

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL ON BEHALF OF BASIC AT THE OPENING PLENARY OF SB 50

17 June 2019

Mr President,

Brazil has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the BASIC group comprising of Brazil, South Africa, India and China. The BASIC Group would like to begin by thanking the German government, as well as the city of Bonn, for their warm welcome and hospitality, once again. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the COP presidency, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Secretariat for their dedication and efforts to assist us in guiding our discussions.

BASIC aligns itself with the statement made by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We remain committed to fighting climate change and will actively participate in the discussions, so that we can fulfill the promises we made in 2015 and secure the common interests of the international community, in particular those of developing countries.

Mr President,

We have come a long way since Paris and are now shifting gears to implementation mode. In Katowice, we worked to strengthen the multilateral climate change regime and managed to agree upon the bulk of the Paris Agreement Work Programme. However, further work is still needed to conclude remaining items and to further develop those that we already have agreement on.

As the latest report and data from the IPCC demonstrate, curbing global warming is a challenge that demands ambition and cooperation from all of us. Ambition without the necessary means to act is hollow. A long-term finance goal is one of the crucial signals that this regime must give to investors, both public and private, in order to match the urgency of climate change.

We recognize that, as per the Katowice decision on long-term finance, formal debate on setting a new goal will only commence next year. However, the matter is too critical and too urgent to remain mute during this session. Our stance is even more critical now, given that the 7th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has shown a decrease in the amount allocated to climate change compared to GEF 6, and the signals received from some donor countries in the replenishment discussions of the Green Climate Fund are worrying. In order to set a higher bar for our climate ambition, we must count on adequate, predictable and sufficient means of implementation and expect our partners from developed countries to take the lead. It is unac-

ceptable that some developed countries are reneging on their pledges and the trend we are witnessing of entire categories of developing countries being unilaterally graduated out of their right to support and grants giving way to loans and conditional and co-financing arrangements further undermines multilateralism.

We also recognize that our discussions here will help inform, overall, the pre-2020 Stocktake at COP-25, a crucial step in assessing the implementation gaps and setting the stage for a post-2020 phase of the regime. We will not accept the shifting of the pre-2020 gaps to developing countries.

The BASIC group stresses that the guiding principles of the Convention, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities remain central to the multilateral response to climate change. Differentiation has been reflected in each and every decision adopted in Katowice, according to the relevant context of the Agreement provision.

On this note, an important outcome of COP-24 was the adoption of a decision on transparency that recognizes that developing country Parties have “different starting points” and need flexibility to improve reporting and transparency over time.

BASIC hopes that during the next meetings we can agree on general principles to guide the work of SBSTA when preparing the common tables as mandated in Katowice. We also hope that Parties are able to bear in mind the potential challenges developing countries faced and support needed in preparing their Biannual Transparency Reports. BASIC countries reiterate that transparency applies not only to mitigation, but also to adaptation and means of implementation support. In this regard, it is essential to further develop the adaptation and support aspects of transparency.

BASIC also underscores the need for progress on common time frames and look forward to working under the mandate of the SBI to reach a common understanding on the matter, in time to inform the next round of NDCs. We also welcome the decision on common metrics, which will pave the way for us to explore alternative metrics to report GHG emissions under the SBSTA agenda item.

Our countries are pleased to see the results of the first events held under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and wish to have a very productive session on this issue. We are equally pleased to see the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, a recognition of the contribution of local communities and indigenous peoples and their valuable knowledge to address climate change. Regarding the terms of reference of WIM, we hope to enhance WIM and its Excom function through taking stock their past outputs under the mandate, so as to enhance capabilities on addressing current and future climatic risks, especially for developing countries parties.

One key issue during this session is the continuation of our discussions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, one of the remaining issues from the Katowice package of decisions, which will assist those participating in reducing costs and reaching higher ambition. We look forward to engaging constructively in a Party-driven manner, supported by the presiding officers and their facilitators, with a view to setting the stage for concluding this matter at COP-25. Decisions in respect of other areas, such as mitigation and transparency, should not pre-empt how discussions unfold under Article 6. We expect to have sufficient time to address the remaining technical matters, building on understandings achieved in Katowice.

A decision on Article 6, especially on, among others, governance, share of proceeds and transition, would send a strong message to the private sector and other relevant stakeholders that they will continue to play a crucial role in achieving the climate objectives of the Agreement.

Thank you.