

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group at the  
Closing Plenary of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and  
Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)**

27 June 2019

**Madam Executive Secretary and Presiding Officers of the Subsidiary,**

**Chairs,**

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.

**Chairs,**

The Africa Group would like to thank you, Chairs, for your able leadership showcased throughout the session, which contributed to reaching the agreed conclusions we adopted today.

Chairs,

The Africa Group has engaged constructively with all Parties throughout the past two weeks, on all SBSTA and SBI agenda items, in a positive spirit of flexibility, cooperation and mutual understanding, contributing to the consensus we have achieved today on most agenda items, and delivering on the mandate of SB50. However, the Group wishes to note that the progress on agenda items that are crucial for the effective implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement was slow. In particular, the Group is concerned about the lack of prioritization and operationalization of the further work on adaptation under the Paris Agreement.

**Chairs, and Parties,**

Africa is one of the continents hugely impacted by the negative consequences of climate change, and aware of the importance of collective efforts to combat these effects, African countries continue to undertake ambitious climate actions to that end, and thus calls for the

scaling up and enhancement of climate actions by all parties, in full conformity with the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and guided by the principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibility.

The Africa Group is further concerned about the emerging attempts to diminish the role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of climate action and in guiding the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and requests the secretariat to ensure that all communications and information on climate action should be in accordance with the convention. To this end, the Group wishes to emphasize the centrality of the convention as the primary intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. We wish to put this on record.

**Chairs,**

**On the joint agenda items,**

- **On TOR of the 2019 review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage,** The Africa Group would like to reiterate the importance of enhancing the WIM through the said review, of which its outcome should be submitted to the COP to provide further guidance for enhancing and strengthening the Mechanism.
- **On Response Measures,** The African Group regrets that no progress was made in fulfilling the mandate to develop the six-year work plan of the forum and its KCI.

**On SBI agenda items, Chair**

- **On agenda item 3,** The Africa Group would like to express concern on the failure of some Parties to submit their seventh National communication and third Biennial Reports on time. The Group believes that this delay compromises the systematic assessment of global emissions. We would like to put on record that the delay of reports from Annex I countries, in addition to the continued diminishing of financial resources and technical capacity, has a clear negative impact on the momentum of implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement.
- **On agenda item 4,** the Africa Group reiterates the crucial role of the Consultative Group of Experts for developing countries in implementing MRV arrangements under the

Convention, as well as in the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Agreement. We would like to express deep concern at the inability to reach a conclusion on this agenda item in this session. We further wish to note that time slots dedicated to this agenda item were insufficient, and clashed with other related items under SBSTA, making it increasingly difficult for us to engage in a sufficiently substantive discussion on the matter, in order to reach a robust and effective outcome. It should also be noted that agenda items on reporting are being deferred to future sessions, which could affect implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework and reduce trust among Parties on emission reductions.

- **On agenda item 12**, the African Group worked constructively with Parties, and in accordance with the decision from the CMA1, to finalize the appointment of members of the Adaptation Fund Board. We regret that Parties were unable to conclude on this agenda item.
- **On agenda item 18**, the African Group reiterates its preference for the full funding of activities of the constituted bodies under the core budget. We, therefore, welcome the agreement reached, after difficult negotiations, on the proposed 2020-2021 budget, and look forward for formally adopting it in Chile.

#### **On SBSTA agenda items, Chair**

- **On agenda item 8**, The Africa Group expresses its concern that there was once again no decision on SBSTA agenda item 8(e) on bunker fuels because of the views of some Parties that our role as Parties to this Convention is merely to take note of reports from the ICAO and IMO. We reiterate that it is Parties right to discuss the broader issues related to means of implementation and support for developing countries to empower them to reduce emissions from maritime and civil aviation, or any other sector.
- **On agenda item 10**, African Group is of the view that we had good initial discussions. However, our developed countries partners are still not willing to engage seriously on these critical issues;
  - first; the importance of the provision of timely support and capacity-building to developing countries, to enable the full implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. Astonishingly, many of our Partners in these negotiations were unwilling to recall this here and are also trying to renegotiate

the very positive outcome on the CGE in Katowice.

- Second, the provision of flexibility to developing countries, which is guaranteed in Article 13.2, and
- third, the communication of clear and detailed information on support provided by developed countries.

The Africa Group looks forward to furthering progress in Santiago on these issues.

- **On agenda item 13,** The African Group welcomes the report and notes the special events organized by the SBSTA Chair. We reiterate the UNFCCC is the primary intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

**Thank you and see you in Chile.**