

Parties spell out their priorities at Bonn climate conference

Bonn, 6 June (Evelyn Teh, Hilary Kung) – At the joint plenary session of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) which opened on 6 June, in Bonn, Germany, Parties expressed their priorities for the SBs, on the road to the 27th session of the COP (COP 27) to be held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, later in November this year.

Speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China, Ambassador Nabeel Munir of Pakistan** “emphasized the importance of balanced progress during SBs across all issues, including adaptation, mitigation, means of implementation and loss and damage.”

The G77 spokesperson said that the Paris Agreement (PA) is a collective achievement of all Parties, and it seeks to enhance the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with its objectives, principles and provisions, in particular equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), and in the light of different national circumstances.

Referring to the reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) he said that “irreversible loss and damage is already a grim reality for vulnerable countries at current global warming levels” and that adaptation is a crucial priority for the members of the group. In line with this, the group expects to see substantial progress on key deliverables and outcomes

on adaptation, including on the global goal on adaptation at SB 56, the UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt and beyond.

Munir also placed great priority on the global stocktake (GST), in that it should be carried out in a holistic, balanced, and facilitative manner, considering all thematic areas, and in light of equity and the best available science.

Another key issue is loss and damage, where the group expects that the full operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), while critical, should not be at the cost of substance to getting it right. The group is united in their ask for the establishment of a dedicated “Loss and Damage Finance Facility”, “as an intended tangible outcome to which the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage must contribute”, said the G77 spokesperson further.

In the spirit of compromise, Munir said that the group agreed to the Chair's proposal to hold consultations on the inclusion of an agenda item on the Glasgow Dialogue in SBI 56. The group also stated that it is important to make progress at SB 56 on identifying key elements for a draft decision at CMA4 (at the 4th session of the Conference of Parties to the PA) on the mitigation work programme – which needs to address the issue of financial support as an enabler to closing the pre-2030 ambition gap.

The G77 also mentioned the unmet commitment by developed countries to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to support developing countries in their climate change actions. In the same line, the group wanted to see meaningful progress on the deliberations to set the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on finance, and a constructive fourth review for strengthening the operation of the Adaptation Fund (AF), including improving direct access.

At COP 27, the group stated that “developed countries must provide a quantitative and timebound delivery and tracking plan on the pledged doubling of adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025”; and called for “developed countries to enhance their efforts in technology transfer and strengthen their support to the Technology Mechanism and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in particular through the provision of financial resources”.

Bolivia, speaking on behalf of **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)**, said that “besides the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our economies adversely, furthering the gulf between developing and developed countries”, highlighting that “we are not an equal world”. On that premise, the LMDC emphasized that “equity, CBDR-RC and climate justice form the bedrock of climate action, and there is no space for compromising on these fundamental principles”.

It also noted the call of science to act and said that LMDC members have ambitious climate plans and are implementing them, adding that however, the responsibility for action is “made to” fall largely on their economies and rarely on the historical polluters who continue to pollute.

The LMDC expressed surprise that the issues of the global goal on adaptation (GGA) and the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage were missing from the provisional agendas of the SBs issued earlier, but is glad that the GGA is now on the agenda, but was still concerned over the number of time slots given to discuss this item.

On its proposal on the agenda item on ‘Matters relating to the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage’, the LMDC said that it had made a great concession to allow consultations on the item to continue and for the SBI agenda to be adopted without their proposal. It however hoped that a conclusion that ensures an agenda item on matters related to the Glasgow dialogue at SB56, and subsequently also to lead to an agenda item on loss and damage finance arrangements at COP27/CMA4.

The LMDC also hoped to have progress on the Second Periodic Review and the GST, to be based on both science and equity in a balanced manner.

Zambia, speaking on behalf of the **African Group** said that “SB56 is taking place against the backdrop of global COVID-19 pandemic, economic difficulties, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the consequences of climate change already being experienced across the world, and the growing debt crisis faced by many African Countries and the urgency for action as indicated in latest scientific reports”. It said further that the African Ministers have called for “ambitious mitigation, adaptation, and ambitious means of implementation in Glasgow.” This includes a call on implementing mitigation targets, adaptation action and delivery of finance by developed country Parties. Quoting the Sixth Assessment Report from the IPCC, the group stated that Africa will be impacted more than any other continent, and the adverse impact of climate change is limiting Africa’s economic and development trajectory – noting that the continent only contributed less than 4% of the world’s total emissions. Because the estimated cost of adaptation in developing countries will reach \$127 billion and that Africa needs up to \$86.5 billion per year by 2030 – the group stated that SB56 and the COP27 should respond to the call by science both on addressing the mitigation and finance gaps.

The African Group emphasized that stressed the GGA, and the need to scale up adaptation implementation and support to address the adaptation gap reported. In this regard, work on implementing the Glasgow Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the GGA must deliver substantive progress under a dedicated SB56 agenda item, it added further.

India, speaking on behalf of **BASIC Group (Brazil, South Africa, India and China)**, stated that they had continued pursuing and raising their climate ambition while facing Covid-19. All climate efforts should be based on CBDR-RC, as we live in a world of stark inequalities between and sometimes within nations and ensuring intra-generational equity along with inter-generational equity that remain important.

The group emphasized that “the mitigation work program on ambition and implementation established at Glasgow should focus on the necessary enabling elements including the climate finance and technology transfer required for the implementation of the NDC commitments announced by Parties”, which should also address the substantial gaps in mitigation, adaptation, and support in the pre-2020 period.

It said that the process of achieving the long-term goal on finance and adding the new and additional finances through the new collective quantified goal should be started. It says that the centrality of public finance in Articles 9.5 and 9.7 of the PA is critical to provide financial resources by developed countries to developing countries. The BASIC also stressed that they do not align with statements and declarations made outside of the UNFCCC process and not based on UNFCCC’s principle on CBDR-RC.

Antigua and Barbuda speaking on behalf of the **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** also called on countries to revisit and strengthen their 2030 NDC targets and to indicate when their emissions will peak in their revised NDCs, for those who have not yet peaked emissions or announced a peaking year. It further stressed the IPCC estimate that phasing out fossil fuel subsidies would reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to a full 10%, by 2030 – an amount larger than the third-highest emitting Party.

It also said that “In contrast to the estimated nearly \$6 trillion that subsidized fossil fuels in 2020, developed countries undershot the USD 100 billion-dollar goal and provided just \$19 billion for adaptation. The Glasgow decision to at least double adaptation finance from 2019 levels must be reinforced with a plan and complemented by concrete progress on the

GGA work programme. This should include key performance indicators on access and support”. It added that “the data we’ve seen on the number of months to approve an adaptation project is, frankly, embarrassing. It’s no wonder the private sector doesn’t engage in adaptation finance,” said AOSIS.

AOSIS expects that this year’s Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage to lead to the conclusion that a new Loss and Damage Finance Facility is necessary and will be adopted at this year’s COP, so that the future Glasgow Dialogues to 2024 can operationalize the Facility.

Chile speaking on behalf of **AILAC** cited the recent IPCC report on the hard limits of adaptation that we have already reached. It suggested a new vision of adaptation which requires a paradigm transformation, framed within the concept of “Climate Resilient Development”.

The same for loss and damage where it said action and financing for loss and damage are imperative that cannot be dismissed. It expects that the work of the SNLD and the Glasgow Dialogue to chart the way forward that addresses the reality that the most vulnerable are already living.

It called on the major emitters gathered under the G20, in accordance with the principles of equity and CBDR-RC, to communicate and implement greater ambition in their NDCs.

Senegal, speaking on behalf of **Least Developed Countries (LDC)**, said that the IPCC’s Working Group 2 report referenced the need for dedicated and accessible finance for successful adaptation measures, and looked forward to receiving a plan on how and when adaptation finance will be doubled as agreed in Glasgow. It also stated that emissions need to peak immediately and be reduced by about half by 2030. It said further that “limiting warming to 1.5°C can be done, but the political will must be there”. It wanted the Glasgow Dialogue to lead to the establishment of a dedicated finance facility, and loss and damage finance should be considered as a thematic area in the NCQG.

Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the **Arab Group** expressed the need to respect the Convention particularly the CBDR-RC principle, and the need to implement the PA. It hoped that the work at the SBs are undertaken in an equitable and balanced way, ensuring that all results and outcomes from the PA are respected. It stated the need to address all issues equally and ensure that politicization is avoided when it comes to results, as this will impact the implementation of PA. The sources of finance and support and capacity building are all important for developing countries in order to respect their commitments, to also address the sustainable development goals and combat poverty.

Venezuela on behalf of the **ALBA Group**, stated that climate finance and technology transfer, and capacity building must be in line with historical responsibility. It welcomed the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage and Article 6.8 of the PA on non-market approaches in the implementation of NDCs. It called for concerted action to ensure full implementation of the UNFCCC and the PA based on equity and CBDR-RC; and that the impacts of unilateral measures must be addressed by the Convention. It supported the inclusion on the agenda of SBs the work programme on the GGA and the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of **Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay** said that it was disappointed with the unwillingness of developed countries to agree to any substantial outcome on finance, loss and damage and adaptation. It called for 2022 as a crucial year for adaptation and underlines the need to work on the GGA in innovative ways. It also welcomed the results of the Enhanced Transparency Framework but was worried about the challenges the developing countries are facing in accessing the funds required to deliver the transparency commitment.

China, stated that this is the time for the implementation of the PA, and during this new phase, the most important priorities are adaptation, financing, means of implementation and provision of support by developed countries. It also stated that the GGA

is something we need to identify with a roadmap to be established, adding that it is time to address adaptation more seriously. During this era of adaptation, we will not forget to continue with mitigation actions and that developed countries should demonstrate leadership, to achieve carbon neutrality through the use of technological advances that they have, said China.

France on behalf of the **European Union (EU)** welcomed the work programme on mitigation on how to accelerate action in this field, including to identify how sectoral policies can support these efforts. It hoped that the work programme on GGA will strengthen the adaptation agenda to better understand how to measure and follow up progress to measure and strengthen resilience to climate impact. It also was determined to ensure the operationalization Santiago Network and looked forward to the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage and in strengthening existing support for developing countries. It said that doubling the adaptation finance requires joint effort, both public and private support. It noted that if the global finance flow is not aligned with the Paris goals, we need a dedicated forum and agenda in the next COP to discuss this.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the **Umbrella Group**, which consists of Iceland, Canada, Ukraine, Japan and Norway, stated the need to revisit the 2030 target of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to align with the Paris temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account the different country circumstances. The Work Programme for scaling up mitigation is important, as well as Article 6, that can contribute to real abatement, contribute to mitigation and adaptation and support market confidence. The group also mentioned the need to deliver on the goal of mobilizing USD100 billion from various sources. The Umbrella Group also emphasized that developed countries double the provision for adaptation finance by 2025. It said that averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage is a concern for all Parties, and the called for focus on implementation outcomes of the COP25 on the Santiago Network, to provide effective oper-

ationalization. It also looked forward to the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including the opportunities to enhance access to finance.

Switzerland, on behalf of the **Environment Integrity Group (EIG)** stated that the IPCC indicated clearly that we have three years to cap emissions to keep 1.5°C a reality and that mitigation is a clear success factor for COP27. It called for the strengthening of NDCs as per the Glasgow Climate Pact, by countries which did not enhance their NDCs, especially the big emitters. It also stated that the GGA is an opportunity to increase and accelerate ambition and lessons learned. It also stressed the importance of all financial flows aligning with the PA objectives.