

Thank you, Madam facilitator,

We thank the government of Ethiopia for hosting us in this second climate week of 2025.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the G77 and China.

After over three decades of the UNFCCC and a decade of the Paris Agreement, we are forced to reiterate the foundational principles upon which all climate action must be based: the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. These principles are glaringly absent, both in letter and spirit, from the concept note guiding this Dialogue.

The narrative presented does not facilitate a neutral discussion; it orchestrates an unjust dialogue for an unjust transition. It systematically shifts the entire burden of mitigation from developed to developing countries, ignoring the stark, scientific reality of historical responsibility.

The facts are undeniable: developed nations, with just 19% of the global population, are responsible for 68% of all historical emissions. We, the developing world, representing 81% of humanity, are responsible for only 32%. Yet, it is we who are being lectured on urgency, while those who grew wealthy by overusing the global carbon budget have failed to meet their own mitigation commitments and their obligations to provide finance and technology.

This context is not a sidebar issue—it is the entire canvas on which this discussion must be painted. Therefore, for developing countries, a “just transition pathway” is not, and cannot be, a prescriptive mitigation plan dictated by others. It is first and foremost a sovereign blueprint for development and poverty eradication.

For us, the “transition” is a transition away from energy poverty. It is about ensuring energy access, security, and affordability for our people. Our dependence on fossil fuels is intrinsically linked to addressing these fundamental needs—to power our schools, hospitals, and industries, and to provide formal and informal employment for millions.

This brings us to a critical and damaging obstacle to our just transition objectives: the rise of unilateral measures. These measures—whether carbon border taxes, arbitrary standards, or supply chain diktats—are nothing less than climate protectionism disguised as policy. Their impact is severe and deeply hypocritical.

They shift the burden of adjustment onto those with the least historical responsibility, penalizing our industries and undermining our development. They restrict our sovereign policy space, coercing us to redesign our subsidies and economic policies to suit external agendas, rather than our own needs to eradicate poverty and ensure food security. They increase the cost of energy and essential goods, harming the most vulnerable in our societies. And most egregiously, they represent a direct assault on multilateralism, undermining the very cooperative principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

The guiding questions before us today are framed with a prescriptive and flawed assumption: that the choices and challenges are the same for all. They are not.

When we speak of clean cooking, we speak of a fundamental human right, not a commodity to be delivered through “innovative financing” that lets developed countries off the hook. It requires public finance and grant-based support.

When we speak of workforce transitions, we must acknowledge that renewable sectors often create fewer jobs than fossil fuel sectors. Where is the finance for the massive investment required for reskilling and social protection? The primary responsibility for this cannot be left to the private sector or market forces.

When we speak of energy security, we must reject misapplied terms like “net-zero energy systems” and respect the right of nations to choose a diverse mix of technologies to ensure their grids are reliable and affordable for their people.

So, what is the path forward?

First, developed countries must lead. Not with words, but with immediate, deep, and absolute emission reductions at home. They must reach net-zero well before 2030 to free up the carbon space we need for our basic development.

Second, they must fulfill their obligations. This means providing adequate, grant-based, predictable finance and technology transfer without conditionalities that override our sovereign, nationally determined pathways.

Third, we must collectively condemn and reject unilateral measures. This forum must stand for cooperation, not coercion.

And finally, our dialogue must be re-anchored in justice. True cooperation means respecting our right to development, our national circumstances, and our sovereign choices. It means enabling our transitions, not imposing them.

Let us end this fiction that the burden is equal. Let us instead embrace a truly multilateral, equitable partnership that supports transitions which are just for all, not just for a few.

The time for excuses is over. The time for equity and justice is now.

Thank you.