Co-Facilitators,

South Africa has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the BASIC group, comprising of Brazil, South Africa, India and China.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Cuba on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

Co-Facilitators,

We wish to convey our appreciation to you, Harald and Farhan, for guiding the technical phase of the GST.

We look forward to constructively participating in this session to provide a solid technical basis for promoting implementation of the NDC cycle and enhancing international cooperation.

Co-Facilitators,

Our central concern is that no space has been provided for an in-depth technical discussion and information gathering on pre-2020 issues, which is unacceptable when we are undertaking a stock taking exercise.

Securing a definitive account of the pre-2020 period is a critical part of the GST, as it will allow us to assess its achievements, progresses and gaps, with a view to providing the equity basis towards achieving the long-term global goals of the Convention and its Paris Agreement.

We call on you to address this glaring deficiency as a matter of urgency.

Co-Facilitators,

The guiding questions and materials prepared thus far present a very slanted and restrictive perspective of climate finance, with an overwhelming focus on alignment of financial flows under Article 2.1.c. This narrative ignores the wider finance ecosystem, in particular the need for provision of support and honouring of commitments by developed countries and the need for systemic reform to the global financial architecture. Recommendations arising from the GST political phase that rely simply on Article 2.1.c will fail the equity and credibility test and will not unlock climate action and ambition.

Co-Facilitators,

We have reservations about some of the formats and especially their framing, such as the arrangements for the World Café during this session. The value of having experts act out roles on behalf of important and diverse constituencies is hard to understand, but we will participate and make our own assessments as the meetings unfold.

I thank-you