

PROPOSAL OF CHILE ON BEHALF OF AILAC

In the context of the Presidency informal consultations on the special needs and special circumstances of Africa.

“Furthering climate action according to the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries in regions and special groups”

1. Introduction

There has been a wide recognition, both from Parties and observers, that the UNFCCC needs to move towards a phase of implementation.

This responds to the start of the first NDC cycle, where Parties need to develop policies and actions to deliver on their pledges, as well as looking for opportunities to increase their ambition. At the same time, the significant gap that currently exists between NDC pledges and a collective trajectory that is compatible with the long-term goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, has led to the need to identify opportunities to accelerate the transition to low-emission and resilient models of development.

However, the conditions for such transition will vary from country to country and with specific circumstances in different regions and groups of countries. Considering these special circumstances is often critical for the success and efficacy of policies.

In light of this, as we enter a implementation stage, the UNFCCC could consider opening a space for Parties (and observers) to share experiences and have the opportunity to refer to the specific circumstances of local realities, regional characteristics and special conditions as enablers for higher ambition and further climate action.

This proposal is presented in a constructive spirit, considering that in the recent past, as well as in the current COP27¹, some proposals have been put forward to address the special needs and circumstances of one specific region. These proposals have not enjoyed the support of many Parties, some of them arguing that it goes against the principle of inclusivity and of leaving no one behind. This non-paper is an attempt to go beyond that discussion and outline a possible way forward.

¹ Currently under Presidency informal consultations on the special needs and special circumstances of Africa.

2. Opportunities for a UNFCCC dialogue on climate action

Notwithstanding the significant ambition gap in mitigation, adaptation and finance, the UNFCCC process has taken some steps in the direction of implementation. The Marrakech Partnership, for example, under the High – Level Champions, has aimed at channeling the growing demand for interaction between governments and non-state actors.

However, the UNFCCC process has underused these spaces, with limited interaction in the agenda of the COP/CMA/CMP.

The agenda of the COP/CMA/CMP is made of issues that Parties recognize as relevant to the implementation of the Convention, the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. Most of these issues are oriented towards negotiated agreements, based on consensus.

However, **lately there has been examples of agenda items that do not require negotiated outcomes.** Sometimes the **exchange of information is a goal in itself**, and there is **no need to negotiate and adopt a text, but rather create the setting for that exchange to occur, for the benefit of Parties.** This is the case, for example, of the reporting of transparency documents like Biennial Updates Reports or Biennial Reports, which is subject to a peer-review discussion, and has been widely successful in providing assurances that the information will be shared and strengthened through the lens of the TACCC principles.

The Paris Agreement recognizes that NDCs are based on national prerogatives and therefore cannot be questioned or subjected to multilateral control. No Party can be forced to change its own decisions in this respect. This does not impede, however, that Parties voluntarily look for collaboration in finding solutions that are relevant to specific circumstances of groups of countries or regions, especially in developing countries.

3. A new space under the CMA under the title “Furthering climate action according to the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries in regions and special groups”

Form

This space could be mandated under a CMA agenda item, replacing the current proposal, or it could be a mandated space under the authority of future COP presidencies or SB Chairs. This could be a clear outcome of COP27, as a contribution to the UNFCCC process to get the COP closer to implementation.

This proposal assumes that the nationally – determined nature of NDCs and national priorities implies that if the form chosen is an agenda item, then the work under such an agenda item should not have a negotiated outcome.

Purposes

The dialogues or sessions would serve multiple purposes:

- Identify opportunities for Parties to increase their ambition across mitigation, adaptation, finance and loss and damage.
- Connect with regional climate weeks and hear/discuss the report of those RCW at the COP
- Foster an open dialogue on ambition between Parties and non-Party stakeholders
- Recognize the special circumstances and specific issues that regions are facing in their climate policies, as well as possible breakthroughs that can be inspirational for Parties or groups of Parties.
- Share initiatives at regional or national levels in all areas of climate action.

Modalities

Six different sessions, one per each of the UN regions covering developing countries, plus groups identified in the Paris Agreement (SIDS and LDCs), organized each in different days of the COP, as appropriate:

- Africa;
- Asia and the Pacific
- Eastern Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Least Develop Countries
- Small Island Development States

The sessions should aim at undertaking a facilitated discussion, with co-chairs with balance sub-regional representation in each case, to explore good examples and lessons learned that are specific to the needs and circumstances of each of the UN regions of developing countries. Initiatives, proposals, and good practices should be brought forward in the session, in a manner that allows to highlight opportunities for further climate action that is specific to each region.

In this regard, it is expected that Parties will interact with experts and with non-state actors in a manner that is conducive to expanding knowledge, identifying opportunities and fostering partnerships.

Inputs

The sessions can receive summary reports from Regional Climate Weeks (RCW), in the form of presentations or panel discussions, as well as an open debate and discussion among participants.

Also, regional organizations can be invited to contribute with their perspectives. Parties can also share good examples of initiatives that involve a subset of the region, that is specific to their needs and circumstances.

Although the topics and scope of each of the regional discussions should be kept flexible, it is understood that they will cover mitigation, adaptation, finance as well as ways for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

Outcome

To capture the discussions, the Secretariat can be invited to prepare a summary of the debates, capturing the main ideas and initiatives presented. The main outcome should be the enrichment of the knowledge and understanding of specific local and regional challenges, as well as opportunities to overcome them through cooperation and context-specific responses and initiatives.

4. Final remarks

During the last days, we have heard that Parties are eager to transition from a COP negotiations-centered towards a more implementation – centered Conference. This will require opening spaces for interaction and for working together towards solutions that must remain voluntary in nature, as the NDCs and climate policies in general remain prerogatives of governments.

This space for interaction, on the basis of specific needs and circumstances of regions and special groups, can create long-needed connections with non-state actors, practitioners, Regional Climate Weeks (RCW) and the Marrakech Partnership. This should aim at accelerating the climate action that is needed in the current circumstances of climate emergency, for the benefit of all.

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