

Statement by Egypt at the Opening Plenary of the 52nd Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)

31 May 2021

Madam Executive Secretary,
Presiding Officers,
Fellow distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to associate the delegation of Egypt with the statements delivered by Guinea on behalf of G77 and China, Gabon on behalf of African Group of Negotiators, Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab Group, and Bolivia on behalf of the LMDCs. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of the COP Presidency, the SB Chairs, and the Secretariat for moving us forward in these challenging times.

All parties, but particularly developing country parties, have been going through uncharted and challenging times since the outbreak of the COVID-19 in early 2020. The grave toll in terms of loss of life, public health challenges, and adverse impacts on economic activity, have augmented the development challenges faced by developing countries. But in parallel, the challenges of climate change continue unabated, with Egypt, as other countries, facing an increasingly urgent need for adaptation action. Egypt is therefore fully committed to contributing constructively in the international deliberations on climate change, including this 52nd session of the SBs. Indeed, we hope this will be an important milestone on the road to COP26 in Glasgow. Egypt has always been a firm believer that in moving forward our deliberations, no harm should come to the African countries' right to development or impede their efforts to eradicate poverty, taking into consideration that while the African continent contributes the least to global emissions, yet it is the most affected by the impacts of climate change.

At this stage, allow me to share three key elements of what we look forward to achieving progress on in the UNFCCC process in the coming period and leading up to COP26, including this SBs session:

On **Adaptation**, I would like to emphasize the importance of adaptation as a priority for developing countries especially the African countries. In particular, we firmly

believe that operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation is essential to achieving balance in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the reports of the Adaptation Committee that have been deferred for consideration in Glasgow, as such, we are deferring the consideration of the entire three-year workplan of the Adaptation Committee until the end of this year, and limiting the guidance by parties on those mandates, we therefore call for launching work on the consideration of the Adaptation Committee Reports at this session and for work to continue in the following sessions.

On **Climate Finance**, Egypt would like to stress the importance of meeting the financial goal to raise USD 100 Billion annually by 2020, as well as galvanizing efforts to ensure the provision of the other means of implementation related to capacity building and technology transfer. We cannot address the issue of climate action and increased ambition without addressing the issue of climate finance. We continue to believe that the setting parameters for climate finance should always be predictable, sufficient and takes into consideration the balance between adaptation and mitigation.

On **Agriculture**, Koronivia has taken us a step forward by considering agriculture under the SBI, the number of workshops that have been conducted to examine adaptation and mitigation co-benefits aiming at concluding the process by COP 26 with a clear outcome to pave the way towards implementation. This while taking into consideration the diversity of agricultural systems and regional differences, especially for small scale farmers, and to ensure food security and promote agriculture and sustainable development to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Finally, while acknowledging the challenges before us, including with the virtual platforms that cannot replace face-to-face engagement and negotiation in order to arrive at consensus outcomes, yet we must not waver from our collective commitment to achieve ambitious and balanced outcomes in any way we can. In this regard, Egypt has the honor to host the regional hub of the African Group of Negotiators for this SBs session in Sharm El Sheikh. We are committed to spare no effort to have a successful outcome in COP26 in Glasgow that would serve the interest of all parties in a balanced way to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Thank you.