



Conakry, le 31 Mai 2021

G77 AND CHINA OPENING STATEMENT
Joint Opening Plenary of the SBSTA and SBI
Virtual 2021 Session of the SBSTA and SBI
31 May 2021

1. The Republic of Guinea has the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, representing more than two-thirds of the Parties to the UNFCCC and 4 of every 5 people in the world.
2. As Guyana as the Chair of the G77 and China in 2020 had noted at the closing of the Climate Dialogue in December 2020, the virtual format poses challenges to negotiations and decision making in a consensus-based, inclusive, and transparent Party driven process, such as the UNFCCC. Nevertheless, the urgency of our work as Parties in the UNFCCC requires us to find innovative solutions. We therefore thank you for the holding over these next three weeks of this virtual session of the subsidiary bodies to allow for informal discussions that may help us to make progress when face to face meetings are not possible.
3. We are all by now familiar with the challenges that we experience with internet connectivity and the differences in time zones; however, we have all persevered, and we wish to thank the Secretariat for the excellent work done in creating this online platform for us. If through enhanced international cooperation the COVID-19 pandemic is placed under control globally in the next few months, the possibility of having additional meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies in an in-person format prior to COP26 could be considered to allow Parties to take decisions on postponed mandated work and avoid additional accumulation of work in 2021.
4. The Climate Dialogues reaffirmed an unequivocal, scientifically backed fundamental truth—that is, we are at a critical juncture at which whatever we commit to, will mark our collective success or failure in delivering on our common objective of holding global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels consistent with our priority needs as developing countries in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.
5. In this context, our call has been, and continues to be, to strengthen the parts of our system under the UNFCCC to ensure that we are able to deliver on ambitious action on mitigation, adaptation, and the provision of the means of implementation, consistent with climate justice and principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities available in the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. We need to make this system work so that it can effectively address the needs of our peoples all over the world, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
6. To put us on the path of ambitious action and support that is expected of Parties under the Convention and its Paris Agreement, we again highlight the conclusion from the Pre-

2020 Stocktake Roundtable last year that there has been a deficit in ambition that we call upon developed Parties, in particular, to very quickly and decisively correct. Pre-2020 action and commitments, despite showing some progress, were ultimately and unquestionably inadequate in light of the objective of the Convention and the long-term goals under the Paris Agreement. Developed countries have also failed to provide adequate financing for climate action in developing countries. Decisions in relation to the share of proceeds from the Kyoto Protocol's flexibility mechanisms for adaptation also need implementation.

7. Climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building are key enablers to what the Paris Agreement stands for. Education, awareness raising, and public information in line with the guidelines of the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) also play an essential role in increasing developing countries' capacities to address climate change and its impacts. In the midst of a global pandemic that is devastating in the developing world, and that will have enormous socio-economic and environmental effects that will be felt for years to come, being provided with the means of implementation is of central importance. Hence, we need to have far greater progress on these.
8. In particular, the financial obligations and commitments to provide finance of developed countries under the Convention and Paris Agreement must be fully implemented, including the mobilization goal by developed countries of USD 100 billion annually by 2020 and for the next 5 years until 2025. The launch of negotiations on a new post-2025 collective quantified goal on finance from a floor of USD 100 billion must be initiated as a matter of urgency and also based on the lessons learned in relation to the USD 100 billion by 2020 commitment and the needs of developing countries. The provision and mobilization of climate finance must be done in an accountable, adequate, and transparent manner and based on a climate finance definition and common accounting modality. Climate finance must be new, additional, adequate and predictable, commensurate to the urgent and pressing needs of the developing world so as to meet the desired enhanced action and ambition required on climate change. Additional support from developed countries is also needed for developing countries to be able to swiftly recover the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner which is both sustainable, equitable, and climate-compatible. We reiterate the importance of maintaining eligibility of all developing countries for climate financial support from the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention and there should not be any conditionality to limit developing countries' eligibility to receive funding support.
9. Adaptation is a great priority for developing countries and must be treated in a balanced manner compared to mitigation actions as a key component of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, scaled up adaptation financing for developing countries, including from Article 6 mechanisms, will be increasingly crucial for developing countries as the adverse effects of climate change scale up in the future. In this regard, we are concerned that finance and adaptation issues have not been given their due time and space for discussion in the Subsidiary Bodies' agenda.
10. While adaptation is crucial, there are limits to adapting to the irreversible impacts of climate change. Many regions of the world are already experiencing this, which translate into loss and damage. We will therefore need to have concrete and continuing discussions and deliverables on tackling this holistically including action and support for loss and damage. The operationalization of the Santiago Network is also necessary for developing countries to have increased access to technical support to address loss and damage. We are keen on

having this pursued in an equitable and inclusive manner. The need for a COP/CMA decision for the full operationalization of the Santiago Network may need to be explored. It would therefore be necessary to give to this issue appropriate time and space for discussion in the Subsidiary Bodies' agenda.

11. Concerning agriculture, Koronivia took us a step forward by considering agriculture under the SBI. Workshops have been conducted to examine adaptation and adaptation co-benefits aiming by COP26 to have a clear outcome to pave the way towards implementation, taking into consideration the diversity of agricultural systems and regional differences, especially for small scale farmers, ensuring food security, and promoting agriculture and sustainable development to eradicate poverty and hunger.
12. Adequate capacity-building, transfer of technology and financing support for developing countries according to historic responsibilities and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities for climate action would be a critical outcome at COP26 and should be based on and respond to national priorities and needs, and foster country ownership. Enhanced financial and technological support coupled with knowledge and skills transfer from developed countries will allow for effective implementation and enhanced ambition of developing countries.
13. COP26 takes place at a crucial historical juncture as 2021 represents the first year of Parties' actual implementation of their NDCs under the Paris Agreement. The informal discussions on transparency and Article 6 have been useful to resume discussions on both technical as well as process issues, and the next steps for progressing towards the adoption of both the rules for the operationalization of Article 6 as well as the Enhanced Transparency Framework while cognizant of developing countries' needs and taking into account the flexibility provisions for developing countries. As we begin our transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework, Annex I Parties must continue to submit their reports required under the Convention in a timely manner. We are disappointed that some Annex I Parties have failed to submit their Third and Fourth Biennial Reports and Seventh National Communication, which compromises this forum's ability to have a complete assessment on Parties' pre-2020 mitigation outcomes and provision of financial support. If we are to report at a higher standard of transparency, we must ensure that developing countries have access to adequate and timely support for transparency, including having an effective Consultative Group of Experts with their new Terms of Reference as soon as possible. Finally, as transparency is a heavily technical and politically sensitive issue, it will be challenging for the Group to engage on the technical details virtually, but the group is willing to engage in a constructive manner in the discussions. We hope and expect the SB Chairs and co-facilitators to capture the progress made and views expressed by the Parties on this issue during the informal consultations in a most balanced manner.
14. Addressing the impact of the implementation of climate response measures is also a key priority for developing countries. The adoption at COP25 of the expanded 6-year work plan for Forum and the KCI should be followed up and extended with needed arrangements for further progress to make up for the time lost due to COVID-19.
15. We recall Article 3.5 of the Convention which states that "The Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties, thus enabling them better to address the problems of climate change. Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means

of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.” As reaffirmed by G77 and China Ministers in their November 2020 Ministerial Declaration, “the imposition of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries does not contribute to economic and social development, including dialogue and understanding among countries.”

16. At this virtual 2021 subsidiary bodies’ session, we look forward to informally re-engaging with our partners to the maximum extent possible. We hope and expect that no effort will be spared by the Secretariat to ensure that developing countries are enabled to participate fully, inclusively, and effectively. This means that the appropriate technological and technical support will be provided to address connectivity issues, and that the scheduling of informal consultations and mandated events on various topics are done in such a way as to enable all Parties to participate fully.
17. We take note of the SB Chairs’ intention to informally capture progress in the form of informal written output on their own responsibility. We would like to stress that these should reflect all views, inputs, and positions by Parties in a transparent and inclusive manner; this is particularly important given our current virtual mode of work. The G77 and China would like to reiterate that such outputs have no formal status, are prepared under the responsibility of the Chairs, and do not prejudice any eventual outcomes.
18. For the sake of all our peoples, particularly those in developing countries, for the sake of our future, we must now be ambitious on all fronts. To do this, rest assured, Chairs, that the Group of 77 and China stands ready to fully engage and to support you in moving us forward towards COP26.

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