

**AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS (AGN)
STATEMENT**

Roundtable 4 – Integrated and holistic approaches

Technical Dialogue 1.3

10 June 2023

- A. *The Convention and the Paris Agreement are processes that set norms, which drive policy outcomes to increase international cooperation on climate, within and beyond the processes themselves.*

Points 1: Outcomes from talks under the Convention and the PA are increasingly important for driving climate action, not just for Parties but also non-state actors who are aligning their activities with the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The first half of the first emerging message reflects this observation well. This is consistent with the centrality of the multilateral process in addressing what is a global problem. While the multilateral climate process under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement has achieved unprecedented levels of international cooperation on climate change, the GST's technical dialogue highlights that we have a long way to go still, and has highlighted critical gaps in ambition and implementation. A limited focus on mitigation in the context of a failure to meet obligations to provide support, and no regard for equity, has the effect of shifting the overwhelming burden of GHG emissions reduction, and the financing of these reductions, from developed to developing countries. Calls for all Parties to adopt economy-wide targets in order to achieve 1.5C, while ignoring all the other key goals and principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, and not addressing the failure of developed country mitigation ambition in the pre-2020 period, will only perpetuate existing global inequality and injustice, and will undo three decades of multilateral cooperation. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we send consistent messaging on the urgency of full implementation of all aspects of the Convention and its Paris Agreement and to correctly locate climate actions within their sustainable development context. In order to ensure more policy-relevant findings, we want to call on the IPCC in their 7th assessment cycle to fully reflect equity and differentiation, as well as the sustainable development aspirations of developing countries, in the scenarios used for integrated assessment.

Enhancing international cooperation is one of the key modes of climate action envisaged in Article 14.3. These initiatives require clear guidance to Parties AND non-party actors, especially in respect of equity considerations, and as such safeguards are important to ensure an equitable regime for developing countries, which responds to their developmental context. An example is that within the UNFCCC, equity considerations recognise that the energy transition pathways in developing countries should follow the lead of developed countries, which should “buy down” the cost of mitigation technologies; secondly, concessional loans and grants are recognised as crucial in unlocking climate action for developing countries. However, the terms our countries face are very often devoid of these crucial principles.

Point 2: Secondly, policy outcomes are not increasing international cooperation as suggested by the emerging message, “...which drive policy outcomes to increase international cooperation on climate...”

In actual fact, unilateral response measures have an adverse impact on sustainable development for developing countries are increasingly the norm. This needs to be addressed. For example, we are gravely concerned by unilateral carbon border taxes that seek to shift the burden of climate action to developing countries, distort trade and inflict an injustice on the countries that for centuries have provided the human and raw materials to drive development in the global North, continuing to the present day with our strategic minerals and rare earth elements that are needed for the green transition.

Likewise, abrupt and unilateral decisions to disinvest from existing fossil fuel infrastructure and production, and not finance new infrastructure in the global South also fail the equity test because these are not matched with support for just transitions pathways, or corresponding actions to end fossil fuel investment and production in the global North. These types of unilateral impositions are negatively impacting the ability of African countries to finance basic infrastructure to eradicate poverty and improve living standards of their citizens. Furthermore, these are undermining the trust that is essential for enhancing mutually beneficial international cooperation.

Developing countries, particularly those recording the lowest level of progress towards meeting the SDGs, require policy space, recognition of their sustainable development and poverty eradication imperatives, and enabling means of implementation support for their climate actions. International cooperation must recognize and support this. The emerging messages must reflect this also.

B. Governments should implement integrated policy packages that mainstream climate resilience and low greenhouse gas development and strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Point 3: This emerging message should recognize that there are different pathways for achieving the SDGs and transitioning to low-emission and resilient development pathways consistent with the collective goals of the Paris Agreement; and that this will depend on the country’s needs, challenges and priorities. Each Party has the right to determine its own development pathway towards shared global goals.

Developing countries, including those in Africa, must be enabled by adequate and predictable support to formulate and implement integrated development and climate policies consistent with their national circumstances. Without effective support, such undertakings will be at the cost of achieving sustainable development priorities and objectives. Africa is prioritizing industrialization and job creation. We are looking for partners to ensure that this takes place in a sustainable and just manner.

Climate Change is undermining Africa's development gains and impeding efforts to meet basic sustainable development goals, including eradicating poverty and ensuring food and energy security. Our Continent has long since been dealing with the realities of adaptation and loss and damage and is amongst the most adversely impacted by a crisis we did not create. This is why global alignment with the 1.5 degree goal, and climate resilient development, have our total commitment.

Africa, according to a UNECA (2021) report, will not be able to achieve the SDGs by 2030, and current international climate change policies do not provide the needed support for achieving sustainable, low emissions and resilient development on the continent. Here again we reiterate our calls for predictable support to achieve SDGs and just transition pathways towards low emission and climate-resilient development consistent achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

C. *Systemic transformations open huge opportunities but are disruptive. A focus on inclusion and equity can increase ambition in climate action and support when it builds trust and solidarity into an upward spiral of ambition and climate action.*

Point 4: The impacts of climate change, in conjunction with a range of other crises, are adversely impeding Africa's efforts to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG 2030). Africa's Agenda 2063 affirmed that "Africa will participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation that support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development on the continent. It further affirms that Africa shall address the global challenge of climate change by prioritizing adaptation in all our actions, drawing upon skills of diverse disciplines with adequate support (affordable technology development and transfer, capacity building, financial and technical resources) to ensure implementation of actions for the survival of the most vulnerable populations, including islands states, and for sustainable development and shared prosperity".

The emerging message should clearly affirm that the operationalization of the principle of equity and the enabling of a just transition for all countries/systems particularly in Africa which has pressing social and economic development challenges is essential for achieving the ambition in climate actions required for attaining PA goals.

Finally, the Summary Report correctly identifies that ambition is possible with higher commitments in NDCs along with the implementation of existing NDC, NAPs, etc; with the implementation of NDCs potentially being the biggest area for improvement. It is our view that systematic transformation requires an understanding of the context and needs to unlock action. As such a needs-based approach in the stocktake, where needs are placed centrally in the sustainable development context, is central in unlocking ambition.