

Statement of Brazil on behalf of BASIC countries issued at the opening plenaries of COP23

As delivered in plenary

I have the honor to speak on behalf of BASIC countries - China, India, South Africa and my own country, Brazil. We would like to fully associate ourselves with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of G77 and China.

Bula Vinaka

First and foremost, we would like to pledge our full support to the Fijian Presidency of COP 23. We would also like to send a message of support for the victims of recent extreme weather events around the world. These events provide us with a strong and unequivocal reminder of the sense of urgency of this COP.

In the interest of time and following our current practice, we will upload the full contents of our statement online [*please see below*]. There are, nonetheless, some elements that we would like to highlight in plenary.

Our countries would like to reiterate that the global effort against climate change is an irreversible process that cannot be postponed. We underline our commitment to the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in all their aspects. We are willing to work together with all Parties and stakeholders to promote global low greenhouse gas emissions, climate-resilient and sustainable development and urge all signatories to stay the course and maintain their support to the Paris Agreement.

We would like to recall BASIC's request, captured in the COP 22 report, for pre-2020 issues to be given equal treatment at COP-23. COP 23 should accelerate the implementation of pre-2020 commitments and actions, including addressing this issue under a dedicated COP Agen-

da Item. We kindly request you to transmit this to the COP 23 President and trust his personal engagement to make this a reality in this session.

Regarding the workprogramme for implementation of the Paris Agreement, BASIC would like to underscore the need for advancing textual negotiation in order to produce a comprehensive, party-driven negotiating text covering all the matters related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement at COP 23 that can serve as the basis for negotiations in 2018, reflecting all Parties' views and inputs in a balanced manner.

We look forward to an outcome in COP-23 that gives clarity in the design of the Facilitative Dialogue (FD) in 2018. This will be an opportunity to consider collectively the overall progress made on the implementation of all pillars of the Convention in the global effort to address climate change. Developed countries must take the lead towards closing the ambition gap so as to avoid transferring the burden to developing countries and from the pre-2020 to the post-2020 period.

Finally, we would like to express in plenary our deepest concern over attempts by some developed countries to unilaterally apply new eligibility criteria for developing countries' access to funding under the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund. Such criteria are not compatible with guidance from the Conference of the Parties and are a departure from the letter and the spirit of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. These attempts have no legal basis and, in our view, are tantamount to renegotiating Paris. This may potentially undermine the level of ambition of developing countries in the global effort against climate change.

Thank you Mr. President.

Full statement for the record

Brazil has the honor to speak on behalf of BASIC countries - Brazil, South Africa, India and China. We would like to fully associate ourselves with the statement made by Ecuador on be-

half of G77 and China. We would like pledge our full support to the Fijian Presidency of COP 23.

The BASIC countries welcome the large number of ratifications achieved to date (169) of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We reaffirm that the Paris Agreement is a hard-won achievement by the international community which enhances the implementation of the Convention in the post-2020 period and strengthens the global response to climate change in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, reflecting equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances

The global effort against climate change is an irreversible process that cannot be postponed. It offers valuable opportunities to promote sustainable development. In this regard, BASIC countries reiterate their highest political commitment to the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in all their aspects.

We urge all signatories to stay the course and maintain their support to the Paris Agreement for the good of all humankind and our future generations. BASIC countries are willing to work together with all Parties and stakeholders to promote global low greenhouse gas emissions, climate-resilient and sustainable development.

The BASIC countries pledge their full support to the Fijian Presidency of COP 23. We underline the importance of COP 23 to prepare the ground towards the completion of the work related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The work on both the pre-2020 and post-2020 should be in full accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We emphasise the importance of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and the Party-driven nature of the negotiations.

We recall BASIC's request, captured in the COP-22 report, for pre-2020 issues to be given equal treatment at COP-23. We underline that COP-23 should accelerate the implementation of pre-2020 commitments and actions, including addressing this issue under a dedicated COP Agenda Item.

BASIC countries are willing to continue working constructively with other Parties to adopt balanced and meaningful outcomes, in 2018, related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement from 2020. With the aim of accomplishing this task, we underscore the need for advancing textual negotiation in order to produce a comprehensive, party-driven negotiating text covering all the matters related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement at COP 23 that can serve as the basis for negotiations in 2018, reflecting all Parties' views and inputs in a balanced manner. It is important to ensure that the COP-23 outcome captures the range of views as a set of alternatives and that the draft guidance operationalizes common but differ-

entiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), while not reinterpreting the Paris Agreement.

The outcomes in 2018 of the work related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement shall be comprehensive and balanced, reflect differentiation, the nationally determined nature of Parties' contributions, and flexibility for developing countries.

As nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, Parties' efforts should cover mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, taking into account differentiated responsibilities and obligations of developed and developing country Parties under the Convention and Paris Agreement. The guidance being developed under the Paris Work Program should assist Parties with the preparation and communication of their NDCs, while respecting the nationally determined nature of Parties' contributions.

Adaptation is an issue that requires an urgent global response. We reiterate the importance of both the global adaptation goal and of the adaptation communication as a component of Parties' NDCs in achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement. We emphasise the importance of making progress to define the information and methodologies and approaches to generate such information. We urge developed countries to provide adequate support to developing countries in meeting the cost of their adaptation actions.

We reaffirm that the extent to which developed countries will provide sustained, predictable and adequate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries will determine the extent to which developing countries are able to contribute their highest possible ambition towards addressing the global challenge of climate change.

BASIC countries are deeply concerned over attempts by some developed countries to unilaterally apply new eligibility criteria for developing countries' access to funding under the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund. Such criteria are not compatible with guidance from the Conference of the Parties and are a departure from the letter and the spirit of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. Furthermore, such attempts violate the terms of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environmental Facility, as well as the Governing Instrument of the Green Climate Fund, falling outside the mandate of the GEF Council and of the GCF Board on eligibility criteria. These attempts are tantamount to renegotiating the Paris Agreement and potentially undermine the level of ambition of developing countries in the global effort against climate change.

We emphasise the need for further clarity and robust methodologies to track and account for the provision of finance by developed countries. We further highlight the importance of discussing modalities for communicating indicative information on the support to be provided to developing countries. Effective implementation of developed countries' legal obligations regarding support will be paramount for trust building among parties in order to create an international enabling environment for a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

BASIC countries further urge developed countries to honour their commitments and increase climate finance towards at least USD 100 billion per annum goal by 2020, to be scaled-up significantly thereafter. In the post-2020 period, we call upon developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention. Furthermore, we call for collaboration among the various mechanisms on adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building, as well as the WIM on loss and damage.

We underscore the importance of operationalising the long-term vision on technology development and transfer, as set out in the Paris Agreement. We call for accelerating the work on elaborating the new Technology Framework, including its guidance to the Technology Mechanism. We also emphasise the role of joint innovation and international cooperation on climate related technology in enhancing global actions.

BASIC countries welcome the adoption of the terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building at COP 22. We call for collaboration between the mechanism on capacity-building and those institutional arrangements on adaptation, finance and technology. We also highlight the importance of guidance to be provided by the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, and urge developed country Parties to provide additional, continuous and adequate support to developing countries for enhancing their capabilities on transparency of action and support received.

We note with concern that pre-2020 gaps exist not only in mitigation, but also in adaptation and support to developing countries. We stress the urgency of accelerated implementation of pre-2020 commitments and increasing pre-2020 ambition. In this regard, we underscore the importance that the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol enter into force without further delay. To date, 80 Parties have accepted the Doha Amendment, while acceptance by 144 Parties is required to bring it into force. We stress further that developed country Parties should revisit and increase their economy-wide quantified emission reduction targets. Enhanced and urgent implementation of pre-2020 commitments is a prerequisite for mutual trust among Parties and for building a solid foundation for post-2020 implementation and ambition, in order to ensure that subsequent NDCs do not become unduly burdensome on developing countries.

The BASIC countries look forward to an outcome in COP-23 that gives clarity in the design of the Facilitative Dialogue (FD) in 2018. This will be an opportunity to consider collectively the overall progress made on the implementation of all pillars of the Convention in the global effort to address climate change. We emphasise the importance of outcomes that lead to the identification of challenges and opportunities to accelerate climate action and support, in the context of SD, climate justice and poverty eradication as the overriding priorities of developing countries. Developed countries must take the lead towards closing the ambition gap so as to avoid transferring the burden to developing countries and from the pre-2020 to the post-2020 period.

In this context, we highlight the efforts and substantial achievements of BASIC countries and other developing countries in tackling climate change, both pre- and post-2020, and emphasise that these represent far more ambitious efforts compared to their respective responsibilities and capabilities. BASIC countries have made notable progress towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. We are committed to sharing experiences and supporting each other as they further develop their domestic climate policies and actions.

We welcome the adoption by the Green Climate Fund of a pilot programme for REDD+ results based payments, noting the need for adequate and predictable support for the implementation of all REDD-plus activities. We underline the imperative that REDD-plus ensures environmental integrity and, in this regard, reiterate that results-based payments shall not be used to offset mitigation commitments by developed countries.

The BASIC countries reiterate that the UNFCCC is the primary international forum to coordinate the global response to climate change. Measures and outcomes under other multilateral fora addressing issues related to climate change, such as the United Nations General Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the International Maritime Organisation and the Montreal Protocol, as well as the G20, must be consistent with the UNFCCC and in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We further underline that measures under ICAO and IMO must not place undue burdens on developing countries and not create distortions to international trade.