

VIEWS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY ON HOW TO PROGRESS WORK IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE THIRD PART OF THE RESUMED FIRST SESSION OF APA

The Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay welcome the opportunity to submit their views regarding *“how to progress work in the period after the third part of the resumed first session of the APA (May 2017) in a coherent, balanced and coordinated manner, bearing in mind the related matters being considered by the SBI and the SBSTA”*.

I. General approach on how to progress work after APA 1.3

The Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are of the view that the *“conceptual phase”* of the work under APA must have its final stage during the May session - the work after this session must be based on textual negotiations, with a view to allow the negotiations of the Paris Agreement implementation to be finalized by 2018.

In this regard, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay support a mandate to be given to the APA Co-chairs for the preparation of draft decisions texts for each APA agenda items 3 to 7, and 8 (being the last exclusively on matters related to the Adaptation Fund), to be presented in all UN languages, before September 30th, 2017.

The draft decision text proposals from the APA Co-Chairs must reflect a balanced approach, provide the general structure and main elements for each of the decisions and should include options for addressing main issues, taking into account: submissions presented by Parties; submission synthesis and compilations; information notes; workshops, roundtables and; statements and negotiations by Parties on plenaries, contact groups and informal meetings during APA 1; 1.2; and 1.3. In some cases, placeholders could be used to flag issues to be further discussed. The draft decision text proposals shall be of the sole responsibility of the APA Co-Chairs, but done with the assistance of the co-facilitators for each agenda item, and the Secretariat, as appropriate.

It is important to highlight that the APA Co-Chairs draft text would only be the input for the November session, assuring that the output of COP23 would be a compilation of formal draft negotiation texts with "ownership" by Parties. At the beginning of the November session (APA 1.4), Parties would agree whether or not to use each of the proposals as a base for negotiations. APA should then move immediately to textual negotiations and should have plenty of time allocated for improving the text, while Parties must restraint in good faith of any attempt of trying to *“balloon”* the text, which will make it impossible for negotiations to remain strategic and focused on the most relevant issues.

COP President, SBs Chairs, APA Co-Chairs and the Secretariat should prepare the time schedule for the November sessions in a coherent approach that prioritizes APA's work on improvement of the text. Since financial resources for meetings are scarce, time should be used very smartly during the APA November session, in order for APA negotiations to finish in 2018. In this context, it is also important to bear in mind that the proliferation of thematic events during

the COP, particularly those that require Ministerial participation, may be detrimental to the formal process, because they also demand engagement by delegates involved in the negotiations. APA session in November should have, at least, slots of three hours for each agenda item contact groups every two days and meetings should start strictly punctual

II. Approach regarding interlinkages during APA sessions.

The issue of interlinkages between APA agenda items 3 to 7, as well as interlinkages with other mandates arising from Decision 1/CP.21, that are currently distributed in several SB's agenda items and within the agendas and workplans of other constituted bodies (such as the AC, LEG, SCF, etc.), require an additional effort from the APA Co-Chairs and Parties, in order for all of these elements and their interlinkages to remain coherent.

In this regard Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are of the view that is necessary to strengthen agenda item 8b; for example by holding two general stocktakes under this agenda item during each APA session, which could be presided by the APA Co-Chairs and with the presence of SB Chairs, the constituted bodies Chairs and APA co-facilitators, together with Party's Heads of Delegation in order to deal with the timing of elements arising from each agenda item/mandate, as well as with any interlinkage issue that require a coherent approach.

APA Co-Chairs may also wish to explore interlinkage issues in a permanent manner with the APA co-facilitators, SB Chairs and other bodies Chairs, so as to bring those issues to the general stocktake, alongside with possible solutions to improve the work in a balanced, coordinated and coherent manner. Parties may also wish to bring interlinkage issues alongside possible solutions to the general stocktake as well.

III. Approach regarding Co-Chairs elections and APA sessions.

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are comfortable with the current Co-Chairs remaining until the end of the APA session 1-4. Furthermore, Parties could consider their continuation for the remainder of the APA process, until the end of COP24.

In case new Co-Chairs are elected during the November sessions, the new Co-Chairs should remain appointed throughout all 2018 sessions, such as the May 2018 session -to be named APA session 2.1-; any other extra session to be called upon, and; the November 2018 session – to be named APA session 2.2 (or 2.X in case extra sessions are called upon between 2.1 and this last APA session).

This approach may have the inconvenience, that one regional group of the developing country constituency, may not have the opportunity to present a candidate to act as APA Co-Chair

from the developing country constituency. Such issue should be taken into account in a balanced and in a good faith approach.

It is important to note, however, that continuing to apply the ADP arrangements would impose the same inconvenience, leaving regional groups without representation or restrict their chairmanship to one session. The ADP arrangements ensured balanced and equitable representation over the course of 4 years, while APA will only have, in total, a 3 year period – half of which has already passed – and much fewer formal sessions.

It is the view of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, therefore, that the arrangements agreed for the election of co-chairs during the ADP and reiterated upon the creation of the APA can no longer be applied without creating severe difficulties for the negotiation process.

IV. On the issue of workshop's participation.

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay wish to express their discomfort regarding the limitations for participation of additional delegates in the APA agenda item 5 intersessional workshop.

Such workshops and roundtables, being an essential negotiation stage, by no mean shall remain limited to one delegate; being the constituted praxis that each and every Party may wish to participate with as many delegates as the Party may found useful in official negotiation sessions.

In particular, the Transparency agenda item is a cross-cutting issue that involves expertise and participation of several Ministries and/or government agencies, hence, a Party may find the need to include an adequate representation of such institutional diversity in their negotiation's delegation.