

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group
at the Opening Plenary of the 50th Session of the Subsidiary Body for
Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for
Implementation (SBI)**

17 June 2019

Conference of Parties President,

Madam Executive Secretary and Presiding Officers of the Subsidiary Bodies

Distinguished Delegates,

The Arab Republic of Egypt is speaking on behalf of the 54 African countries. The Africa Group associates itself with the statement made by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of G77 and China.

The Africa Group would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Poland for a successful Presidency and outcomes of the COP24. We want to congratulate the Republic of Chile as the incoming President and pledge our full support for a successful COP25.

Chairs,

The Africa Group would like to thank you, Chairs, for the organization of work and launching work. We appreciate the SBSTA Chair for the reflections note and the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved so far. As you the Chair of SBSTA noted, the CO₂ concentrations have increased to the highest level in human history and the urgent action needed to address it. This has led to unavoidable catastrophic climatic events in the world.

The Africa Group wish to highlight the impacts of these extreme events across the continent.

- In North Africa, in Algeria and Libya, flash floods and heavy rainfall has displaced more than thousands of people and deaths are reported. and desert storms and heatwaves in Egypt has affected lives.

- In East Africa, the region faced extreme drought in Ethiopia and Kenya, which affected livestock, water, crops, wildlife, and the energy sector. In Somalia, 2.2 million people are in need of humanitarian aid as a result of prolonged drought.
- Another extreme event in the Western Africa region is flash floods, in Mali, homes and properties are destroyed displacing thousands and resulting loss of lives. In Southern Africa, cyclones severely affected Mozambique and also neighboring countries Malawi and Zimbabwe.
- In Mozambique, 3 million people are affected, with estimated USD 1.4 billion in total damage, and USD 1.4 billion in losses. The recovery and reconstruction cost is estimated to be 2.9 billion USD. In Malawi, the president has declared a state of national disaster due to devastating floods, where the lives of more than 870,000 people are affected. A post-disaster assessment done by World Bank and UNDP indicate that around USD 222 million is needed for the recovery. In addition, in Zimbabwe El Nino-induced drought has affected 5.3 million and USD 234 million is required to avert hunger.
- Equally worrisome for the group is the number of increasing resource use conflicts, across the continent, closely related to climatic events that displaces large populations and contributes to increasing socio-economic and political insecurity.

The African continent is under severe pressure more than ever due to these extreme events, and the countries most affected are countries with existing capacity and development challenges related to difficulties accessing support. For Africa to fully implement the Paris Agreement, it must be a vehicle for implementation rather than just a process for reporting action.

- We recognize the support that was provided by the GCF and welcome the doubling of pledges by Parties to the GCF, like Germany. We also thank the Parties that have provided financial support. The successful replenishment of GCF will ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and Paris Agreement. However, the Africa Group is concerned with the growing appetite of some Parties to shift from

pledges to loans and possible conditionality becoming a major requirement for support. The Africa Group expects the replenishment process to conclude with a doubling of the pledges from the IRM, and the recognition to of the importance of grant-based resources for developing countries, particularly for adaptation.

- On the broader finance architecture, we are concerned with attempts to sunset funds like the CIF at a time the GEF climate allocation is reduced by 40% and GCF has a short fall of 3 billion.
- The Africa Group would also like to raise our concerns following the lack of prioritization on further work from the Katowice outcome on adaptation. The Africa Group is disappointed that the elaboration of further adaptation work is mandated to the AC. The AC has limited representation and resources; therefore, it is important for Parties to engage in the process, and that the AC gives regular updates on its progress.
- On the public registries, the Africa group would like to express its expectation that the prototype of the registry will be made available online before the mandated event to allow parties to make informed engagements.

On the joint agenda items, Chairs,

- **On TOR of the WIM,** The Africa Group would like to underscore the importance of enhancing the WIM through the review the WIM. On discussions on the TOR, it is important to assess the role of institutional arrangements and mechanisms in relation to their effectiveness in the provision of adequate levels of finance and support to meet the needs of vulnerable countries related to the implementation of concrete actions on ground. It is our view that the COP continues to be the authority over the WIM in accordance with decision 2/CP.19, and the COP may provide additional guidance to the WIM through the CMA for the consideration of loss and damage under the Paris Agreement.
- **On the Scope of the next periodic review of the Convention,** the Africa Group highlights the importance of ensuring that the scope of the next periodic review

explicitly encompasses an assessment of the extent of implementation of the Convention as part and parcel of assessing the adequacy of the long-term global goal. The Group recommends the new review should be guided by science and equity as well as the adequacy of provision of support. Acknowledging the role and function of the GST under the Paris Agreement, we stress the need for this agenda item, especially since it's a review under the Convention and of overall progress in achieving its goals.

- **On Response Measures,** The African Group welcomes the opportunity to develop a six-year workplan for the Forum and Katowice Committee of Experts for Response Measures (KCI). We stand prepared and ready to support the process of developing a robust workplan which has concrete activities that will help African countries to address the negative impacts of response measures taken by developed countries on our socio-economic development, including unilateral measures taken which should not constitute arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination against other parties or a disguised restriction on international trade. We express our concern about the very slow progress of work and persistence of some parties to make the KCI ineffective by blocking all important rules of procedure which will allow the KCI to be effective and to function as per agreed decisions.
- **On agriculture,** the Africa Group welcomes the workshops on agriculture focused on adaptation issues, and it is our view that the discussions and the outcomes of the two in-session workshops should provide ground for immediate implementation, including through mobilized and accessible means of implementation for NAPs and NDCs.

On SBI agenda items, Chair

The Africa Group would like to bring the following to your attention and Parties;

- **On agenda item 3**, Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, the African Group is very concerned by the status of compilation, submission, synthesis and review of the national communications and biennial reports from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. Parties with significant emissions have not submitted their communications, which makes the synthesis of the information contained in the reports by the Secretariat incomplete and inaccurate.
- **On agenda item 4**, the African Group stresses the need for continued and enhanced financial support to African countries for meeting their existing reporting requirements under the Convention, and their future reporting under the Paris Agreement. In addition, it is essential for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework that capacity-building be adequately supported, through financial support to developing countries and to the Secretariat as required. It is also imperative that there is no change in the funding arrangements for developing countries for National Communications after 2024. Under this agenda item we will also be considering the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts – their ongoing and future role is extremely important to the African Group in supporting current reporting, and supporting the transition to and implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.
- **On agenda item 5**, common time frames, we welcome the progress and the in-depth exchange of views by Parties on this agenda item. The Africa Group views common time frames as fundamental to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding (CTU) of NDCs.
- **On agenda item 11**, on development and transfer of technology, the African Group welcomes the report of the GEF and evaluation report of the Poznan Strategic Programme. We look forward to the consideration of the achievements, lessons learnt and recommendations in the reports as well as consideration of the same in

perspective of the ongoing work on technology under the convention in informing further action with respect to Poznan strategic programme.

- **On agenda item 12**, the discussion on membership of the Adaptation Fund board should reflect Party ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- **On agenda item 13**, on items relating to capacity building, the Africa Group is of the view that reappointing the current PCCB committee for another term would enable the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Africa group would also like to highlight the urgent need of support to the PCCB to implement its work plan.
- **On agenda item 17**, on arrangements for intergovernmental meetings, it is important that the COP continues providing the needed guidance for the effective implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The intergovernmental arrangements should reflect the urgent need to address climate change and take ambitious action. The agenda of the CMA should reflect the structure of the Paris Agreement.
- **On agenda item 18**, on matters relating to the budget, this is an important agenda item that ensures the effective implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as the necessary support for the Secretariat. The Africa Group wishes to highlight the need to allocate resources to both adaptation and mitigation activities, and to fund the necessary personnel. In addition, sufficient resources must be allocated to fully support the constituted bodies, to ensure effective implementation of their mandated work.

On SBSTA agenda items, Chair

- **On agenda item 10, Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement**, the African Group stresses that discussion under this agenda item should be in accordance with Paris Agreement obligations and the MPGs adopted at COP24, and should clearly reflect the flexibility afforded to developing countries. For the

reporting tables, BR and BUR reporting tables should form the basis of work. The African Group in particular recognizes the importance of reporting on support provided and mobilized by developed countries and sees the SBSTA work on CTFs as consistent with Article 13.9 of the Paris Agreement. The conclusion of Item 10 at SBSTA 50 should outline the timelines and sources of inputs for each session until COP26.

- **On agenda item 11, Matters relating to Article 6,** Although we did not succeed in adopting a decision on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in Katowice, we welcome the progress made at the session which could serve as a basis for our forthcoming negotiations. Nevertheless, we insist on the need to discuss all the issues (technical and political) at the expert level in order to allow a better understanding of the Parties' positions and to have the opportunity to find compromise solutions or prepare clear options for negotiation.
- **On agenda item 13, Cooperation with other international organization,** the African Group acknowledges the important role of this agenda item. We, however, note that the additional events may be challenging taking into account both subsidiary bodies have a heavy workload. Thus, the group notes the important information from the events.

We look forward to working with you and other Parties for a successful outcome here in Bonn.

Thank you!