

# AILAC Opening Statement

*(English Version for Translation)*

Virtual Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC

*May 31st, 2021 -*

Thank you Chair of the SBSTA and Madam Chair of the SBI.

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Paraguay has the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of the AILAC Group of countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. At the outset, allow me to align our statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. Our Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the work done over the past months by the Chilean Presidency of COP 25, the United Kingdom's incoming Presidency of COP26, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, the UNFCCC Secretariat and all Parties to maintain momentum for urgent climate action, despite the challenges that the COVID 19 pandemic has brought to our process, taking into account the need for concrete focused progress of the negotiations and the implementation of our commitments.
3. After almost 18 months of having met in person for the last time under the leadership of the Chilean Presidency in Madrid at the close of COP25 and CMA3, familiar words resonate in these "virtual corridors". We say, with great eloquence but perhaps little humility, that when we get to meet again in Glasgow in November of this year under the umbrella of COP26 and CMA3, that will be the "last" opportunity to finalize the outstanding details and complete the architecture of Paris.
4. Distinguished delegates. Missing the platitudes in our long process that have inevitably become part of our annual lives, this pandemic which has put the resilience we talk about so much to the test, MUST serve as a warning to understand the HUGE cost that inaction, the lack of collective conscience, and above all not listening and following the guidelines of science, HAS AND WILL HAVE.
5. Contrary to the pandemic, where social distancing and vaccines would arrive - for some more quickly than for others - to take us back to a so-called "normality", the climate crisis continues to advance preposterously, without our seeming to understand that according to as time goes by, we are approaching a point of irreversible impacts and a global ecological breakdown, where the most vulnerable countries such as the AILAC countries will suffer disproportionately.
6. Distinguished Delegates, we have come to these sessions, with the enormous effort that that implies due to the challenges that we all share in terms of connectivity and working across time zones, to build solutions.
7. The work that we advance here must be focused and concrete and give a clear line of where those converging points lie so that those issues that we are pending in the Paris architecture such as the reporting structures under transparency framework, the rules for the use of cooperative approaches under Article 6 and the common timeframes for NDCs, finally arrive safely at port in Glasgow at COP26.
8. We must emphasize that for AILAC, all the decisions we make, all the actions we carry out within the framework for the formulation and implementation of our commitments and policies must be PARIS

ALIGNED. In this context, we strongly insist that all Parties must communicate and implement greater ambition in NDCs by raising ambition significantly, so that they collectively are compatible with the trajectories that science has indicated are necessary for the next 10 years to achieve the 1.5°C goal under Paris. This is an effort that calls for the imperative leadership of the major emitters in order for us as a collective we are to be successful.

9. A failure in this regard will make COP26 completely miss the mark on its most important purpose before the international community and be rendered useless in its role to communicate the frontlines of action to stop the irreversible effects of climate change, beyond the technical issues that are to be decided on.
10. COP26 must FINALLY set the right path in the global fight against climate change, with a clear political narrative on AMBITION endorsed by world leaders who clearly and unequivocally commit to transformative climate action for the next 10 years and who do not hide behind reiterated, insufficient decision language, which is not consistent with what the Parties to the Paris Agreement agreed to achieve.

#### Chairs, Distinguished Delegates

11. A robust COP26 outcome, not a “successful COP26”, which is not the same, will only be politically enabled by a comprehensive set of deliverables on climate finance, and within this adaptation financing, support for loss and damage, and market mechanisms that are not there to serve themselves, but to serve the achievement of the 1.5°C goal. Some of these issues are not on the Agenda that we will address over these sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, but they are nevertheless part of the background for many of the discussions in the coming weeks, and undoubtedly they are part of the broader toolset towards the achievement of that long-term objective is the common purpose that must bring everyone together.
12. In this spirit, AILAC would like to note that our priority for the climate finance negotiation agenda, is initiating negotiations over the new collective goal on finance at COP26. This negotiation represents a unique opportunity to guide demand and scale up availability for low-emissions and climate-resilient finance as we approach 2030, so to enable the necessary changes, for the financial system, to ensure that we do not surpass an increase in temperature beyond 1.5°C. We note that within the elements to launch the process for the definition of a new goal on finance, transformative elements must be at the core, and we must not get caught up merely on definitions that may not yield progress of finance been an enabler for climate ambition.
13. It is well known that AILAC is of the firm conviction that the design of the guidelines and rules for the implementation of Article 6 should generate the appropriate incentives for progression in the ambition of NDCs at a level consistent with the long term temperature goal and the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. AILAC also recognizes the progress made in Madrid with respect to this negotiation, but we also recognize the significant amount of technical and political work to be done between now and COP 26 to ensure the robustness , coherence and consistency between decisions related to Article 6.
14. We are aware of the short time left for this negotiation and the importance of adopting the Article 6 guidance and rules in Glasgow. However, we cannot deviate from the path. The robustness and alignment of the guidance and rules of Article 6 with the ultimate goal of the Agreement is not negotiable, it is not a trade-off. For the sake of proper implementation of Article 6 and its contribution to the ambition of the NDCs, we cannot leave the door open to any risk of undermining the integrity of the Agreement.

15. The biggest challenges in this discussion are already clear. The next step in ensuring a Paris-compatible outcome lies in the willingness of all Parties to adopt a set of rules and guidance that is consistent with our long-term goals. AILAC hopes that in the coming weeks inclusive and focused discussion spaces will seek results on the issues in which differences still persist and will clearly identify the options to resolve them, recognizing that this is a task that requires both technical contributions and political will and direction.
16. The transparency framework of the Paris Agreement is of vital importance for the functioning of the ambition mechanism and, therefore, finalizing the negotiation of the enabling elements of this framework is essential for the implementation of the Agreement and the achievement of our long-term goals. We need to get the transparency framework machines up and running as soon as possible and we won't have enough time for this if we wait until the COP to work out all the details that we still need to converge on.
17. AILAC's priority is to guarantee the soundness and coherence of all the elements pending adoption in relation to the transparency framework, not only among them, but with other elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, such as the guidelines and rules for Article 6 and the information and accounting guidelines of the NDC. This, in order to ensure that the transparency framework effectively contributes to the global stocktake and the ambition mechanism and, as such, informs Parties on the regular update of their ambition efforts.

Distinguished Colleagues,

18. We are here to work and to produce results. Results that turn around the history of failed attempts that this process has had to deliver a real and determined response to the catastrophic problem that is already climate change. We will not connect in the wee hours of the morning to continue exchanging impressions but will work tirelessly to build solutions that can materialize and whose progress is duly captured during these sessions. From these three weeks, real and concrete progress must be captured and recognized as the basis for concluding the work under the umbrella of the COP and CMA in Glasgow.
19. For AILAC, without prejudice to the fact that some parameters have been established for our discussions in these three weeks of virtual negotiations, Parties always have in their hands the possibility of deciding on the progress of their work and the way forward so as to reach consensual decisions that reflect the contribution of all. Thus, we trust that all of us will effectively *decide* here to move forward and capture the progress that we achieve by granting a real and formal status to what is advanced in these sessions so that it is instrumental in fulfilling the mandates envisaged in Glasgow. Any attempt to undermine or ignore that work will go directly against the achievement of the Paris Agreement itself.
20. AILAC insists tirelessly on the need for ambition because we are convinced that we will be able to overcome this crisis, but to do so we must comply. If we succeed, future generations will remember us for a long time. If we fail, our sons, daughters and grandchildren will never forget that we paved the way for ecological breakdown and did not do what we knew had to be done. We are the last generation with the opportunity to resolve this crisis, so let's get down to business.

Thank you