

GST Technical Dialogue 1.1

Statement by the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

The African Group associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the G77.

Expectations

The Group welcomes the commencement of the second component of this very important stocktaking exercise. This Technical Assessment must enable a conversation that is open and transparent, party-driven, covers all priorities of Parties across the agreed scope of the Global Stocktake and gives balanced and adequate attention to all issues. We have confidence that the process which the Co-Facilitators have outlined will be conducive for a constructive dialogue.

Priorities for Roundtables

This technical dialogue should consider findings from the best scientific data that have been submitted as inputs. The dialogue should also facilitate a shared understanding of where we are now, where we need to be, and what needs to be done to meet the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention. We currently find ourselves in a situation where urgent action is required to meet these goals and avoid the disastrous consequences that would occur if we stay on our current trajectory. We know this from the latest IPCC and WMO Reports - in fact, we have known this for a long time.

Climate disasters are already common place. GHG emissions are still rising, and we are still not addressing the climate crisis with the urgency that it deserves. We must understand the reasons why we are now facing the daunting task of cutting global CO₂ emissions by 45% by 2030 - and why climate finance is utterly inadequate to meet the needs of developing countries to both decarbonize and build resilience. We must also understand why adaptation is still not a central focus for us even though it is central in the Paris Agreement. Lastly, we must understand why we are still fighting for the space to address loss and damage, and generally why pre-2020 commitments were not fulfilled. The GST is an opportunity to consider these issues comprehensively, and recommend available options for taking appropriate action in response. The technical dialogues will provide the basis for this consideration.

The Paris Agreement stipulates in its Article 14.1 that the GST shall take place “in the light of equity and the best available science”. Equity is fundamental, and the issue of the fairness of contributions and pledges made for meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement is of critical importance. The confidence that all Parties are doing their “fair shares” is what will provide the motivation to enhance ambition. So firstly, in this dialogue equity cannot be effectively addressed in substance without a thorough review of historical and current contributions to global warming, an in-depth analysis and recognition of adaptation actions, and the adequacy of means of implementation provided. Secondly, consideration of equity should also facilitate an enhanced understanding of the circumstances and development context in which Parties are making their contributions and pledges.

Thirdly, this has to be in accordance with the guiding principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, the right to development, the equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and the importance of a Just Transition, where each Party finds its most appropriate pathway to development and achieving our shared objectives.

Looking forward, we must also address the very real challenges to all countries, and especially developing countries, of the collective transition to a low GHG emissions and climate resilient future. We need to find new and creative ways where developing countries are able to maximise the potential development outcomes of the transition to a low carbon or net zero future such as green industrialization and greening of supply chains - and also address the potential pitfalls. We must ensure that international cooperation not only supports the transition, but supports it in a way that enables developing countries to address urgent development needs, and build resilience.

Africa's Circumstances

I will briefly focus on the unique circumstances and special needs of Africa. Africa has endured a long period of exploitation that led to the plundering of significant natural resources and human capital. This has resulted in adverse impacts on all three pillars of sustainable development and the structures of African economies, turning them into sources of cheap raw materials for the world at large to benefit from. The legacy of exploitation while less obvious now continue to show in the development impacts of unfair multilateral and bilateral arrangements and illicit financial flows from Africa of about US\$89 billion per annum (UNCTAD, 2020). These are depriving the continent of significant domestic means to finance the basic developmental needs and aspirations of the population. The current debt crisis, the impact of COVID-19 and the recent geopolitical developments have made things manifestly worse. To compound it all, while having very little responsibility for climate change and the lowest per capita emissions of any region Africa now faces some unique challenges that are well documented in the IPCC's latest Assessment Report.

The Working Group 2 also reports significant GDP losses in most African countries as a result of climate change, and also found that the African continent is impacted by climate change's adverse impacts than any other continent.

The challenges for our Group are real, and we engage in this global stocktake with the seriousness which our circumstances demand. We look forward to a comprehensive and detailed assessment of where we are now, and creative thinking to facilitate a change of course. We are looking forward to an outcome which places the just transition at the centre of our long-term low emissions pathways, enables adaptation commensurate with our current emissions trajectory, addresses loss and damage, and provides adequate support to accomplish these goals.

I thank you, Chair