

AFRICAN GROUP OPENING STATEMENT

Technical Dialogue 1.3 Opening Plenary

6 June 2023

Thank you, Co-Facilitators,

The African Group associate itself with the statement made by Cuba on behalf of the G77 + China.

CoFac, we wish to thank you both, and the Secretariat for the work done intersessionally in preparation for the final technical dialogue, including the Summary Report for TD 1.2. You have always provided the necessary information for Parties to effectively engage in the GST activities, and we look forward to working with the arrangements you have made to conclude this final technical dialogue. The same commendation goes to the SBs chairs for the scenario note.

We welcome the CFs expectation that, emerging messages would be an important focus of the discussions in TD1.3, and we expect emerging messages to form the basis for the findings of the TD, which (according to 19/CMA.1) are the main input for the final phase of GST-1 on consideration of outputs. With the session also covering ‘what next’, we hope sufficient time will be made available to engage on the emerging messages adequately.

We have taken note of the CFs remarks that the reflections in Section II are not final, but are meant to serve as an important indication of your approach to the task. Therefore, the Group wishes to highlight a few observations which we will expand on during the World Café and Roundtable discussions:

1. The African Group holds the firm view that the GST TD must adhere to its mandate, to assess through the lens of equity and best available science our collective actions towards the goals of the PA. For the group, the context the principles of the Convention and the PA provide, of the right to development, sustainable development and poverty eradication are inalienable. The context in which African countries will be enhancing actions, is a hugely relevant factor in considering the ambition and fairness of our contributions. This should be well reflected in your factual synthesis report.
2. We will focus our intervention and engagement on the emerging messages to areas that are either missing or not adequately addressed in the emerging messages. As a general observation,
 - the IPCC AR6 report cites some unique challenges that some regions particularly Africa are facing, as well as national and regional circumstances that were captured in the summary report of TD 1.1.
 - the pre-2020 gap in implementation and ambition in the context of the differentiated obligations of Parties under the Convention and the PA is not covered.
 - The use of the long-term goals in the PA as benchmarks for collective progress could be strengthened.
3. Addressing some of these points will assist in making the content of TD1.3 summary report and the factual synthesis report more action oriented, presenting clear “hard-hitting findings” that are actionable and can better inform the raising of ambition in Parties undertakings and international cooperation, in a fair manner.

4. On the various thematic areas, these are additional comments, which will be further elaborated in the roundtables:

5. On mitigation, we are of the view that, most points have been captured. But there are some issues that could have been emphasized to reflect more accurately their importance to an outcome that facilitates ambition. These include:

- the equitable sharing of the remaining carbon space, the relevance of CBDR-RC and equity in mitigation action;
- the unique challenges and circumstances Africa is facing on access to affordable energy;
- the issue of a just transition including on energy and the need for it to be fair and receive transitional support; in particular the serious challenges Africa faces trying to achieve universal access to energy for its population, about 600 million of whom are without access to electricity and more than 900 million are without clean cooking facilities (IPCC AR6). African contribution to global emissions from energy and industry is also about 3%, which reflects the under development of these sectors that are important to the continent's economic development.

6. On issues relating to response measures, these have not been well captured or elaborated.

- we are already dealing with the negative impacts of unilateral response measures without the international cooperation that was agreed to in the Paris Agreement; economic diversification and a just transition can help address response measures,
- what would help, in the immediate or “what next” will be a system for reporting and addressing the negative impacts, and the provision of support to countries affected by it.

These were two major suggestions raised at TD1.2, that the emerging messages should reflect, as they are not only beginning to impact domestic revenue, trade imbalances and inability to exploit natural resources. But they are also leading to job losses, losses in GDP and worsening indebtedness of many Parties.

7. On adaptation, the messaging that seems to suggest that parties are doing well in adaptation planning is not accurate. We implore the co-facilitators to reflect the points raised by the African group citing the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report that:

- On planning, as much as 79% of Parties have strategies, plans, and laws in place, but implementability is in the region of 30%, and also many African countries and LDCs are still struggling to develop their NAPs; about 17 of the 54 African countries have submitted their NAPs.
- On implementation, African countries are still struggling to prepare good quality adaptation programmes and projects. The UNEP report also indicates that between the AF, GCF, and the GEF, only 39 projects were started in 2021, bringing the total to 436 since 2006;
- However, the largest challenge is in the adequacy of adaptation support and the implementation of adaptation plans and communications with the urgency needed to cope with increasing impacts of climate change. The UNEP Gap Report indicates that only \$11.6 billion was made available for principal adaptation projects, which is a big gap based on needs of developing countries as shown in SCF Report 2021

With respect to the recognition of adaptation efforts, we were expecting that this would be framed as a demonstration of the strong commitment of developing countries towards their vulnerable communities in the face of inadequate international support for adaptation (implementation gap). Recognition of effort does not lead directly to raising ambition in adaptation planning and implementation. However, it provides lessons learned, good practices and information on challenges faced by developing countries in responding to their urgent and immediate adaptation needs.

8. As much as we understand the practical point of clustering themes, Loss and Damage in the GST cannot be approached in the context of adaptation, despite clear evidence by IPCC that adaptation limits have been reached and we have undoubtedly entered the L&D era.

- The costs to address these damages are enormous, and even with adaptation efforts, Africa will still face significant residual damages that undermine sustainable development efforts. The IPCC quantifies foreseeable damage which must be reflected and the capacity of the continent to respond to these damages is limited, and international support is crucial.
- The recent report from the WMO highlights the alarming number of disasters and deaths in Africa caused by weather and climate extremes. Economic losses have significantly increased in the last decade, and loss and damage present a major economic and political challenge for African countries. The current international response is inadequate to address climate impacts, and there is a need for enhanced action, especially in the context of slow-onset events and non-economic impacts.
- The response provided by the Convention has been insufficient, and Africa calls for a dedicated focus on addressing loss and damage in future agreements. Financial support should be based on historical responsibility and common but differentiated responsibilities, and innovative solutions are needed to avoid burdening African countries with debt. The impacts of loss and damage on poverty, gender equality, and climate action are highlighted, and the diverse types of loss and damage in different sectors pose a significant obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. On finance the emerging messages could better reflect the important basis upon which the provision of finance under the UNFCCC is founded; the provision of new and additional resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties, including for the transfer of technology taking into account the need for adequacy and predictability in the flow of funds. As such, the emerging messages should reflect the finding that the key barrier or weakness in being on track to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement lies in the failure to provide adequate and predictable financial resources on a full cost incremental basis as provided for in the Convention and the accompanying Paris Agreement.

The GST must also set out, in clear terms:

- The lesson of the failed commitments in this multilateral process and to offer options for a better and sustainable financing mechanism.
- That responsibilities are clearly under Article 4, Article 9, and Article 13.1 and not just under Article 2.1c. Here, we need to highlight that African countries provided their NDCs, but the delivery of support as per Articles 4 and 9 did not materialize,

- That the commitment to progression in scale of financial support from developed countries as per article 9.3 did not happen.
- That there is also a clear gap in terms of identifying the scale of individual responsibility of delivering financial support to developing countries in response to the needs identified by developing countries, this gap has direct impact on transparency, accountability and predictability.

As next steps, the African Group believes the GST process should be providing clear recommendations in relation to:

- Creating a clear burden sharing mechanism between developing countries in relation to their financial support
- Establishing clear linkages between our temperature goal, needs assessments and the scale of finance to be provided by developed countries, so we avoid a low ambition finance that would lead to limited delivery from developing countries
- Expressing clearly that 2.1.c is not a goal but an enabler, and in implementing it we are not adding conditionalities and negative impacts on developing countries or use it to force unilateral measure against Africa exports
- A clear commitment in delivering progression in scale of finance and clear communications with the burden sharing mechanism (referred to above) providing for the course correction in relation to delivering finance from developed to developing countries.
- The unreliability of innovative sources, including markets or private investments as they do not provide the predictability and accountability needed.

10. On technology, the views from TD 1.2 are welcome as a true reflection of what is happening on the ground. However, there is need to further consider:

- The non-uniformity in the production of key low emission technologies, wherein it has been noted that these are more costly in developing countries, having a negative effect on their uptake.
- The concerns on whether industrialised countries can run purely on renewable energy, noting its intermittency and quality of power, as this can turn the key towards political willingness to move away from fossil fuels.

The imbalance between mitigation and adaptation technologies is still in favour of mitigation technology according to the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Synthesis report.

11. Finally, Section II.B of the TD 1.3 Summary Report in general does not fully take into consideration the priorities of African countries and LDCs to achieve SDGs by 2030. Pursuit of the sustainable development goals is the context under which the assessment of challenges and opportunities to undertake climate actions for African countries should be made. For these countries climate action that will support their efforts to achieve the SDGs are the only viable pathways to build resilience and meet pressing developmental objectives in a low emissions manner. This is our ‘what

next' or immediate to medium term objective, that is also part of our development pathway consistent with Paris objectives in the long-run. Underpinning this strategy is the universally recognized right to development. Understanding and taking into account the context in which developing countries are pursuing their climate action is one way to reflect equity. This context must be articulated in the emerging messages.

We will send the longer version of our statement by email as has become the standard practice.