

UN Climate Change Conference – SB 58

TUNGO Statement - GST Opening Plenary

Tuesday 6 June 2023

Dear co-facilitators, dear delegates

We are happy to once again be able to participate in the overall assessment. We want to let you know that we greatly appreciated the inclusiveness of the various stakeholders in the discussions, it is refreshing and mobilizing. We very much hope that this will be one of the main conclusions of GST. This may sound trivial, but it is not. The whole world is about to cross the 1.5 °C degree mark. According to the UN World Meteorological Organization, there is a 50% chance that the 1.5 °C will be exceeded by 2026. Every tenth of a degree counts!

The active participation of civil society also requires respect for human rights and inclusiveness. Everyone should be able to express themselves freely. This is the very basis of the social consensus that we must have before even discussing technical issues such as renewable energies. Social and sectoral policies will also need to be put in place, as well as recognition of the role of public services in the fight against climate change. The same goes for industrial policies using a mix of fiscal and sustainable investment policies as well.

Of course, this will not happen without significant financial input. Economic decisions must be people-oriented and based on science and traditional knowledge. It won't be easy, we agree, but what other choice do we have? Really?

In addition, UNFCCC must begin to reflect on the multitude of decisions adopted during the COPs. Although the COPs is a reflection to the realities of the moment, the fact remains that the multiplication of negotiation tables is becoming an issue, not to mention the overlap between some of them. The conclusion of GST cannot be a simple declaration of principle, it must result in a work plan considering the stakes of multiplication.

Therefore, we hope that the discussions this week will be fruitful and structuring and that they will establish the basis for more ambitious NDCs having as central point the just transition implementation, the human rights and structured restructuring of our societies. In closing, we strongly hope that the proposals will ensure the inclusion of civil society in future discussions leading to important decisions.

Let us not be the gravediggers of the Paris Agreement.