

Remarks of Republic of Vanuatu

GST Roundtable on Adaptation and Loss & Damage

3:00pm 8 June 2023

Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues

Vanuatu aligns with the views expressed by G77 & China, AOSIS and the Pacific SIDS in this session.

Vanuatu is very proud of our ground-breaking approach to incorporate a Loss & Damage and Adaptation commitments sections in our Nationally Determined Contribution.

In response to the obligations in the Glasgow Pact, we revised and enhanced our entire NDC, including 12 Loss & Damage Targets and 116 Adaptation Targets which ensure that we are approaching climate action from a whole of government and whole of society approach. We hope that this will serve as a model for what is possible as an outcome of this GST process.

We have costed Vanuatu's NDC plan, and will require, as a floor, at least 1.2 billion USD by 2030 in finance, technical assistance and technology.

But of course, a country's ability to effectively implement its NDCs and adaptation and L&D climate policies is enclosed by factors that transcend transparency (lack of finance, capacities, and development challenges).

The course correction required as an outcome of this Stocktake process must emphasise means of implementation, and we expect that both the political declaration and decision text to include mandated obligations in this regard.

Other things we expect to see in the outcome is

- A concrete and rapid doubling of adaptation finance including prioritizing approaches for locally-led adaptation,
- Further Political mandates to mobilise new and additional finance for loss and damage catalysed by the Loss & Damage Fund
- A requirement that all climate action on adaptation and loss and damage respects human rights, especially concerning indigenous peoples and local communities, women rights and intergenerational justice.
- We must, in the GST outcome, establish concrete accountability mechanisms for both State and non-state actors so that we will not come back in 5 years to find that little has been achieved and Vanuatu's risk has been exponentially increased

Finally, Vanuatu demands that the GST outcome allow for no greenwashing by unambitious States or the corporations that influence them. Science-based targets are the only ones that must be allowed, aligned with 1.5C as the benchmark.

In the Pacific, our Ministers have explicitly linked fossil fuels with the loss and damage now being experienced, and this level of political ambition and signalling must make it its way into the GST outcome.

The course correction is urgent and existential for Vanuatu, and the solutions are many and implementable. But unless the Parties in this room decide to work for global transformation, we will continue to see short-sighted national priorities take us to even further dangerous impacts that are far beyond the capacity of adaptation to minimize.

Our ambition this year will determine the number of human lives lost, and the livability of this planet.

Let me confirm that in Vanuatu you have the highest ambition ally for a robust and action oriented GST outcome on adaptation and loss and damage.