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OHCHR Response to the Request for Views on the approach to the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake (FCCC/SB/2022/L.8, para, 8)

OHCHR welcomes the opportunity to share its views on the approach to the consideration of the outputs component of the first global stocktake. OHCHR has actively contributed to and participated in the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake. The views shared here reflect its previous contributions including OHCHR's submission to the global stocktake of March 2022 and its active participation in World Cafes, roundtables and other activities organized in the context of the its technical dialogue.

As the global stocktake proceeds to consider outputs, OHCHR urges that the process continue to be participatory and inclusive, draw upon equity and the best available science, and reflect States' human rights obligations. All people have a right to benefit from science and its applications. They have a right to participation. And they have a right to access information so that their participation can be meaningful and effective.

As recognized by the IPCC through the summary for policy-makers of its Working Group II, rights-based approaches, participation and inclusion can reduce structural vulnerabilities to climate change and advance climate resilient development. Public participation and access to information in environmental matters are human rights, the realization of which is critical for effective climate action, the fulfilment of other human rights and to achieve sustainable development.

The Human Rights Council has mandated numerous reports on climate change over the past years most recently on climate change and its impacts on the enjoyment of the right to food. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council and human rights treaty-bodies have also consistently engaged with this subject. This body of work documents not just the human impacts of climate change but also the tremendous resilience of rights-holders many of whom are already experiencing the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Ultimately, it is peoples' stories and their empowerment that can catalyse transformative change. OHCHR urges the global stocktake to take stock of efforts to empower people and to also be a tool for their empowerment – letting rights-holders share their stories and perspectives through open discussions that take into consideration people, their perspectives and their human rights including in the forthcoming high-level events. Outputs of the stocktake could take a variety of forms. Regardless of the form, it is critical that they are evidence-based and grounded in human rights. OHCHR urges that the outputs of the first global stocktake include:

- A clear call for the equitable phase out of all fossil fuels in line with a sustainable, evidence-based pathway to limit global heating to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- A commitment to rights-based climate action and the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all.
- A long-term vision for mobilizing resources, including finance, for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities as well as State human rights obligations, including to ensure all those affected by climate change have access to effective remedy.
- Recognition of the importance of and a commitment to the free, meaningful, active, safe and informed participation of diverse stakeholders, civil society and Indigenous Peoples, including those most affected by climate change in climate decision-making.