

**Closing Statement of the Chair of African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change  
under the UNFCCC**

*(Mr. Tanguy GAHOUMA-BEKALE)*

***04<sup>th</sup> December 2020***

**Excellencies, COP Presidents, Presiding Officers of the Subsidiary Bodies,  
Dear UNFCCC Colleagues,**

The Africa Group would like to congratulate the COP 25 Presidency, the incoming COP 26 Presidency, the Chair of the SBSTA and the Chair of the SBI and the UNFCCC Secretariat for organising this very interactive climate dialogue for the past 10 days.

We would like to recognise your commitment and facilitating the virtual setting to ensure that COVID-19 pandemic does not halt the efforts on climate action and to stress the importance of maintaining the momentum on climate action.

We would like as well to congratulate the SB Chairs for leading the events of the climate dialogues; facilitating climate action, providing a platform for experience sharing and continuing the discussion on the remaining rules of the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

However, We, the Africa Group, have noted some difficulty on the attendance of Parties and some limitation of IT infrastructures that have been a constraint for the active participation of delegates from developing countries.

We have also noted that the formats of the events differed from one to the other, we were able to participate and contribute in some events, whereas in some other events the space provided for Parties was very limited.

Fortunately, the events were being used for informally advancing the need effort on climate action under the UNFCCC which no formal negotiations were held, and Parties still can share their views this and next year.

**Dear Colleagues,**

In 2015, Africa countries came to the table with ambition NDCs, and are committed to revision or updating their NDCs consistent with the Paris and Katowice decisions.

However, it should be noted that African contributes to only 4% of the total global emissions but is one of the region's most adversely impacted by climate change. African Governments are already paying 2% to 9% of their GDP to reverse the impacts.

The Africa Group stresses that this is time for more action and implementation to address the climate emergency. Accordingly, we look forward to the physical meeting next year to formally advance the focus on the core priority of the Paris Agreement, which is its implementation.

African Ministers have stressed on the important of COP26 both its organisation and outcome to reflect the three-goals of the Paris Agreement, that are related and equally important aspects of ambition: ambition on mitigation, ambition on adaptation and ambition of mobilisation and provision of means of implementation by developed countries for developing countries.

It is essential to recognise that raising ambition for African countries could only be achieved when developed country Parties implement their commitments and obligations and demonstrate the leadership as articulated in the Paris Agreement.

This includes both in taking ambitious economy-wide reduction targets under NDCs and provides means of implementation.

**Dear Colleagues,**

The Africa Group would like to still register our concern on the minimal consideration of the pre-2020 ambition on mitigation and finance gaps. We welcome the roundtables on pre-2020; thus, such events must be framed on how to address the current gap rather than on the future implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The UNFCCC reports on progress in implementing enhanced action before 2020 highlights that not all developed country Parties will meet their pre-2020 mitigation commitments, with some experiencing an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Africa Group firmly believe that the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement depends on the fulfilment of the established pre-2020 obligations under the Convention, and on preventing the “spillover” or transfer of developed country Parties’ obligations under the pre-2020 to developing country Parties.

Therefore, we call on our developed country Parties and the Secretariat to ensure the result of such successful events as the climate dialogue and future event in 2021 will raise their ambition and share their progress of implementation for closing the ambition gap. We call on Parties to reach a decision at COP26 on how to address both the mitigation and finance gap.

**Excellencies, COP Presidents, Presiding Officers of the Subsidiary Bodies,  
Dear UNFCCC Colleagues,**

The Africa Group once again would like to congratulate you and thank you for the work and support to Parties.

As we come to an end of this dialogues, the African Group reiterate through me our strong commitment to addressing climate change in line with the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

We have full confidence in your leadership to lead us to a successful COP26, and to ensure no one would be left behind. The Africa Group would like to assure you of our support.

**Thank you.**