schedule, with its odd-year sessions focusing on implementation and technical issues, and even-year sessions on policy issues.

The development of such a guiding framework entails careful consideration to many elements in a short period of time accorded to the group. In this regard, in response to the invitation to submit their views and proposals on the matters under consideration, 34 responses were received from countries, international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as major groups. These submissions have been made available online by the Secretariat, as individual responses, and as a compilation document.

I wish to encourage us to make full use of all inputs available to us, including a background