

Statement of the African Group at GST TD 1.2 Opening Plenary

The African Group associates itself with the statement made by G77 + China.

It reiterates its appreciation to the government of Egypt for hosting COP27 in the beautiful city of Sharm El Shaikh and for the kind hospitality that has been accorded to us.

The Group commends the Chairs of the SBI and SBSTA for their scenario notes and the Co-facilitators of the Technical Dialogue (TD) for the open and transparent manner in which they are conducting the technical assessment and engaging Parties on how our work is organized.

Having reached a shared understanding of the wide disparities between where we are and the recommended pathways, at this second meeting of the technical dialogue, it is important that we turn our focus to “...finding solutions, including identifying and showcasing opportunities, solutions and good practices for overcoming the barriers and challenges in the way of climate action and support’ in order to make timely progress towards achieving the goal of the Paris Agreement”.

Africa is bearing disproportionately the worst consequences of the impacts of climate change, while contributing the least GHGs emissions, both historically and per capita. These facts have been well documented in the growing body of scientific literature and knowledge. The most recent scientific findings of the IPCC sixth assessment report (AR6) show that Africa is already experiencing widespread impacts of climate change across critical sectors of its economy. An estimated 337 million people were affected by natural disasters in Africa between 2000-2019, in which floods accounted for 80% and droughts for 16%. Between 2018-2019, 6 million people were displaced by weather-related disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa and 46 078 deaths from natural disasters were reported between 2000-2019¹ (CRED, 2019). Globally, only Sub-Saharan Africa has reported the largest number of mortalities associated with floods since 1990² (Tellman, et al., 2021). In the agricultural productivity growth has been reduced by 34% since 1961 due to climate change; more than any other region. The amounts of finance being mobilised internationally to support adaptation in African countries are billions of US dollars less than adaptation cost estimates, and the finance provided has targeted mitigation more than adaptation. These are occurring at a time when the continent is striving to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) some of which represent the basic environmental, social justice and human rights that all humans should have. Africa has recorded low progress on SDGs. The rate of progress to date is insufficient and current trends must be reversed if Africa is to achieve the SDGs by 2030 as targeted. Climate change represents a major threat to Africa’s efforts to achieving the SDGs. While we rightly focus on how to bridge the gap, it is also important for the technical dialogue to not only consider the good practices, opportunities, barriers and challenges to enhance

¹ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters . Disasters in Africa: 20 Year Review (2000-2019). *CRED Crunch* 56 (2019)

² Tellman, B., Sullivan, J.A., Kuhn, C. *et al.* Satellite imaging reveals increased proportion of population exposed to floods. *Nature* 596, 80–86 (2021)

climate action. It must also assess the fairness of what is being proposed and take into consideration the unique realities and contexts that the African region finds itself in, that have been very well catalogued by the best available science.

Notwithstanding the challenges they face, African countries remain at the forefront of global efforts to address the climate crisis committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which all African countries have signed up to. It is critical for Africa to overcome the mutually reinforcing challenges posed by current geopolitical events, its limited development levels, the impacts of climate change and response measures to it. Pursuing economic development and delivering the prerequisites for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable prosperity for all Africans will remain the driving policy aim of all African nations.

Finally, the Group is of the view that we would need additional time to comprehensively assess collective progress across the scope of the GST and complete the mandate of the technical dialogues. Only two sessions remain after COP27 for completing the TD and negotiating the final outcomes. This is insufficient. More time and space is needed for Parties to engage on substance. Intersessional meetings should be considered to advance our work. Now is also a critical time to turn the technical dialogue towards producing its final outcome and considering the organization in the political phase.

Thank you.