ECOS Intervention for the High-Level Segment of COP31

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues, my name is Manjiri Sonone, and it is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholders informal group.

We will focus our remarks on the agenda item of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), which has been the topic of our formal submissions during this year, and for which we have closely followed the negotiations both during SB64 and here at COP31.

For us, ACE continues to be a vital means of implementation for climate action. We have previously emphasized the need for ACE to have more financial, technical, and institutional support in order to achieve its full potential for implementation.

For this reason, we were pleased to see that some aspects of these needs were taken up with activities and deliverables in the draft of the next 5-year ACE Action Plan, which was under negotiation at this session. And we are therefore very disappointed to see that no consensus was reached on ACE by the closure of its final informal consultation this morning.

We understand the many contentious issues facing parties with the draft text, and appreciate the efforts made toward finding compromises. However, to fail to reach an agreement on ACE, which is about empowering all of society for climate action, and thus losing one year of the Action Plan, sends - in our opinion - a very poor signal from this COP.

Parties must do better next time.

We will conclude by reaffirming the vital role of ACE, the Glasgow Work Programme, and its Action Plans. All members of society must be empowered for and included in climate action, if we hope to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

And ECOS stands ready to support parties and collaborate with everyone in implementing ACE.

We thank you.