

Submission by Ghana on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Climate Change

Inputs for the Belém Mission to 1.5

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) welcomes the opportunity to submit its views in response to the initial call for inputs by the COP Presidencies in relation to the **Belém Mission to 1.5** with the understanding that the views expressed will be used to identify high impact barriers and opportunities NDC and NAP implementation. It is also on the understanding that action and support under Belém Mission to 1.5°C must be informed by the best available science, on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development.

1. What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs.

- a. **Scaling up finance and making climate finance predictable:** The largest barrier to the implementation of NDCs and NAPs remains insufficiency and unpredictability of climate finance. Ambition should match resources required for implementation. International public climate finance is slow, fragmented, or inaccessible while adaptation remains underfunded (only ~20–25% of global climate finance) and is plagued by complex donor requirements and delays in project execution. The current international finance architecture needs reform if it is going to deliver on the Paris Agreement objective of directing financial flows towards low emission and climate resilient development. In addition, high debt burdens limit fiscal space for climate investments resulting in NDCs and NAPs becoming unfunded mandates.
- b. **Ramping up private sector engagement:** Private sector participation remains limited due to perceived investment risks on the continent resulting in high costs of borrowing for impact project implementation. Smaller economies mean limited scope for providing incentives and this is compounded by climate governance and regulatory frameworks which are still evolving. Limited private sector technical capacity to tap into climate opportunities particularly those related to adaptation and resilience building. The result is that public budgets carry much of the burden, slowing implementation.
- c. **Improved innovations and access to climate technologies:** Whilst the costs of renewable energy technologies are decreasing, affordability is still a challenge. There is still limited access to climate-smart agriculture, early warning systems, blue economy and nature-based solutions technologies and intellectual property restrictions are getting worse. Innovation ecosystems in developing countries remain underfunded and without adequate resources. Technologies and associated capacity building to enable a just transition for workers and community affected by response measures remains a pipedream. With current scenario, African countries simply cannot deploy the technologies needed to meet targets.

2. What is required to further strengthen international cooperation to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

- a. **Strengthening multilateral engagements within the framework of the UNFCCC:** Critical discussions such as fossil fuel transition, just transition and adaptation should to the extent possible be discussed within the broader inclusive framework of the UNFCCC acknowledging the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in light of national circumstances and respective capabilities. New initiatives should strive to be inclusive and complementary to the UNFCCC efforts not competing alternatives. While pursuing international cooperation, ambition should be contextualised, broader development barriers acknowledged and multilateral entities resourced.
- b. **Acknowledging and addressing the harmful impacts of unilateral trade barriers:** NDC and NAP implementation requirements for developing countries are beyond their current capacity to provide the requisite climate finance partly because of weaker economies and limited trade linkages and export volumes. Thus, trade should be an integral element of the discussions as it enables better financial flows from the north to the south including for low carbon development and resilience building. Unilateral trade measures should be discouraged. Diversification of export portfolios away from climate-sensitive commodities should be encouraged and incentivised in the context of NDC and NAP implementation.
- c. **Encouraging inclusive, multi-level and multi-stakeholder cooperation:** South–South and North-South cooperation platforms including those developed within the framework of the UNFCCC (eg. NMA Platform) should be enhanced and operationalised to enable matchmaking, joint implementation, technology transfer and development as well as capacity building for NDC and NAP implementation. At national and international levels, there should be improved government partnerships with private sector, academia, and civil society as envisioned under the Global Implementation Accelerator. In addition, engaging indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth is critical as low emission development and resilience building programme implementation happens on the ground and should therefore have the buy in of those greatest affected by climate change.

3. Relating Belém Mission to 1.5 to other processes

- a. The Belém Mission to 1.5 should be viewed as encompassing a wider stream of initiatives under the action agenda. Such a view should assist in streamlining elements that are best achieved through Belém Mission to 1.5 and those that are better dealt with in other spheres. The wider stream includes Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA) which must be an instrument to accelerate delivery. In the Global Mutirão decision, the GIA has a clear focus on national action in the implementation of NDCs and NAPs. Given that context, Belém Mission to 1.5 could focus on the strengthening international cooperation required to influence and accelerate processes within the UNFCCC and other spheres including international financial architecture reform, the role of trade and streamlining increasingly fragmented pathways and approaches.

- b. The road to 1.5 will not be complete without strong initiatives and efforts to address adaptation and loss & damage. Support to NDC adaptation components, NAPs and responses to loss & damage are, in the AGNs view, the frameworks that define practical steps towards addressing climate injustice and forms the basis for the trust required to achieve the objectives of Belém Mission to 1.5.

END OF SUBMISSION