

Global Stocktake Opening Plenary – Intervention Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Like-minded Developing Countries, LMDC

Dear colleagues, a good afternoon to you all. It is my pleasure to deliver this intervention on behalf of the Like-Minded Developing Countries, the LMDC.

I would like to begin by extending my warmest thanks to the co-facilitators of the Technical Dialogue, Harald and Farhan, for their efforts in the design of this process, and will continue, as a group to support and work to ensure the success of the global stocktake at all its levels. This, of course, includes continuing to reflect on areas that have been particularly successful and key milestones, as well as areas of improvement and ensuring the party-driven nature of the process is maintained.

Dear colleagues, it should not escape us that the global stocktake represents a critical moment for all of us to jointly reflect on progress we have made thus far, the gaps that need to be filled, as well as opportunities to enhance action and support, and international climate action, towards achieving the Paris Agreement across all its thematic and substantive areas.

I would also like to remind you that we are also having this important dialogue in the context of many different global inter-sectional challenges that we face. And as I speak on behalf of the LMDC, I am representing the challenges, opportunities and diverse trajectories of over half of the world's population, as well as their diverse development aspirations. In this regard, we need to continue to stress the principles that govern us all within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, which are those of equity and CBDR-RC.

We as a group are fully committed to this process and are eager to work with you all for a successful GST and enhanced domestic and global climate action.

For a comprehensive, facilitative and inclusive GST that effectively serves its purpose, an aggregate assessment of progress has to be made based on Equity, of all climate actions i.e. mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support, and addressing the consequences of response measures, just transitions, and averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage.

Farhan invited us to respond to what are the gaps in action and support? Firstly, allow me to reflect on a few stark numbers, to perhaps remind us where we are in some areas, and to provide us with the impetus to use this opportunity to do something about it.

- Pre-2020 – The IPCC Assessment Report (AR4) and most recent 1.5 degrees Special Report indicated that “significant gaps in pre-2020 action even amounting to up to 40-50% existed” and “called for emissions reductions by about 25-40% by developed countries in this period.” – It was the IPCC that had indicated that developed countries must cut their GHGs emissions by at least 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. Between 2008-2012, Annex I countries reduced emissions by only 5%. Within this context, we

need to remind ourselves of the substantive gaps in pre-2020 commitments. We are not starting from scratch here, and we will continue to raise this in any discussion on ambition of action. The Executive Secretary, Ms. Espinosa has notably referenced that the core of our gathering is that of trust, and that “Pledges made are pledges kept”. I hope we can restore and maintain that trust.

- Adaptation finance gap – IPCC WG2 indicates that the “overwhelming majority of global tracked climate finance was targeted to mitigation while a small proportion was targeted to adaptation”. The group notes with concern the remaining astonishing adaptation finance gap that still remains, as well as significant barriers to access to different multilateral; regional and bilateral financing; including the UNFCCC funds. It is impossible for us to achieve the Paris Agreement goals without addressing this unprecedented financial gap in adaptation.
- Carbon budget – According to the IPCC, historical cumulative net CO2 emissions between 1850-2019 amount to about four fifths of the total carbon budget for limiting global warming to 1.5°C and to about two thirds for limiting global warming to 2°C. So, we are faced with the reality of the climate challenge and the concurrent reality of the right of developing countries to develop.

As per the Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, the purpose of the Global Stocktake is to “inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support”. When we talk about **ambition** there are a number of elements we wish to highlight.

- Ambition of announcements and target is no longer sufficient. This is the time for the ambition of implementation and action.
- Ambition is multifaceted and inter-dependent. We cannot discuss ambition of action, without discussing the critical gaps that remain in support.
- There still remains significant pre-2020 gaps and commitments, which we can't ignore. Colleagues, we cannot look forward if we cannot credibly assess accountability of the past.
- We need to urgently push for the required and long-overdue balance between adaptation and mitigation, and the balanced treatment of thematic areas under Paris Agreement in the GST process and outputs. We view the launch of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the GGA as a critical step establishing the Global Goal on Adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change referred to in Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement. The GGA for the LMDC is an overarching goal, which should be global in nature but taking into account different and unique national and regional circumstances. For the GGA design to truly be a success, we need to ensure that any adaptation related action that would feed into

the achievement of the GGA, as well is to be consistent with the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement.

- Let us be reminded that the current \$100 billion goal was set years ago, still unfulfilled. Now a new goal is being established, with no clear understanding of channels or financial instruments, role for public sector of developed countries, role for the operating entities of the financial mechanism and the adaptation fund. This is in the context, again, of a history of 90% of finance having been allocated for mitigation. We remain deeply disappointed that there is still no agreed definition of climate finance and it has taken us a very long time to even give the mandate to the SCF to work on this area. This is very important to our group to be able to ensure accountability and transparency and to be clear that the support provided by developed countries is indeed climate finance and different from developmental assistance or other financing.
- When we talk about the best available science and the outputs of the IPCC, we need to ensure that we are capturing the complete picture, and understanding the IPCC outcomes in their entirety, as opposed to taking a purely mitigation centric approach, which may not capture nuance, regional differences, and the unique opportunities for innovation, technological deployment and international collaboration.
- It is also important to note that many countries of the LMDC and across the developing world have NDCs, net-zero targets, national climate strategies that are ambitious, but may not utilize the same approaches or have the same timelines. Accordingly, we should continue to work together to maintain the bottom-up nature of the Paris Agreement and not look to standardize ambition or associated approaches, but look to continue to learn from each other in this forum and exchange positive practice.
- Although the science and IPCC reports highlights its importance, the work conducted thus far on response measures illustrates multiple shortcomings and limited progress. In order for us to continue to raise ambition, developing countries are in absolute need to fully understand the impacts of the implementation of response measures and to develop tools and methodologies to assess such impacts. Particularly in this context of the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, we need to ensure that this topic is being given the weight it deserves. We have a race to zero, a race to ambition, can we have a race to equity and just transitions?

Colleagues, in yesterday's SBSTA-IPCC special event on WG3, the IPCC Chair noted that "Without climate action sustainable development cannot be achieved", let me also add that without sustainable development, poverty eradication, economic diversification, and just transitions, the global discussion on climate action would be lacking in its effective inclusion of equity, balance and ensuring that we are honestly and truthfully coming together to advance solutions for all.

Thank you.