

Submission by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on 2018 Facilitative Dialogue /Talanoa Dialogue

18 April 2018

The Government of Egypt on behalf of the Africa Group welcomes with appreciation the design of the 2018 facilitative dialogue, to be known as the Talanoa dialogue, announced at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties by the Presidents of the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Conference of the Parties, as contained in the informal note by the Presidencies. And welcomes the launch of the Talanoa dialogue, that started in January 2018. Furthermore, the Africa Group as encouraged by the COP welcomes the opportunity to prepare analytical and policy relevant inputs to inform the Talanoa dialogue for discussions in conjunction with the May session.

The Africa Group highlights that the COP in its decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 20, decided to “convene a facilitative dialogue among Parties in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Agreement.

The initial mandate of FD2018 as per paragraph 20 of decision 1/CP.21 is primarily on mitigation as it points to the long-term goal on mitigation, and updating of NDCs may be interpreted as opening up the scope or mandate on NDCs - with developed countries perceive NDCs as limited to mitigation, and most developing countries as including adaptation and support.

The 2018 FD is to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1. Talanoa Dialogue should have preparatory, and political phase and structured around the three general topics as guided by the COP22 and 23 presidencies, i.e, where are we? Where do we want to go? And how do we get there?.

In light of the above, the Africa Group acknowledges that the dialogue will be conducted in a manner that will enhance ambition. The dialogue should consider, as one of its elements, the efforts of Parties on action and support, as appropriate, in the pre-2020 period and that a dedicated space will be provided in the dialogue. Both during the preparatory and the political phase to facilitate the understanding of the implications of the Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

The preparatory phase should seek to build a strong evidence-based foundation for the political phase commencing after the launch of the TD in January through to May where discussions will be used to explore the three central topics informed by inputs by various actors and institutions, including from the Technical Examination Process and Global Climate Action, with the support of the high-level champions.

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The political phase will on the other hand should bring high-level representatives of Parties together to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Agreement. At COP 24 building on the preparatory phase and focus, on the objectives of the dialogue, in the form of Political discussions should include roundtables to ensure focused and interactive discussions among Ministers;

In this regard, the Africa Group highlights the following important as elements of the dialogue:

- The discussion should cover all aspects including those related to adaptation and means of implementation, as relevant information on adaptation and finance also assist in NDC formulation as per what would developing countries aim and pledge to achieve in line with principles of equity and CBDR and as per Article 2 of the PA;
- As the proposed structure of the dialogue includes three components, the principles related to them should also be highlighted, for example where are we should highlight the implementation of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol commitments, and how to encourage further actions by developing countries;
- The dialogue should also include the dimension of support provided and its results, versus the needs identified;
- The dialogue should provide information on the current impacts on developing countries including those related to extreme weather events;
- Clear reflection of equity that considers the additional adaptation needs of developing countries, and those efforts that are funded by national budgets at the expense of other sectors like health or education or infra structure upgrade. The importance of those elements are not of the same magnitude for developed countries who have already achieved many of those development goals in particular when it comes to health, education and infrastructure and those related to quality of living for their nationals.

Structure of the Dialogue:

Where are we?

Atmospheric CO₂ level continues to increase and has hit 412 ppm for first time in human history in April 2017 (Mauna Lao observatory, Hawaii) with a threat of increasing further to dangerous levels that threaten the chance of keeping global temperature rise to below 2°C. We

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are currently experiencing increase in temperatures, variable rainfall, hurricanes, floods, fires, droughts etc. and hence the costs are also on the increase.

This section should reflect the facts and provide the needed information, including those related to current levels of CO₂ concentrations, the number of people facing increasing vulnerability, number of impacted people due to extreme weather events, and current climate related adverse impacts. It should also include clarity on the support provided and available, the instruments and criteria used for accessing such support, different assessments including from UNEP, OECD, and other estimates. In addition, all climate related instruments including Kyoto Protocol and the Kigali Amendment, and their statuses should be highlighted.

Consideration of these elements would provide a clear idea on where we are now on all aspects.

- The Doha Amendment is yet to come into force.
- Most African countries still using fossil fuels for energy due to the inaccessibility and cost of the alternative and green energy sources.
- If emissions gap is not closed by 2030, UNEP suggests that it is extremely unlikely that the goal of holding global temperature increase to well below 2°C can still be reached.
- NDC synthesis report suggests that implementation will not be adequate, hence the need to upscale ambition as well as support needed to implement developing countries NDCs.

Where do we want to go?

- The global temperature increase needs to be well below 2° with ambitious efforts to limit it to 1.5° C, as this will ensure our survival.

We need to go to a world where developed countries stop making promises but live up to their promises and pledges on all mean of Implementation (Finance, Technology and Capacity Building) that the developing countries need to address climate change. We also need to go to a world where developing countries rapidly reduce and meet their emission reduction pledges as informed by best available science.

- We need work on entry into force of the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol.
- We already agreed on the global goal in PA Article 2, and agreed on the safeguards and principles that shall guide our work.
- What is needed is to get the relevant information on the needed means of implementation relevant to the level of action. It is worth highlighting that confining the goal to just mitigation goal is not in line with the PA, which also identified ability to adapt and achieve food security as goals with similar importance. Furthermore, for developing countries the

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right to development is an overriding goal, which is identified through stressing the principles of Equity and CDBR, conditionality of availability, and accessibility to provisions of support as per Articles 3 and 4.5 of the PA.

How do we get there?

We can get there hopefully through enhancement of global cooperation based on equity, raised ambition, and urgency to address adaptation and loss and damage as well as increased transparency ex-ante and ex-post for action and support as they are both interlinked for developing countries. We also need fair contributions (taking into account national capacity, historical responsibility, level of development and adaptation needs) in addressing climate change.

We also need:

- Ratification and entry into force of the Doha Amendment.
- Enhancing ambition where everyone does their fair share of efforts in light of equity, and fully respecting national sovereignty and policy space in particular for developing countries.
- Meaningful support for adaptation and Loss and Damage, that follows country ownership and not lead to further debt burden on developing countries.
- Significant increase in public climate finance that focuses on supporting implementation for both adaptation and mitigation with some tailor-made public policies in developed countries to facilitate access to such resources;
- Enhanced, accountable private capital flow leading some instances and complementary in others (not simply off load finance to private sector)
- To address all the Gaps limiting developing country efforts to address climate change, and allow for unlocking potentials of developing countries.
- To avoid impacts of actions taken to combat climate change including unilateral ones on developing countries, including those related to discrimination or disguised restrictions on developing countries;
- Ensure preferential and free accessibility to environmentally sound technologies needed by developing countries.

The Africa Group looks forward to engaging in the TD in 2018 and the utilization of inputs from various credible sources of relevant information that include but not limited to IPCC, Research academic institutions, institutions of excellence, UN agencies as well as Party submissions for an enriched dialogue. The guiding questions are welcome as well as the staged approach, i.e preparatory and the political phase but more important the AGN hopes for an outcome in the form of a COP decision that will inform Parties to enhance their climate change ambition.