

AILAC Statement

UNFCCC Climate Dialogues Closing

Virtual Meeting, Friday December 4th, 2020

1. Panama is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the AILAC Group of countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. At the outset, our Group would like to express its sincere appreciation for all the work undertaken over the past two weeks by Parties and their engagement in the different events and informal consultations. We also would like to extend this appreciation to the Chilean Presidency of COP 25, the UK incoming Presidency of COP26, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, the UNFCCC Secretariat that have gone to great efforts to provide these spaces with the purpose of upholding momentum for urgent climate action despite the challenges that the COVID 19 pandemic has brought to the process, bearing in mind the need to have a concrete focused advancement of negotiations and implementation of commitments and a post COVID recovery that upholds the critical benchmarks our collective response to the climate crisis demands under the Paris Agreement.
2. All the events that have taken place under these Climate Dialogues for the past two weeks reaffirm an unequivocal, scientifically backed fundamental truth: we are at a critical juncture at which whatever we commit to will mark our collective success or failure in delivering on our common objective of holding the temperature increase below 1.5°C or by default, set in motion irreversible climate breakdown.
3. Through the first session of the Structured Expert Dialogue under the Second Periodic Review the IPCC clearly articulated the profound structural changes we must undertake in an unprecedented timeframe to avoid the most harmful effects and irreversible impacts of climate breakdown: **we must halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 through action and investments which drive economic and social development and reduce poverty. The COVID crisis does not change this target in any way, but we should reflect upon how it changes our starting point.**
4. Discussions under the Pre2020 Roundtable were enlightening in illustrating how we are suffering from a collective deficit of ambition that we must very quickly and decidedly correct. Pre2020 action and commitments despite showing some progress are ultimately and unquestionably insufficient and inadequate in light of the objective of the Convention and the long-term goals under the Paris Agreement. Our upcoming revised NDCs cannot repeat the same mistake of just setting and fulfilling commitments that ultimately do not deliver on the pathway to 1.5°C that we have all collectively agreed to be by mid-century. In this context, the need for every Party to formulate Long-Term Strategies towards 2050 carbon neutrality that frame their short-term actions as communicated through their NDCs has never been more critical. Without this framing, no NDC can claim to be “Paris aligned”.

Distinguished Delegates,

5. As it was mentioned by the Executive Secretary during one of the finance meetings that took place

during these Dialogues: "climate finance is the one most important elements for climate action and it is not a matter of charity but a responsibility". Further to this, AILAC would highlight climate finance is an enabler to what the Paris Agreement stands for. In the midst of a global pandemic that is hitting strongly in the developing world and that will have enormous economic effects that will be felt for years to come, we appreciate the possibility that these Dialogues have provided to keep momentum in the climate finance international agenda over issues that are critical to our collective future:

6. The overwhelming concern of developing countries on the implementation of the USD 100 billion goal and the perspective of its continuous implementation in the next 5 years, coupled with all lessons learned for the upcoming negotiation of a new collective goal on finance, in which financial instruments that only increase the level of indebtedness of developing countries should be considered under a more ethical lens.
7. This decade being critical to actually set a trajectory to accomplish the Paris Agreement goals, has also a financial perspective that commits the entirety of the financial sector to ensure that financial flows are consistent with low emissions and resilient development pathways,
8. The absolute need for climate finance negotiations to be connected with the most urgent and pressing needs of the developing world and oriented to address a green, climate compatible post-COVID recovery in which developed countries lead by example and lead with enhanced financial contributions that are up to the task at hand.

Colleagues,

9. AILAC would like to thank the Subsidiary Bodies Chairs, in particular the SBSTA chair, for organizing informal dialogues among Parties on the issues related to transparency and Article 6 negotiations. These spaces were really useful to resume discussions not only in substantive terms but also on the process and the next steps for the adoption of both, the robust rules for the operationalization of Article 6, as well as the final components of the MPGs under the transparency framework.
10. These dialogues also showed that, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Parties can have fruitful conversations using innovative formats and without losing sight of the ultimate objectives to be achieved. In this line, AILAC recognizes the need to continue with this type of informal spaces, convened by the presidents of the subsidiary bodies in their own capacity or by the incoming Presidency, to advance discussions on issues with high technical and political complexity. During this process, receiving support by the Secretariat could be crucial, especially, in relation to the preparation of technical inputs that can feed and facilitate discussion between the Parties.
11. The Climate Dialogues have been the occasion for constituted bodies like the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Adaptation Committee to showcase the progress they have made in 2020 in their areas of work. However, the Dialogues have also given us the opportunity to listen to the clear messages coming from the best available science that tell us that as temperatures continue to rise due to the lack of reduction of greenhouse gases in a timely and adequate manner, the capacity of human and ecological systems to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change will continue to decrease and to reach its own limits.

12. Many regions of the world are already experiencing limits to adaptation, which translates into loss and damage. Even if we succeed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5°C without overshoot, many impacts on ecosystems and human societies will already be irreversible. It is important to recall that some regions of the world are already experiencing average temperature increases of 1.5, 2 or 2.5°C. Adaptation efforts and goals only make sense below a certain level of temperature increase, be it global or regional. That's why increased ambition and action in adaptation has to be accompanied by increased ambition and action in mitigation that is consistent with 1.5°C pathways.
13. COP 26 will need to have concrete deliverables on action and support for loss and damage. Building on the very fruitful discussions that took place during the Climate Dialogues, one of those deliverables should be a specific mandate for the urgent operationalization of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage.
14. AILAC stands ready to continue engaging in all discussions that set to advance our collective decisions towards enabling ambitious climate actions. We strongly urge all Parties to very much mainstream the clear guidance science has provided for climate action on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation to deliver on 1.5°C. That is our only possible benchmark for success, and as was said by one of our colleagues in one of the sessions this week, "we mustn't let the domestic politics be above the scientific reality" of what the climate crisis demands.

Thank you.