



Conakry, 17 June 2021

G77 AND CHINA CLOSING STATEMENT
Joint Closing Plenary of the SBSTA and SBI
Virtual 2021 Session of the SBSTA and SBI
17 June 2021

1. The Republic of Guinea has the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. First of all, the Group wishes to thank you Chairs, and through you, all of your co-facilitators and the Secretariat for the hard work, dedication, and commitment demonstrated throughout this virtual SB session. This has been a rewarding opportunity, despite Covid and other challenges that we all experienced with respect to connectivity and timezones, for Parties to engage more deeply with each other and with observer organizations to seek clarity, gain understanding, and move towards convergence. We would like to reflect on the state of our conversations as Parties during this virtual SB session.
3. On finance, we stress that the multilateral climate finance architecture must be fair, transparent, equitable, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, recognizing and ensuring predictability, accessibility and availability of sufficient financial resources to meet the needs and challenges identified by developing countries Parties, both for mitigation and for adaptation. We all know that financial and technical support is essential both to continued reporting of National Communications, the BURs and the new transparency obligations under the Paris Agreement. The key issues for the group have been the following:
 - (i) The need for adequate and predictable support both financial and technical and the scaling up thereof,
 - (ii) Support for the building of developing country capacities to report, as well as the implementation of the reporting requirements both under the Convention and Paris Agreement including the enhanced transparency framework,
 - (iii) The important role of the GEF in providing this support to developing countries and, as such, it is a critical important issue of eligibility for all developing countries to GEF resources and the urgent need to reassess the GEF set asides,
 - (iv) The determining of the level of support for reporting be based on a dialogue with developing country and based on our needs, and,
 - (v) The GEF must continue to streamline application processes and refine its application and disbursement procedures.

Generally, the G77 & China finds that the informal note produced by the Co-Facilitators has captured the views of all the Parties in a fair and balanced manner and presents a good basis for further deliberation with a view to an outcome in Glasgow.

4. On technology development and transfer, the Group constructively engaged in this session on the Alignment between processes pertaining to the Independent Review of CTCN and the Periodic Assessment of the Technology Mechanism, and highlighted effectiveness, efficiency, complementarity and avoiding duplication of work as key elements in considering such alignment. The Group therefore looks forward to further discussions on this matter to converge differences in future sessions. We further acknowledge the progress made, while flagging concerns on the crowded agenda items left for future sessions on technology development and transfer. Moreover, we reiterate the long-term vision we all share on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and urge the provision of adequate support, including financial support from developed country Parties and through financial means, to enable the access of the developing countries to technologies for implementing their NDCs.

5. On capacity building, given its importance for Developing Countries to meet their Adaptation and Mitigation actions to combat climate change, the Group welcomed the successful hosting of the 5th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) and the 10th meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building focusing on “building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of National Development Plans”. We look forward to engaging constructively, with the view of concluding the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, under the Kyoto Protocol at COP 26.
6. On the Nairobi Work Programme, engaging in this virtual modality in the various informal consultations scheduled for this agenda item has come with many challenges for some developing countries. There was not sufficient time to peruse the 2021 progress report since it was just issued on the first day of this virtual SB session. Nevertheless, various members of the Group participated actively and expressed their views and perspectives on the issue. We look forward to continuing this discussion.
7. On National Adaptation Plans, our Group engaged constructively in all of the informal consultations on this agenda item. We expect that the informal note by the SBI Chair will reflect appropriately the issues under the five (5) elements captured during the session which will be the basis for further engagement by parties in COP 26 at Glasgow. It is also our expectation that the Scenario Notes by the SBI Chair will be received in a timely manner to allow for effective reflections by parties before Glasgow.
8. On the Fourth Review of the Adaptation Fund, the Group stresses that adaptation for developing countries is not an option, it is our key priority. The Adaptation Fund has proven to be an effective tool and has become one of the most important Funds for developing countries and the only fund fully dedicated to concrete adaptation efforts via full cost grants. The Group notes that many of views expressed by the G77 & China have been captured in the note particularly the adequacy and predictability of the finance available and the sustainability of the Adaptation Fund. We note that the informal note by the co-facilitators is not exhaustive, has no formal status and should not be considered final in any way. It does not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from providing additional views. We would like to thank the two Co-facilitators and look forward to constructively engaging with all Parties with a view to adopting a decision and TORs and initiating the 4th Review of the Adaptation Fund in Glasgow later this year.
9. On loss and damage, the Group pointed out that the rapid and effective operationalization of the Santiago Network is invaluable to the Group. This should be done through an appropriate institutional arrangement to enable the Network and its members to respond quickly and adequately to the specific requests and needs for technical assistance from developing countries. However, noting the challenges of some Parties to convene and share perspectives, the pace of operationalization must be tailored to allow for sufficient engagement in an equitable manner. The initiative by the COP Presidencies is welcomed by the Group as an informal process that can help the COP Presidencies obtain inputs from Parties and other stakeholders on how to move us forward on the operationalization of the Santiago Network. The Group of 77 and China and its constituency groups reserve the right to provide additional inputs and views to the Presidencies.
10. On response measures, the Group wishes to highlight its grave concern about the progress on implementing the work plan activities of the response measure and the KCI. We reiterate the importance of the balance treatment to all constituted bodies. In this regard, we underscore the importance of conducting KCI mandated events fully and making up for the KCI meeting that was not conducted in 2020 this year. The Group also wishes to highlight the importance of making up for the time lost to date and to ensure progress on the technical work related to the work plan activities and the recommendations resulting from the KCI activities 1, 3 and 4. We need to ensure that parties under the forum and experts under the KCI are given sufficient time and space to advance their work.

11. On Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), ACE matters have historically been recognized for reaching robust decisions very quickly on negotiations. During these sessions there have been substantial discussions on ACE and the review of the Doha Work Programme. We urge all Parties and the secretariat to continue discussing the structure and leveraging the operationalization of ACE elements in its reformed successor in a manner that allows us to coherently implement Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.
12. On operationalizing the Enhanced Transparency Framework, over the past three weeks, G77 and China and its members have engaged in a constructive manner in the informal consultations and in providing feedback on the co-facilitators' informal notes, despite the challenges that the Group faced with internet connectivity and participating across time zones. In most cases, the co-facilitators have made a commendable effort to capture the views of all Parties to ensure a balanced reflection of the discussions. While Parties have made some progress in enhancing our understanding of other positions, the informal notes show that Parties still have divergent views on many technical issues. As for SBSTA agenda item 14(c), despite repeated constructive comments, requests and specific proposals made by several subgroups within the G77, the cofacilitators' note did not reflect a balanced view on the various positions and options discussed. Consequently, the use of this informal note as a possible tool for future discussions will be extremely challenging, particularly when it comes to the illustrative tables created by the cofacilitators.
13. Having experimented with the virtual format for the June Subsidiary Bodies session, the Group wishes to reiterate our position that the virtual format poses challenges for Parties to discuss and resolve differences over the ETF due to the highly technical nature of this topic. Operationalizing the ETF must take into account the needs of and flexibility provisions for developing countries. The expectation for developing countries to report at a higher standard of transparency must be accompanied by sincere commitments and real actions from developed countries to facilitate developing countries' access to adequate and timely support for transparency, as ensured under paragraphs 7 to 11 of Decision 18/CMA.1. It is thus disappointing that some developed countries objected to engaging in discussions on providing and enhancing financial, technical and capacity building support for developing countries to implement Paris Agreement as a whole, and especially to cover the cost of ETF requirements. We call on our developed country partners to join us in ensuring the timely delivery of sufficient financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries, including developing an effective Terms of Reference for the Consultative Group of Experts as soon as possible. We also renew our call for Annex I Parties to submit their reports required under the Convention in a timely manner, including reports that were missing from previous reporting cycles.
14. On the global stocktake, the Group appreciated the information conversations that took place on this agenda item during this virtual session on the sources of inputs, the consideration of submissions from non-Party stakeholders and observer organizations, and on the SB Chairs' non-paper on the GST. These conversations were useful. The informal note presented by the SBSTA Chair captured views expressed by Parties in these conversations. We look forward to continuing this discussion at COP26, with a view towards ensuring the prompt and efficient start of the First GST. The GST plays a key role in the Paris Agreement for informing Parties about what has been done, what has yet to be done, and what more needs to be done collectively and holistically under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in order to strengthen the global response to climate change, in light of equity and the best available science, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
15. On the programme budget 2022-2023, the G77 and China thanks the Executive Secretary for presenting the next biennium program budget which is important for functioning of the secretariat to implement mandated work under the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. Since raising adaptation ambitions is a priority of the developing countries alongside mitigation, the G77 and China called for a balance between adaptation and mitigation in the program budget. The

Group also called for support to adaptation actions across developing countries and the mandated activities of AC, LEG, WIMLD and other adaptation related constituted bodies, NAPs, NAP Expo, Annual Adaptation Forum, and GST to be funded from the core budget rather than leaving those subjects to the uncertainty of funding from the supplementary budget.

16. We welcome the summary reports by the SBSTA Chair on the dialogues held in December 2020 on the ocean and climate change and on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation-related matters. We request the UK Presidency to explore opportunities under the UNFCCC for existing workstreams and constituted bodies to strengthen inclusion of these issues in relevant aspects of their work, and for continued dialogues thereon to strengthen understanding and action.
17. Thank you, Chairs.

AHMADOU SEBORY TOURE

Directeur Général du Fonds de Sauvegarde de l'Environnement

Point Focal Opérationnel du FEM en Guinée

Négociateur Principal de la Guinée pour le G77 + la Chine.

Tél. : +(224) 628-25-07-25 ; 655-25-07-25

Email : ahmadouseborytoure@gmail.com

B.P. : 2830 – Conakry

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