

Statement on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
By the Republic of the Sudan, at the Opening Plenary of Forty-Second Session
of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 42)
Bonn, Germany, 1-11 June 2015

The Republic of Sudan has the honour of speaking on behalf of the African Group, and associates itself with the statement made by the Republic of South Africa for the Group of 77 and China. The Group also associates itself with the statement made by the Republic of Angola on behalf of the LDCs.

Madam Chair,

First and foremost, the African Group would like to congratulate you for assuming the role of the SBSTA chair. Let me assure you of the full support of the Group to your leadership to make progress here in Bonn and beyond.

Madam Chair,

The African Group appreciates the progress made in SBSTA 41 on a number of important areas, and with the same spirit we believe we can achieve more here in Bonn. Therefore, the Group would like to draw your attention to key elements and areas of work that require considerable advancement here in Bonn,

On Agenda Item 4, REDD+, the Group intends to continue to positively engage on the issues of non-market based approaches and additional guidance for safeguards. But the Group believes that more time should be devoted to the yet-to-be-discussed issue of non-carbon benefits, which has interesting and complimentary overlaps between itself, the issue of safeguards and non-market based approaches (NCB). NCBs within the African context are essential for the long-term viability and success of REDD+ implementation. In the particular case of African countries whose interest is in the “plus” part of REDD, success in generating and maintaining the NCBs is the main bulwark against emissions from deforestation and degradation. The Group intends to table a proposal on the consideration of NCBs that would direct sufficient support towards their implementation in REDD+ countries for whom the implementation of NCBs is critical. Progress on this issue here in Bonn, we believe, would bode well for a positive outcome in Paris.

Madam Chair,

On Agenda Item 5, the Group welcomes the progress and looks forward to engaging on the mandated workshops on issues relating to agriculture. The Group is keen to engage with Parties on the workshops and provide inputs to the reports of the workshops. The African Group represents 54 African countries, which economies mostly depends on agriculture. Therefore, the Group requests your support on allocating a slot in the mandated workshops to share the Group's proposal and submission on agriculture.

Madam Chair,

On Agenda Item 6, the 2013-2015 Review of the adequacy of the long term global goal and the overall progress towards achieving the long-term global goal including consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention, the Group appreciates the work of the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) and its final report. The Group looks forward to the launching and presentation of this report. However, we are concerned about the mandate of special event of 2013-2015 Review and how to take forward the work of SED. The Group will engage with Parties constructively to prepare a draft decision that will inform future work under the SBSTA and the work of the ADP.

Madam Chair,

On the Impacts of Implementation of Response Measures, we would like to highlight the crucial need to strengthen and enhance areas of cooperation and collaboration among Parties. We would also like to highlight the urgency to give full consideration to the necessary actions required to meet the needs arising from the impacts of the implementation of response measures, particularly the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties.

We were disappointed when the negotiations on the impacts of the implementation of response measures could not reach a successful conclusion in Lima, Peru after a lot of work and cooperation from our Group. We see this as an important issue for sustainable development for Africa and look forward to constructive discussions and successful conclusions at this session.

Madam Chair,

On Methodological Issues under the Kyoto Protocol – we did our utmost to bring this item to a conclusion in Lima, and we hope that any further obstacles to finalising the Kyoto Protocol’s second commitment period can be overcome during this session for a decision to be reached in Paris. We are confident that all Parties will expedite this final step in implementing the Doha Decisions in good faith, and remove any further obstacles to the rapid ratification of the Doha Amendment by all.

Madam Chair,

The Framework for Various Approaches, New Market Mechanisms and Non-market Approaches are very important issues for the African Group. However, the Group believes that it is important to consider the relationship with the 2015 agreement and previous decisions prior to taking decisions on these matters, including the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. The Group reiterates its position that market discussion should take into account issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Finally Madam Chair,

We look forward to working constructively with our partners under your leadership to ensure progress in this session.

I thank you,