



Climate Data Steering Committee Delegates Meeting Summary

May 10, 2023

This update summarizes the presentation and discussion held at the virtual Climate Data Steering Committee (CDSC or Committee) Delegates Meeting on May 10, 2023. CDSC Delegates Meetings are held under Chatham House Rule.

MAY 10 DELEGATES MEETING SUMMARY

The Committee held a meeting of delegates appointed by each CDSC Member on May 10, 2023. The meeting agenda included opening remarks; CDSC objectives and deliverables; the Net-Zero Data Public Utility (NZDPU or Utility); interoperability; incentives and capacity building; the Climate Data Expert Advisory Panel; assurance and verification; and Membership criteria.

OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks emphasized the ambition of the November CDSC 2022 recommendations and the CDSC's potential to continue driving progress toward the greater availability, accessibility, and comparability of actionable climate transition-related data. The second speaker's opening remarks noted that the work of the NZDPU is critical for meeting the UN Secretary General's objectives to enhance the accountability and credibility of net-zero commitments. The remarks emphasized that the engagement of CDSC Members will be vital to support the continued development of the NZDPU.

CDSC OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERABLES

A discussion was held on the proposed CDSC objectives and deliverables, as well as on the CDSC work plan through COP28. Three areas of focus were discussed by CDSC delegates: incentives and capacity building, interoperability, and assurance and verification. Delegates recognized that these challenges are critical for both the NZDPU and the broader climate data ecosystem and expressed support for them as initial areas of focus for the CDSC. Several CDSC delegates expressed support for proposed CDSC deliverables in the form of a written progress report and public consultation, to be released during COP28.

NET-ZERO DATA PUBLIC UTILITY

The discussion started with an update on the selection of a technical build contractor for the Utility. Following a rigorous Request for Proposal (RFP) selection process, Insomniac Design was selected as the winning bidder. In addition, Google will support Insomniac Design by providing cloud infrastructure, and Cybourn will provide security testing and verification for the platform and the data it stores.

Subsequent discussion focused on the NZDPU development roadmap and key points for consideration for the CDSC. The discussion focused on elements to be included in the pilot Utility (Phase 1 of the Utility build planned for release at COP28), including elements of the data model, the scope of companies covered and initial population of the Utility, the use of sectoral classification systems, the options for languages (for both the user platform and data uploads), and data privacy and storage.

INTEROPERABILITY

A discussion was held on interoperability challenges as they relate to existing climate disclosure requirements and standards (in draft stage or otherwise). The discussion centered around critical interoperability challenges that have the potential to inhibit the comparability of climate-related data that will be included on the NZDPU (specifically Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions and relevant metadata). CDSC delegates discussed how the Committee can potentially interface with other groups currently focusing on interoperability challenges. A CDSC delegate presented the ongoing work of their organization's working group on interoperability. Several CDSC delegates expressed interest in continuing an informal engagement with such existing bodies, where possible, to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

INCENTIVES AND CAPACITY BUILDING

A discussion was held on how to continue driving data availability and quality through a focus on capacity building and incentives for disclosure. Several CDSC delegates provided updates on the ongoing and upcoming efforts of their organizations and discussed opportunities to closely partner with the CDSC and NZDPU on these efforts going forward. A delegate provided an update on their organization's ongoing work to engage organizations across the financial sector and to build capacity for climate disclosure, both for financial institutions and non-financial companies.

CLIMATE DATA EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL (ADVISORY PANEL)

A discussion was held on the role of the Climate Data Expert Advisory Panel, formerly referred to as the Civil Society Advisory Panel. The discussion included an overview of how a broad group of stakeholders were engaged in the development of the 2022 CDSC white paper and how they have been engaged since. The discussion also considered how the Advisory Panel could best play an ongoing role in providing expertise and input to the CDSC and its work as well as to the pilot Utility, including facilitating disclosure of climate data and global engagement efforts via partnerships and outreach and supporting capacity building for users of the Utility.

ASSURANCE AND VERIFICATION

A discussion was held on the importance of assurance and verification for ensuring the quality of disclosed climate data. A CDSC delegate presented on [a recent report](#) issued by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) regarding assurance and verification. Insights from the report included a desire expressed by a variety of stakeholders for emerging assurance standards to be profession-agnostic and framework-neutral (i.e., designed to apply across all reporting frameworks) so as not to distinguish between audit and non-audit firms. In addition, the report highlighted a desire expressed by stakeholders for standards related to assurance and verification to be finalized in 2024 in order to allow assurance providers to begin utilizing them in 2025.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

CDSC delegates also discussed governance as it relates to the Committee approach to Membership criteria. As part of a review and discussion on potential Membership criteria for the CDSC, delegates emphasized the importance of climate leadership and the importance of continuing to ensure diverse representation of regions and jurisdictions among CDSC Members, while balancing the limitations of administrative feasibility.