

## Developing countries outline expectations from the global stocktake process

Bonn, 10 June (Prerna Bomzan): At the opening plenary of the first technical dialogue (TD) of the global stocktake (GST) held on 9 June under the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies (SBs), developing countries outlined their expectations from the process.

The **G77 and China** stressed that the GST process should enable Parties “to look backward at implementation gaps and challenges, including with respect to historical responsibility and pre-2020 implementation of the Convention and its related instruments, and to look forward in terms of opportunities and approaches to what must be done to achieve our collective goals and how these actions could be addressed and delivered in a systemic and transformative way”.

(The first GST will take place in 2023, as agreed under the PA, to assess the collective progress of Parties in achieving the Agreement's goals, including on mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, in light of equity and the best available science. The issues of loss and damage as well as response measures are also being considered. The GST consists of three components: information collection and preparation, which commenced at SB 52–55; technical assessment, which will start at SB 56 and conclude at SB 58 (June 2023); and consideration of outputs, which will take place

at CMA 5 (November 2023). Under the PA, the outcome of the GST is to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of the PA. The GST process has therefore been viewed as a ‘ratchet’ mechanism for enhancing ambition on all elements of action and support.)

At the ongoing talks in Bonn, the TD is taking place in multiple formats, with two plenary sessions (opening and closing); three roundtables structured around the three thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation; and a ‘world café’ format of focused presentations aiming to facilitate interactive exchanges across the thematic areas. The closing plenary will have reports from the roundtables and a summary from the co-facilitators. The TD is being chaired by co-facilitators **Harald Winkler (South Africa)** and **Farhan Akhtar (United States)**.

**Pakistan** speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China** said that it accorded high priority to the GST for achieving our common objective of enhancing the collective ambition of action and support and international cooperation under the PA. The Group underlined that the TD “must be carried out in a holistic, balanced and facilitative manner, including mitigation, adaptation, the means of implementation and

support, the consequences of response measures, loss and damage, barriers and enablers, and cross-cutting themes, in the light of equity and the best available science.)

The G77 stressed that “the consideration of the information inputs should be done in a manner that reflects both diversity and balance in perspectives. The assessment of the collective progress of implementation on the ground, including the progress and gaps on delivery of commitments and ambitions in pre-2020 and post-2020 periods and the progress and barriers to just transitions, must be with a view to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support, as well as international cooperation. We also need to identify the good practices, lessons learned, opportunities, barriers and challenges, needs, and gaps for enhancing both implementation and ambition with respect to mitigation, adaptation, the provision of the means of implementation to developing countries, addressing the consequences of response measures, and averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage in a balanced manner”.

The G77 pointed out the need to understand the synergies and trade-offs between climate action and the pursuit of other sustainable development goals (SDGs). Citing from the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it said that this would “depend on the development context including inequalities, with consideration of climate justice. They also depend on means of implementation, intra- and inter-sectoral interactions, cooperation between countries and regions, the sequencing, timing and stringency of mitigation actions, governance, and policy design. Maximising synergies and avoiding trade-offs pose particular challenges for developing countries....Trade-offs can be evaluated and minimized by giving emphasis to capacity building, finance, governance, technology transfer, investments, and development and social equity considerations with meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable populations.”

The G77 stressed further that equity and the best available science are fundamental to understanding the context and identifying future actions for en-

hancing ambition, addressing implementation barriers and opportunities, and strengthening international cooperation. It referred to its submission as input to the GST, where the Group has highlighted how equity considerations could be taken into account in the GST in terms of both process and substance, adding that “doing so will help ensure that the outcome of the GST is equitable, looking backward at implementation gaps and challenges and how these would be addressed in a forward-looking and equitably ambitious manner in all the various areas and related efforts, taking into account the underlying principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances, and in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

“In this context, an equity-based approach to climate action in light of the best available science would hence require that our discussions at this TD take into account the policy-relevant insights from the IPCC and other inputs with respect to broadening equitable access to and the provision of finance and technologies for mitigation, adaptation, and to address loss and damage and the adverse consequences of response measures; and considering climate justice. This will help in looking at the needed systemic and transformational changes in an integrated manner to enable developing countries to transition to sustainable development”, said that G77 further.

**Zambia** for the **African Group of Negotiators (AGN)** made clear at the outset that “this technical assessment must enable a conversation that is open and transparent, party-driven, covers all priorities of Parties across the agreed scope of the GST and gives balanced and adequate attention to all issues”, adding that “we must understand the reasons why we are now facing the daunting task of cutting global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 45% by 2030, and why climate finance is utterly inadequate to meet the needs of developing countries to both decarbonize and build resilience.”

It also said that “we must also understand why adaptation is still not a central focus for us even though it

is central in the PA” and “why we are still fighting for the space to address loss and damage, and generally why pre-2020 commitments were not fulfilled,” adding that “the GST is an opportunity to consider these issues comprehensively, and recommend available options for taking appropriate action in response. The TDs will provide the basis for this consideration”.

It underlined that “the confidence that all Parties are doing their ‘fair shares’ is what will provide the motivation to enhance ambition. So firstly, in this dialogue, equity cannot be effectively addressed in substance without a thorough review of historical and current contributions to global warming, an in-depth analysis and recognition of adaptation actions, and the adequacy of means of implementation provided. Secondly, consideration of equity should also facilitate an enhanced understanding of the circumstances and development context in which Parties are making their contributions and pledges. Thirdly, this has to be in accordance with the guiding principles of equity, CBDR-RC, the right to development, the equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and the importance of a just transition, where each Party finds its most appropriate pathway to development and achieving our shared objectives”.

Zambia highlighted the “unique circumstances and special needs” of Africa, stating that the continent “has endured a long period of exploitation that led to the plundering of significant natural resources and human capital”. “To compound it all, while having very little responsibility for climate change and the lowest per capita emissions of any region, Africa now faces some unique challenges that are well documented in the IPCC’s latest assessment report”. It highlighted and looked forward to “an outcome which places the just transition at the centre of our long-term low emissions pathways, enables adaptation commensurate with our current emissions trajectory, addresses loss and damage, and provides adequate support to accomplish these goals”.

**Saudi Arabia** for the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)** shared that it is “representing the challenges, opportunities and diverse trajectories of over half of the world’s population, as well as their

diverse development aspirations. In this regard, we need to continue to stress the principles that govern us all within the UNFCCC and the PA, which are those of equity and CBDR-RC”. Referring to the buzzword “ambition”, it spelled out that “ambition of announcements and target is no longer sufficient. This is the time for the ambition of implementation and action. Ambition is multifaceted and inter-dependent. We cannot discuss ambition of action, without discussing the critical gaps that remain in support. There still remains significant pre-2020 gaps and commitments, which we cannot ignore. We cannot look forward if we cannot credibly assess accountability of the past”.

“We need to urgently push for the required and long-overdue balance between adaptation and mitigation, and the balanced treatment of thematic areas under PA in the GST process and outputs. We view the launch of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GGA) as a critical step in establishing the goal on adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change... The GGA is an overarching goal, which should be global in nature but taking into account different and unique national and regional circumstances. For the GGA design to truly be a success, we need to ensure that any adaptation related action that would feed into the achievement of the GGA, as well is to be consistent with the temperature goals in the PA”, highlighted the LMDC.

On climate finance, it reminded that “the current \$100 billion goal was set years ago, and is still unfulfilled. Now a new goal is being established, with no clear understanding of channels or financial instruments, role for public sector of developed countries, role for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund. This is in the context, again, of a history of 90% of finance having been allocated for mitigation. We remain deeply disappointed that there is still no agreed definition of climate finance and it has taken us a very long time to even give the mandate to the Standing Committee on Finance to work on this area. This is very important to our group to be able to ensure accountabili-

ty and transparency and to be clear that the support provided by developed countries is indeed climate finance and different from developmental assistance or other financing”.

“Without sustainable development, poverty eradication, economic diversification, and just energy transitions, the global discussion on climate action would be lacking in its effective inclusion of equity, balance and ensuring that we are honestly and truthfully coming together to advance solutions for all”, said the LMDC.

**Senegal for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** highlighted that “the GST must inform the world how we are collectively tracking towards a 1.5C warming consistent pathway”. “The first GST must also indicate the financial, technological, and capacity building gaps we are facing to achieve the long-term goals we set under the PA” and underlined further that “effective implementation of Article 9 of the PA (on finance) is critical for making progress towards the long-term goals of shifting towards low carbon emissions and climate-resilient development pathways. We expect that the GST will allow us to raise ambition in the provision and mobilization of climate finance for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage, including for enhancing support for capacity building and technology transfer, in the light of equity and the best available science”.

**Colombia for the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC)** called upon all Parties to engage in the TD with a view to ensuring that the GST outcome “can enable all Parties to enhance ambition in action and support in line with what is required by the PA goals”. It further called for climate finance to be “made available immediately to enable the necessary flows of means of implementation that are coherent with achieving the Paris goals. Finance is an enabler, and the very logic of the word ‘enabler’ implies that it has to come first”, stressed Colombia.

**Algeria for the Arab Group** pointed out that the GST aims to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the PA, but the assessment needs

to go beyond, by linking our work to what is ongoing under the Convention” and that the PA is an instrument under the UNFCCC, aiming to enhance its implementation. Consequently, the Arab Group stressed the need to link the technical work to the ongoing work under the second periodic review of the long-term goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it. It also underscored that the technical assessment should address all thematic areas mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support including provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity building as well as address impacts of response measures.

**Trinidad and Tobago for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** said that the latest IPCC scientific reports showed that “although progress has been made in the climate process, even since the PA, this progress is slow instead of being urgent; incremental instead of transformative and abysmally insufficient for keeping us within a 1.5C trajectory”. It added that “the GST outcome should provide policy direction within the global climate process to course-correct in areas where there have been insufficient levels of ambition, and in particular where the needs of the most vulnerable have not been adequately addressed. We see this as the most effective way to guarantee that the outputs correspond to the dictates of both equity and the best available science”, it said further adding that “the GST outcome must provide a firm basis for ensuring that SIDS are not left behind in the just transition that is required to shift the world onto a 1.5 degree warming consistent pathway”.

**Brazil for Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay (ABU)** expressed a “non-exhaustive” list of issues to be considered at the TD starting with “historical cumulative greenhouse gas emissions (in particular, net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) from 1850 to 2019”. It said that the collective progress in terms of the current implementation of, and ambition in, mitigation actions towards achieving the goals defined in PA should not be assessed in the abstract, but there must be a clear picture on how the world arrived so far regarding greenhouse gas emissions. This is the fundamental context to discuss efforts being undertaken

to plan, implement and accelerate mitigation action and how adequate and effective are the current mitigation efforts and support provided to do so. Further issues it listed were the GGA; accelerated financial support; technology transfer and capacity building; mitigation; response measures; and loss and damage. It also highlighted that the TD “should be informed by the outcomes from the second periodic review under the Convention as the stocktakes on pre-2020 implementation and ambition under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol”.

**China** said that the GST process needs to look back on what Parties have done, and how we got here, taking into consideration the principles of equity, CBDR and national circumstances. It also called for the identification of the best experiences on implementation and the reasons why the pre-2020 commitments failed to be delivered, and to shed light on how to enhance the collective ambition of action and support towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the PA. It expected that the TD and the GST to facilitate the stocktake of progress in adaptation and means of implementation and support; in identifying gaps, barriers; figuring out solutions, best exercises, opportunities; with a balanced allocation of time, activity arrangements; to ensure rich and comparable inputs and have a balanced, holistic and comprehensive stocktake on overall and collective progress.

**India** said that the purpose of the GST is not only on ambition but also of accelerated actions and implementation of that ambition. It underscored that the stocktake also needs to cover all aspects related to action including of means of implementation. It emphasized further that the stocktake must accommodate the diversity of national perspectives, equity, climate justice and the principles of the Convention including CBDR-RC. It underscored the importance of equity and the need to capture the concept of the global carbon budget as highlighted in all the IPCC reports in relation to fair and equitable access, and also looked forward to equitable assessments in all dimensions in a balanced way.

The **European Union, Norway, Canada, Switzerland** for the **Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)**, the **United States, Japan** and **Australia** also took the floor in outlining their expectations and priorities. Additionally, various observer constituency groups and international organizations also presented their statements.