

Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies stocktake on the way forward

30 June 2021

Introduction

We held the sixth of our monthly multilateral consultations on 30 June 2021, serving as a stocktake on the way forward. We were grateful for the active engagement of negotiating groups and Parties, as well as for the remarks made by Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Marianne Karlsen, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

We issued two discussion questions ahead of time to help structure the stocktake. These questions sought Parties' views on the steps that need to be taken to accelerate progress ahead of COP 26 in light of the recent May-June 2021 sessional period of the subsidiary bodies, as well as on the necessary elements of a negotiated outcome that achieves the four COP 26 goals of keeping 1.5°C within reach, protecting people and nature from the impacts of climate change, mobilising finance and encouraging cooperation across borders and across societies.

We recognise the commitment and creativity that has been shown by all Parties in their engagement during the recent sessional period. We continue to count on this collective spirit as we chart a course to Glasgow.

Steps that need to be taken to accelerate progress ahead of COP26

While Parties noted that some progress was made during the May-June 2021 sessional period, the overwhelming view was that much more work remains to be done ahead of COP 26. We were therefore very encouraged to hear suggestions from Parties on how we can accelerate progress and enhance the quality of work in advance of COP 26 with the understanding that work should be Party-driven and undertaken in a balanced, inclusive and transparent manner.

It was clear that Parties would prefer to engage and advance work through in-person meetings. However, Parties were generally of the view that the urgent need to continue addressing the global climate challenge – including by advancing critical tasks before Glasgow - made it necessary to temporarily adopt alternative modes of work as exceptional measures, which do not set a precedent for future work. While some Parties expressed concerns about further virtual work citing challenges that hinder their effective participation, particularly on detailed work on reporting tables, many Parties insisted on the need to continue advancing work through virtual means, or in a hybrid format if needed, with the understanding that in-person meetings would resume as soon as the global COVID-19 situation allows.

Parties expressed appreciation to the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies for their leadership and efforts to help Parties to advance the work, including through capturing progress in their informal notes prepared with the assistance of facilitators. To further advance work, we heard calls from some Parties encouraging us, and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, to propose text that would highlight common ground and potential landing zones to assist Parties in their further deliberations and to undertake intersessional work to help Parties narrow down options.

However, while many Parties highlighted the value of the informal notes as a means of capturing progress, there were also concerns that progress was not consistently captured across issues. Many underlined that informal notes do not represent agreed language and should not be considered as final in any way.

Throughout the discussion, Parties noted that work on all issues should move forward in a balanced manner while acknowledging that issues required different approaches and levels of engagement. We were therefore encouraged to hear Parties continue to support our multi-layered mode of work which includes engagement at three levels – Ministers, Heads of Delegation and experts - complemented by consultations and technical work led by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and supplemented by the continued advice, technical expertise, and mandated work of the constituted bodies.

In this regard, Parties acknowledged our upcoming initiatives including the ministerial consultations on Article 6 led by the ministers of Norway and Singapore, the in-person July ministerial convened by the COP 26 President Designate, the July Heads of Delegation meeting on loss and damage and the plan for informal inter-sessional work on climate finance. In recognizing some of these initiatives, some Parties reiterated the challenges of virtual participation and the importance of ensuring inclusivity and we reiterated our commitment to undertaking our work in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Additionally, we heard calls for further ministerial engagement on issues such as common timeframes and on the global goal on adaptation. We also heard a suggestion to convene an in-person Heads of Delegation meeting in conjunction with future ministerial meetings as well as a proposal to provide space where Heads of Delegation could assess interlinkages including how to bring together a balanced package of decisions at COP 26. We conveyed our intention to consider how we could incorporate these suggestions into our planning for the coming months.

The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies also informed that they would soon be presenting their plans for advancing work in the lead up to Glasgow.

In assessing the need for further work, we heard different views on the need for an additional sessional period of the subsidiary bodies. While some Parties saw value in an additional sessional period, there were different views on the modalities and scope. Some Parties noted that an additional sessional period would only be meaningful if Parties agreed to adopt the agendas and to work on decision text. Other Parties expressed the view that the additional sessional period should only address issues identified as needing additional work prior to Glasgow such as Article 6 and transparency. And other Parties saw value in discussing all issues that were not considered during the May-June sessional period. Many Parties also expressed that under the current circumstances and given the urgency of making progress, they would be flexible in the format of the sessional period (in-person, virtual or hybrid) if transparency and inclusivity are ensured.

We noted that while there was no preference for the timing of the sessional period, we heard a suggestion proposing that an additional sessional period could be convened after constituted bodies have presented their work so that such issues could be considered during the sessional period. The Adaptation Committee's updated technical paper on approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation was given as an example of such ongoing work.

Necessary elements of the negotiated outcome in Glasgow

Looking ahead to Glasgow, Parties highlighted several issues which in their view are necessary components of an ambitious and robust outcome including keeping 1.5°C within reach, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, transparency, Article 6, common time frames and response measures, among other

important topics. Many Parties highlighted the importance of a balanced outcome that leaves no issue behind. Also, some Parties reaffirmed that constituted bodies should continue working to complete their work on time for Glasgow.

We heard strong calls for a clear signal from COP 26 on increasing ambition across all tracks - mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation – responding to the level of ambition shown by Parties ahead of Glasgow. Parties that have not yet submitted their updated NDCs were encouraged to do so ahead of the 30 July deadline so that it could be included in the updated synthesis report of the secretariat. We also heard calls for Parties to come forward with adaptation communications and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. The importance of climate finance as an enabler for enhancing ambition was also highlighted and there were calls for the urgent fulfilment of support pledges, in particular, the developed country collective goal to mobilise jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 and through to 2025.

Parties are keen to launch work in all bodies immediately at the start of the conference and we heard support for a proposal to convene inter-sessional consultations on the agendas, so that Parties can reach a common understanding that would facilitate smooth adoption and swift launch of work.

We also acknowledged widespread appreciation from Parties for the efforts of the Government of the UK to provide COVID-19 vaccines for registered participants of COP 26 with the aim of ensuring an inclusive conference.

We, the Presidency of COP 25 and the incoming-Presidency of COP 26, remain committed to maximizing progress and minimizing delay in the UNFCCC process in spite of the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also remain committed to continuing the close collaboration with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, Parties and the UNFCCC secretariat towards accelerating work in the coming months to achieve an ambitious outcome in Glasgow.

Information on upcoming activities of the Presidencies and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies will be made available on the [Road to Glasgow](#) webpage of the UNFCCC website.