

EIG Closing Statement for SB/SBSTA 52-55

17 June 2021

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EIG.

Madam and Mister Co-Chairs,

With only five months left until COP26, we were eager to engage in this virtual session. Despite its challenges, we found that the **virtual format** was well suited for our deliberations, and we note that the challenges we faced were essentially the same as those of face to face negotiations, namely lack of political will.

However, the EIG is highly concerned and disappointed with the very high amount of technical work still required, and the need for finding political solutions in many areas.

This is especially the case on **Transparency**, where we urgently need to advance on technical work. We were pleased to see us work jointly on common examples of draft tables. But, we call on you to provide opportunities for more intersessional work, such as technical workshops for inventory tables, making sure that progress is captured in writing and that we can resolve all technical issues by COP26. We also expect our work and our substantial outcomes to adhere to the mandate that we commonly agreed in Katowice.

We note progress on **Article 6**, but not sufficiently to be on a path for adoption at COP26. We would have liked to see an informal note that outlines newly found areas of convergence and divergence, ideally with clear options on how to move forward and find common landing zones. The EIG is ready to work hard across all levels: technical, HoD, and ministerial. Further work is

particularly required to solve accounting issues including corresponding adjustments, accounting for activities taking place outside of the scope of NDCs, issues related to baselines and additionally, CDM transition, open questions regarding the use of Kyoto units and work on adaptation ambition. If we want Article 6 to be credible and transformational, we have to ensure contributions to sustainable development, environmental safeguards and human rights, as well as rights of indigenous people. We are also encouraged by the strong support by observers on these matters.

On **Adaptation**, we must scale up work under the Nairobi Work Programme, ensuring that it continues to be demand-driven and respond to the adaptation needs of all developing countries and regions. We call upon Parties to enhance their commitment to make more progress on adaptation.

We need a robust decision on **Common Time Frames** at COP26. We appeal to Parties to engage constructively through ministerial consultations over the coming months, so that we can find a pragmatic political solution in time for Glasgow.

Finally, the **Informal Notes** from this session will nevertheless be a valuable instrument to focus our discussions as we move forward. But let us now also make sure that we use these Informal Notes.

With regards to the way forward, let us stress that we will only support holding an **additional SB session** if there is a substantial change in format, meaning:

- That we can work on **draft decision texts**;
- That we can work through **informal informals** to advance technical work;

- That it is possible to take procedural and substantial **decisions**, as needed;
- And all these, independently of whether the sessions take place face to face or virtually.

If those conditions cannot be fulfilled, we would find it more useful to hold **technical workshops**, in order to progress on technical aspects of the work.

The EIG expects more from COP26 than the core negotiations topics and the SB agenda: we expect a **broader Glasgow Package**. We regret that we were not able to address all topics due to a lack of decision on the agenda. In addition to advancing on draft decision texts, we find it also necessary to prepare for COP26 by launching as soon as possible **informal consultations on the agenda**. We do not want to start negotiating the agenda when we meet again, but to be able to agree on it.

Before concluding, let us remind that all Parties that have not yet done so, should submit **enhanced NDCs** by the end of July. Let us not forget this obligation when, instead of travelling home from these SBs, we simply turn off our screens.

We look forward to working with all of you at COP26. Thank you,
Madam and Mister Chairs