



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY AMBASSADOR AMMAR HIJAZI, CHAIR OF THE G77 AND CHINA FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROCESS, AT THE JOINT OPENING PLENARY OF SBI AND SBSTA 50, 17 JUNE 2019, BONN, GERMANY

Distinguished Chairs,

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, please allow me to express the Group's appreciation to you for your dedicated efforts to guide us as we all prepare for the next phase of our work to enhance the implementation of the UNFCCC and complete the rules and modalities for fair and efficient application of the Paris Agreement under the Convention. We assure you that the State of Palestine's chairmanship of the G77 and China Group shall maintain and advance the collaboration and active engagement of the Group aimed at the success of our collective endeavors at this critical stage of the process.

The Group stresses that Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and its widespread, unprecedented impacts burden all countries, in particular developing countries amongst which the poorest and the most vulnerable live. The latest heat waves and severe temperature fluctuations, as well as droughts and floods, that have hit many parts of the world during the past few weeks are only a reminder that the devastating effects of climate change are real and sudden.

The Group reiterates its calls for mobilizing further action and support on the issue of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage, in a manner that takes into account the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries, in particular those vulnerable to the adverse effects of Climate Change.

We also reiterate that pre-2020 action is the foundation for the post-2020 phase of the regime. The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol is one crucial element of the pre-2020 effort. The G77 and China remain concerned that a significant number of ratifications of the Doha Amendment are still pending and called on those Parties that have not yet done so to ratify it as a matter of urgency.

At COP24 in Katowice, the G77 and China did its utmost to engage constructively in all the negotiations of the APA, SBI and SBSTA, realizing the responsibility that we all share in enhancing the UNFCCC and advancing the work program for the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the Convention, and remaining true to its purpose and principles, including equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. Together, we achieved progress in a number of areas but do note that the outcomes, to some extent, have been uneven.

At this SB50 session, the Group believes that it is of utmost importance that we strive for greater balance in our work in accomplishing those items that we were not able to conclude at COP24, which we believe can be achieved through closer coordination between the SBI and SBSTA, while ensuring that the process remains transparent, inclusive and Party-driven.

As we look at the range of agenda items in both subsidiary bodies that we are tasked to deal with at this session, we see that there are several elements that are of great importance to ensuring balance and creating the conditions for the effective enhancement of the UNFCCC and full implementation of the Paris Agreement under the Convention. These include, for example, the provision of the means of implementation including finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, to developing countries. To ensure that the work of our Secretariat is effective, efficient, functional, and balanced, we expect that the discussions for the budget for the biennium 2020 – 2021 to progress well and that financial contributions by Parties are duly delivered.

On climate finance issues, to reflect urgency and ambition, it is critical that the continuity, mobilization, provision and accessibility of finance resources from developed to developing countries is ensured and massively scaled up with adequate, new, additional and predictable finance resources, particularly through the GCF, while ensuring simplified access modalities and more effective policies, in order to facilitate the transformation required by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and consistent with the SDGs. We must build on the complementarity and coherence within the broader climate finance architecture and maximize the significant results and proven business models of existing funds.

While we note the support that the GCF has provided for developing countries towards the implementation of their climate actions and projects, we are concerned with the shortfalls of some pledges of the Initial Resource Mobilization as well as persistent access problems, delays in accreditation of developing country entities, sub-optimal disbursement and new emerging conditionalities. More active, flexible and innovative measures and methods should be taken to accelerate the accreditation of developing country entities to implement climate change projects in developing countries. Developed countries should scale up their contributions to the GCF so as to at least double the contributions from the initial resource mobilization period, ensure that they match the needs and priorities of developing countries, be in line with existing GCF policies, and result in an ambitious expected first replenishment by the end of 2019. We are gravely concerned by the trend we are witnessing of grants giving way to loans, increasing co-financing ratios, loss of concessionality through blending arrangements and lack of risk appetite, which adds to the debt burden of developing countries, exclude others from their right to support and further upset the balance between adaptation funding and commercially based mitigation projects.

We are also concerned by the application of unilateral coercive economic measures that affect the capabilities of developing countries to finance their efforts in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In this context it is of utmost importance for all necessary measures to be undertaken to depoliticize the flow of international resources by all financial mechanisms under the convention and its Paris Agreement. The Group also reiterates its deep concern at the lack of response from GEF to communications from parties and once again insists on the necessity of making all financial resources accessible to all eligible country parties.

The work under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement that recognizes the importance of Parties taking action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d) of the UNFCCC, including intact forests, should be undertaken including the scientific assessment of the role of intact tropical forests as such sinks and reservoirs.

The unfinished work from Katowice includes, under matters relate to science and review, the consideration of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; the work on methodological issues for communication and reporting; and the work under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, to be tackled by the SBSTA. In undertaking the work on these agenda items, it is important to the Group that the principles of the Convention as applied to its Paris Agreement be fully reflected consistent with Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.

The Group highlights the importance of several items in both SBI and SBSTA agendas, and believes that due consideration to the concerns of the members of our Group must be taken into account to ensure progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. These include the work on Article 6 under SBSTA agenda item 11, Technology transfer under SBI agenda item 11, Capacity Building under SBI agenda item 13, common time frames for NDC's under SBI Agenda item 5, Adaptation under SBSTA Agenda item 3, Agriculture under both SBI and SBSTA, Transparency framework modalities under SBSTA 10, matters on science and review under SBSTA 6 and SBI 7 and on Annex I reporting under SBSTA 8 and SBI 3.

In this context, below are some specific points with respect to some of the agenda items that the Group wishes to stress:

- The work on the terms of reference for the review of the Warsaw Implementation Mechanism on Loss and Damage under SBSTA agenda item 4 and SBI agenda item 9 is of great importance to the Group as climate change impacts bring about increased loss and damage to our countries' peoples, territories, and economies. The terms of reference to be developed must ensure that the 2019 review and the WIM address the concerns of developing countries are being taken into account and that the result of the 2019 review is a WIM able to avert, minimize, and address issues of loss and damage through facilitated access to functional and operational support in line with the principles of the Convention and its Paris Agreement.
- On response measures under SBSTA and SBI, the Group reaffirms the importance of giving full consideration to identifying the necessary actions to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures, and to avoid the negative economic and social consequences of response measures on developing countries. We strongly welcome the successful establishment of the Katowice Committee of Experts on Impacts of Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) to support the Forum and the Paris Agreement and to provide a space for experts to discuss the social and economic consequences of climate change actions. The Group also acknowledges the inauguration of the first KCI meeting that took place June 13-14, 2019 and welcomes the successful outcomes.

- The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, addressed both by SBSTA and the SBI, is a recognition of the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change, as well as its importance for food production. It also allows for Parties to discuss the place of agriculture in responding to climate change. Under this joint work, the Group has benefited from previous workshops and look forward to forthcoming ones that will constitute an opportunity to improve capacity building for developing countries, and to explore alternatives for working on agriculture with the constituted bodies under the Convention.
- The Group also wishes to highlight the importance of Action for Climate Empowerment and its thematic areas as fundamental to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, and for the effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures. The work on the terms of reference for the review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention under SBI agenda item 15 must clearly reflect the outcomes of the work done, including both good practices and remaining gaps and needs, in order to enhance the work towards the implementation under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. The Group also welcomes the 7th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment, and invite all colleagues to engage on the earlier discussions on the final review of the Doha work programme.
- On transparency, the Group achieved a significant milestone with the adoption of a robust set of modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) at COP-24 in Katowice last year. We are pleased that flexibility has been provided in the MPGs for developing countries in the light of our capacities. The Group looks forward to working with partners to develop the mandated reporting tables, formats and outlines, as well as a training programme for technical experts. It would be important to ensure that the outcomes facilitate transparent reporting without placing undue burden on developing countries. These outcomes should also respect the balance that was achieved at COP-24. We also emphasise the importance for sufficient support to be provided to support developing countries' capacity-building efforts so as to facilitate our participation in the ETF. It is also essential to further develop the transparency system related to adaptation.
- Another relevant SBI agenda item under this session is reporting and review of Annex I Parties. The Group sees with great concern that Annex I Parties have not yet submitted their 7th National Communication and their 3rd Biennial Reports under the Convention. This situation negatively affects the generation of trust among parties, especially taking into account that this session will deal with the mandate to negotiate the Revision of the Guidelines on national communications. It worth mentioning that the Convention is our universal participation framework to deal with Climate Change. In addition, the lack of consolidated data of Annex I Parties creates great difficulties to understand the speed and depth of Annex I Parties' implementation of their existing commitments up to 2020 on mitigation and the provision of the means of implementation to developing countries.
- On the SBI agenda item on reporting from non-Annex I Parties to the Convention, this session also deals with relevant keystones of the existing MRV arrangement under the Convention, including the revision of the modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis, provision of financial and technical support, and the terms of reference of the

Consultative Group of Experts. The latter is relevant not only to the MRV arrangement under the Convention (universal to all Parties) but also to fully complete the MRV architecture for implementation under the Paris Agreement.

- On technology transfer, the Group firmly believes that, greater access to green technologies is vital for developing countries to improve resilience and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The technology outcomes of Katowice, with overarching guidance provided by the Technology Framework, and the Periodic Assessment to ensure the effectiveness, adequacy and predictability on financial support, have the potential to enable faster transfer of green technologies to developing countries. These outcomes should be made operational as soon as possible.
- The Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer (PSP) has significant potential supplementing the Technology Mechanism in achieving the long-term technology vision, and we want to see such endeavor continued and strengthened. The Group applauds Technology Executive Committee (TEC) for the efforts made in preparing the updated evaluation report on PSP, the key findings and recommendations provide directions where relevant bodies can work together in enhancing synergies and cooperation on technology transfer.
- The establishment of the PCCB as the body to ensure coordination and coherence in the capacity-building work of different entities is a welcomed. However, it is important to underscore the need for institutional strengthening and support provision to enable the implementation of capacity building activities in developing countries. On the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, we look forward to engaging constructively on the matter. As we all know, the NDCs are integral part of the Paris Agreement. As such, we welcome the 3rd meeting of the PCCB to continue to focus on the area of capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in the context of the Paris Agreement. It would be important that the 8th Durban forum exchange views on the financing and implementation of NDCs.
- On the Secretariat budget under SBI agenda item 18, the Group is calling for balance in the allocation of resources for items of concern to developing countries to ensure effective implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, and the support for the Secretariat.

Distinguished Chairs, in the light of what was consistently been stated by my distinguished predecessor from Egypt as the Chair of the G77 and China for 2018, it is imperative to urgently scale up action and support for adaptation, a critical priority for developing country Parties, which are undoubtedly and increasingly experiencing the greatest and most adverse impacts of climate change. By doing this, we will be restoring the much needed balance for this process that duly reflects differentiation between developed and developing countries and the scaling up of support to the latter.

At this session, and going towards COP25 in Chile, we again have a new opportunity to right our course and ensure that all of the elements that had been so finely balanced under the Convention and its Paris Agreement get reflected and implemented in a balanced way in terms of the finalization of their operational modalities to scale up action and ambition. This is our challenge and our opportunity. This means that the foundational principles of CBDR and equity must be reflected, and that the real differences between developed and developing countries in terms of both historical responsibility and capability are taken into account and fully reflected.

Thank you very much.