

**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, Distinguished Delegates,

We are celebrating 25 years of the UNFCCC at the 50th session of the SBs, a lot of work have been done in the past 25 years, yet a lot more needs to be done urgently. As we speak in the last months the African continent has witnessed climate induced extreme events,

- In North Africa, in Algeria and Libya, flash floods have displaced thousands of people and deaths are reported, and desert storms and heatwaves in Egypt has affected livelihoods and agricultural productivity.
- 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 climate induced drought.

- 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, devastating floods have affected the lives of 870,000 people. A post-disaster assessment done by the World Bank and UNDP indicate 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.

The African continent is under severe pressure more than ever due to these extreme events, and the countries most affected are countries with limited capacity coupled with development challenges related to difficulties accessing support. For this reason Africa has fully supported the Paris Agreement with the aim of enhancing action and support to the continent rather than just a process for MRV reporting action.

- While we recognize the support that was provided by the GCF and welcome the doubling of pledges by some Parties to the GCF, like Germany of their contributions. However, the Africa Group is concerned with the growing appetite of some contributing Parties to shift from grants to loans for the replenishment and conditionality becoming a major requirement for support. The Africa Group expects the replenishment process to conclude with a doubling of the resources provided in the IRM and securing the grant-based instruments and resources for developing countries particularly for adaptation.
- On the broader finance architecture, we are concerned with limitation of other sources like the CIF at a time when GEF climate allocation is reduced by 40% and GCF has a short fall of 3 billion.

- On adaptation, the Group apprehensive with the lack of prioritization on the further work from the Katowice outcome, and the slow progress of the adaptation discussion in the adaptation committee and absence of adaptation elements in the agenda.
- 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**, we underscore the importance of enhancing the WIM to through facilitating the implementation of concrete actions. It is our view that the COP continues to be an authority over the WIM and the PA.
- **On Response Measures**, The African Group stress that the workplan should address concrete activities to address negative impacts of response measures including unilateral measures that could have arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination on international trade.
- **On agriculture**, 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 highlight the following;

- **On agenda item 3**, The African Group is 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 communication 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. Capacity-building for reporting needs to be supported through provisions of finance and technology. It is also imperative that there is no change in the funding arrangements for developing countries for National Communications after 2024. In relation to 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 11**, We look forward to the consideration of the achievements, lessons learnt and recommendations in the reports of the GEF 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 13**, on items relating to capacity building, the Africa Group is of the view that extending the PCCB committee for another term will facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- **On agenda item 17**, The agenda of the CMA should reflect the structure of the Paris Agreement.

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.

- **On agenda item 11, Matters relating to Article 6,** we welcome the progress made at the COP24 session, which will serve as a basis for our forthcoming negotiations. We stress the need to discuss all the issues (technical and political) at the expert level in order to allow a better understanding of Parties' positions.

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

I thank you!