emissions in the existing fossil fuel supply chain.**
- **Fossil fuel subsidies and the provision of a level playing field.**
- **Strategies and timelines to transition away from fossil fuels including national best practices and experiences.**

The social dimension of ambitious mitigation action

Ambitious mitigation action and the protection of human rights, gender equality, and inclusive, fair processes are mutually reinforcing rather than competing objectives. Mitigation measures that are designed and implemented without due regard to their social consequences risk undermining public support, exacerbating existing inequalities, and ultimately weakening the durability and effectiveness of climate action. Therefore, the social dimension is an integral, not an optional, component of effective mitigation policy, that should be part of our discussions in the MWP, aiming at synergies and complementarity with the Just Transition Work Programme and the Just Transition Mechanism.

In line with our rationale provided above, the EU proposes the following sub-topics for the 8th Global Dialogue:

- **Human rights as a foundation for mitigation action: the transition away from fossil fuels is a human rights imperative, given the impacts of continued high emissions on the rights to life, health, food, water and an adequate standard of living. At the same time,**

mitigation measures themselves can generate distinct human rights impacts if not carefully designed, sequenced, and accompanied by appropriate safeguards.

- Gender-responsive mitigation policy: decarbonisation pathways affect women and men differently, gender-blind mitigation policy risks entrenching existing inequalities. How to integrate gender considerations into mitigation policy, in line with the Lima Work Programme and the Gender Action Plan?
- Inclusive Governance and Whole-of-Economy and Whole-of Society Approaches: Ambitious mitigation policy requires coordinated action across all levels of government and society. The Global Dialogue should explore effective governance frameworks, inclusive decision-making processes that integrate Indigenous Peoples, local communities and a gender-responsive approach, sector-specific transition pathways in key sectors such as energy, industry, transport and agriculture, and the broader implications for value chains.

Investment Focussed Event

Shift the scope of the Investment Focused Events to focus on unlocking implementation by addressing structural barriers to accessing finance and attracting investments and assisting Parties in developing and executing credible NDCs and LT-LEDS aligned with investments plans, which can serve a bridging function between projects and available investment sources. Topics could include improving project preparation, regulatory and permitting frameworks, practical guidance and capacity building to access available funding within the International Financial Institutions ecosystem, and key investors and enabling infrastructure.

Enhance the modus operandi of potential pitch hubs with a view to use the exchange with financial actors to collect, for instance in the form of fact sheets, structural advice to project developers on widely recognised quality criteria to make projects bankable for existing funding instruments - for instance the operating entities of the financial Mechanism and the Multilateral Development Bank system – stemming from concrete successful mitigation project examples that have been quickly approved and achieved visible results.

Suggested Organisations and Experts:

The EU proposes the following organisations and experts as potential participants for the 8th Global Dialogue from non-Party stakeholders:

Carbon pricing and emissions trading system

- CMP - Carbon Market Platform, from OECD
- ICAP – International Carbon Action Partnership
- World Bank
- EU Commission on the ETS
- The IEA
- GGGI

Methane emissions in energy industries

- Climate and Clean Air Coalition (secretariat of the Global Methane Pledge)

Industry electrification

- Authors of the study on electrification of industry in the EU (Ecorys, European Commission)

Just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels

- Brazilian COP presidency on key elements in the upcoming TAFF Roadmap
- Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance

Food systems transformation

- The Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Climate and Nature Farming and Agribusiness Department of the World Bank Group

Social dimension

- Office of the High commissioner on human rights
- The Gender Constituency
- Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform