

## Intervention in the GST TD1.3 Roundtable on Adaptation and Loss and Damage

1. Adaptation and Loss and Damage are two issues of key importance and critical to the success of the GST. We will first comment on the key reflections on this subject in the Summary report of the co-facilitators. With regard to the key messages, we find its elaboration lacking in the following crucial elements:
2. Adaptation and Means of Implementation:
  - a. While adaptation action is undoubtedly local, it is universally recognized that communities and regions require assistance, support, knowledge and means of implementation from outside, from beyond the region and from beyond national borders.
  - b. Developing countries in particular require finance, technology transfer and capacity building support for adaptation.
  - c. The most damaging consequence of the failure of the provision of these means of implementation has been on adaptation. In particular, while climate finance has fallen far short of the promised USD 100 billion for several years now, the proportion going to adaptation has been a minor fraction. We find that the treatment of this in the reflections inadequate.
  - d. Once again, as in mitigation, we emphasize that means of implementation is also a cross-cutting issue and forms a fundamental element for every thematic issue on which further considerations need to be built upon.
3. Adaptation and Development:
  - a. Our experience in India, as well as the scientific literature shows clearly the fundamental role of basic social and economic development in managing vulnerability and promoting adaptation.
  - b. The IPCC Working Group II SPM notes in B.1.6: "Regions and people with considerable development constraints have high vulnerability to climatic hazards (high confidence)." Further in B.3.2 it is noted: "In the near term, climate-associated risks to natural and human systems depend more strongly on changes in their vulnerability and exposure than on differences in climate hazards between emissions scenarios (high confidence)."
  - c. Nevertheless, there is virtually no input at all into the GST on this critical relationship.
  - d. Even more, there is little note of the fact that adaptation increases the cost of development and it would be facile to consider development as a co-benefit to adaptation or vice-versa without any reference to costs.. Adaptation is a new and additional cost to development.
4. Over-emphasis on maladaptation:
  - a. We are deeply concerned at the over-emphasis on maladaptation.
  - b. Adaptation is a process taking care of development along with the need to cope with increased climate risks. However, without clarifying this relation there are sweeping suggestions that maladaptation is a serious issue and implicating broader development efforts as increasing climate risks.
  - c. Indeed, while the failure of adaptation finance should be our over-riding priority, there is equal concern expressed on re-aligning even this meagre

finance away from so-called misaligned financial flows flowing to “maladaptation.”

5. Adaptation and Climate Resilient Development:

The development issue is further complicated by the references to the term “climate resilient development” unfortunately appear without any of the caveats and nuances that have been noted by the IPCC. At the risk of some length:

- a. “Climate resilient development pathways are progressively constrained by every increment of warming, in particular beyond 1.5°C, social and economic inequalities, the balance between adaptation and mitigation varying by national, regional and local circumstances and geographies, according to capabilities including resources, vulnerability, culture and values, past development choices leading to past emissions and future warming scenarios, bounding the climate resilient development pathways remaining, and the ways in which development trajectories are shaped by equity, and social and climate justice. (Very high confidence).”
- b. Again: Opportunities for climate resilient development are not equitably distributed around the world. Climate impacts and risks exacerbate vulnerability and social and economic inequities and consequently increase persistent and acute development challenges, especially in developing regions and sub-regions.
- c. So, even if the term climate resilient development means the combination of mitigation and adaptation at the global scale, this cannot be taken to mean the reduction of this definition to every scale. We do not see the necessary clarity on this, that is essential to defining the priorities of the developing countries.
- d. Climate resilient development will be constrained in the first instance, as the IPCC itself has noted, by the exhaustion of the global carbon budget, and the scarcity of the remaining carbon budget. As India has always noted and the scientific literature has also upheld, climate finance should be benchmarked by the disproportionate use of carbon space of developed countries at an appropriate carbon price.