



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY AMBASSADOR WAEL ABOULMAGD, CHAIR OF THE G77 AND CHINA FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROCESS, AT THE JOINT OPENING PLENARY OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE COP TO THE UNFCCC (COP24); THE 14TH SESSION OF THE CMP; AND THE THIRD PART OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE CMA, KATOWICE POLAND, 2018

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden all developing countries and in particular the poorest and most vulnerable among them. 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record at a full 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The devastating effects of climate change are real and sudden. Extreme natural disasters can affect the environment, the economy and society and reverse hard-earned developmental gains overnight. The massive humanitarian consequences that follow are even more catastrophic.

Distinguished delegates,

As we start our work here at Katowice, it is useful to remember that we are at perhaps the most crucial moment of the Climate Change process. Paris was a historical milestone. But without the successful completion of the task of operationalizing the Paris Agreement here in Poland the opportunity to turn the tide will be missed.

And while doing so, we must also maintain focus on the implementation of existing commitments by developed countries in the pre-2020 period, including increasing their ambition and revising their emission reduction targets, as well as providing means of implementation for developing countries, and to enhance action to address loss and damage and the adverse effects of climate change from extreme and slow onset events, including through the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.

Distinguished delegates,

While engaging with the technical negotiating process we should always remain aware of the broader global picture. Unfortunately and despite the growing awareness of the perils caused by climate change and the rise of a supporting public opinion, we are regrettably witnessing increased challenges to the very science underlying this effort as well as rising hostility towards collective multilateral efforts, particularly with regard to climate change.

On our part the G77 and China has never wavered in its commitment to effectively combatting climate change and dealing with its adverse impacts already witnessed across the world. We have spared no effort to support the process and have approached the negotiations with an open mind and a full willingness to achieve success here in Katowice. We have made it a point to avoid entrenchment and maximalism, and we have done our utmost to build bridges and engage sincerely.

While we are optimistic that this spirit will prevail, we must also caution against inflexibility. While no-one can deny that we have made real progress in moving the PAWP further towards maturity, we must reiterate, as we have done at all opportunities presented thus far, that a lop-sided or unbalanced outcome is not sustainable. What we expect at the end of this CoP is an outcome which can and will be embraced, and implemented in good faith by all.

The Paris Agreement was crafted with a delicate balance in mind between action on the one hand, both in mitigation and adaptation, and support on the other. We remain concerned by the lack of progress on many of the pivotal tracks in the negotiations, particularly on the support side. While no-one can reasonably expect all tracks to achieve identical progress, given the specifics and particularities of each of them, we are still concerned that our calls for reasonable comparability in the levels of progress achieved across the board remain unfulfilled. We once again stress that reasonable comparability is essential and that the only guarantee for complete buy-in by all parties is a package which leaves no issue behind.

Distinguished delegates,

We cannot stress enough that the guiding principle, as set out by the Convention and its Paris Agreement, of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light national circumstances must be upheld in the outcome of our work here in Katowice. We must also respect the core tenets of undertaking the climate agenda in-line with efforts to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. The parity clearly outlined in the PA between mitigation and adaptation efforts must also be safeguarded and upheld, recognizing the pressing and existential threats we are facing here and now, and subsequently the resources we are already spending on facing them.

As developing countries, our pressing needs for development and the betterment of lives by lifting people out of poverty must be respected and safeguarded in this process. Herein lies the criticality of support. As developing countries we committed to this most crucial cause of facing climate change collectively as we genuinely recognized that the existential threat it poses looms upon all of us. However, we also undertook it in light of a clear commitment laid out by Paris that the means of implementation would be readily available.

Distinguished delegates,

The G77 and China believe that Katowice provides us with an opportunity to deliver a balanced and robust outcome which would responsibly and adequately respond to the

serious challenges of climate change, most recently highlighted by the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C which underscored the urgent need for enhanced action.

Allow me now to highlight the views of the G77 and china on a number of the central issues in the negotiations:

FINANCE

On the finance side, in light of the deep concern regarding the shortfall of resources within the Green Climate Fund, we note with appreciation the initiation of the GCF's 1st formal replenishment and will continue to seek a substantial and ambitious replenishment. The 1st formal replenishment process must be informed by the needs and priorities of Developing countries, and guided by ambitious potential mitigation and ambition scenarios drawing on the NDCs, NAPs, and country strategies as well as by the relevant elements of the arrangements between the COP and the GCF in particular paragraphs 17 (a) and (b).

As for reporting and communication of finance in terms of Article 9, key issues are yet to be resolved regarding the modalities and vehicles to be used, as well as of what is done with the information to be reported on as part of the obligation of developed country parties to provide finance and how it is assessed under the enhanced transparency regime.

Finally, it is critical that we in Katowice reach agreement on the process for the establishment of a new global goal on finance which needs to be initiated now. This will contribute to the enhancement of trust and confidence among Parties and contribute to the aim of increasing the predictability of finance for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. As we have said before, we believe that the issues of finance are of utmost priority. Addressing them in a comprehensive, satisfactory manner will create in our view favorable conditions that could potentially unlock a broad array of related and linked issues under our negotiations.

We are also concerned by the application of unilateral coercive economic measures that affect the capabilities of developing countries to finance their efforts in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Group also reiterates its deep concern at the lack of response from GEF to communications from parties and once again insists on the necessity of making all financial resources accessible to all eligible country parties.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The Group firmly believes that, technology development and transfer is vital for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions under the Convention and its Paris Agreement. With robust and overarching guidance provided by the Technology Framework, which reflects the basic Principles of the Convention and its PA, namely equity and the principle of CBDR and RC, in light of different national circumstances, and with the Periodic Assessment to ensure its effectiveness, adequacy and predictability on support, the Technical Mechanism will better serve all Parties, especially developing country Parties, to improve resilience and to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions, towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. In this regard, a clear and effective linkage between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism shall be strengthened in practically operational ways to support endeavors to enable concrete and scalable adaptation and mitigation results.

ADAPTATION

We consider that the tools provided by the Co Chairs regarding the adaptation guidance of the PAWP, in particular, APA 4 and the Paris Mandates to the AC-LEG are acceptable and have evolved positively since their last version in Bangkok, especially towards decision text format with clearer options. In any case, several brackets remain in the text that we will have to solve in our technical work of the first week.

The G77 and China will continue to emphasize that the final outcome of this COP should give adaptation a key role in line with our challenges. To this end, support for adaptation actions in terms of the preparation of the adaptation communication, as well as the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programs in accordance with the nationally determined needs of developing countries is a critical element of an acceptable outcome of this COP in Katowice.

TRANSPARENCY

On APA Agenda Item 5 on the MPGs for the Enhanced Transparency Framework for Action and Support (ETF), the G77/China believes that we can make progress if we adhere to the following three principles. First, no backsliding. This means that Parties should build on their current standard of transparency, and the ETF shall build on and enhance the existing transparency arrangements under the Convention. Second, recognize that developing country Parties have different starting points and the MPGs should have built-in flexibility and allow developing country Parties to self-determine which flexibilities we will apply. Third, enable improvement over time. The ETF should ensure that all Parties improve over time and in the case of developing country Parties this will require support. The Group believes that we can successfully conclude negotiations if the MPGs establish an Enhanced Transparency Framework that is equally robust for Action and Support.

NDCs

Under APA Agenda item 3 on the NDCs, the group continues to stress the importance of maintaining the comprehensive full scope of NDCs. The Group again stresses the importance of maintaining the nationally determined nature of NDCs in light of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of national circumstances. We also stress the need for the guidance being developed under this agenda item with respect to the features, information and accounting of NDCs faithfully reflect the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the aforementioned principles under which it was developed.

GST

Under APA Agenda item 6 on the global stocktake (GST), the modalities for the GST should ensure that the scope be comprehensive so as to allow for a full and fair treatment of issues relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and that it is conducted in the light of equity and the best available science, which must be made operational in the modalities for the GST. The modalities should also ensure that Parties have control over the GST process and that the GST outputs and outcome are developed within an appropriate timeframe that allows Parties to effectively consider the information inputs for the GST and take stock of the collective progress towards achieving the long term goals, thereby having the GST outcome inform Parties with respect to their future climate actions and international cooperation under the Convention and its Paris Agreement.

LOSS AND DAMAGE

For Article 8 of the Paris Agreement to be implemented effectively, we need to strengthen the information base to understand climate change impacts and loss and damage being suffered. This information base will also serve as an important barometer on the adequacy of mitigation ambition and action, as well as adaptation action – which in turn, is critical for assessing progress towards the Paris Agreement’s long-term goals. Guidance for reporting on loss and damage under the transparency framework, and information on loss and damage as inputs to the GST, are relevant for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including its Article 8.3 and Article 8.4.

The G77 and China looks forward to engaging with the recommendations in the 2018 annual report of the WIM ExCom, especially because they include the substantial outcomes of the work of the Task Force on Displacement. We are pleased that Parties have expressed a willingness to address the report of the ExCom via COP 24 agenda item 7. The G77 and China notes that the annotated agenda does not accurately reflect that this is the focus of work under this agenda item. G77 is prepared to consider the matter of future governance of the WIM as early as next year and looks forward to these discussions, while not prejudging the outcome

RESPONSE MEASURES

On Response Measures, the Group once again stresses the importance of fully considering and identifying the necessary actions to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures, while avoiding its negative economic and social consequences, including with regard to equitable access to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

By the end of COP24, it is our ambition to have in place improved modalities, functions and mechanisms, as well as the requisite work program and governance arrangements to allow for the technical work to understand the impact of implementation of response measures and to take action accordingly.

PRE-2020

Once again, we must stress that enhanced post-2020 ambition and action are inextricably linked to enhanced pre-2020 ambition and actions. Living up to the commitments under pre-2020 action, in particular raising ambition and revising emission reduction targets as well as the provision of support in terms of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity, by developed country parties is needed to pave the way for enhanced ambition. We also remain concerned by the notion that the burden of unfulfilled commitments may somehow be passed on to developing countries.

TALANOA

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Fijian presidency of COP23 for their tireless work in pushing the climate change process forward. Their diligent efforts to encourage parties to come to the table with an open mind and to espouse the Talanoa spirit has infused our work with the much needed notions of empathy, understanding and trust-building, as well as expanding the process beyond the conference rooms by bringing in the voices and stories of actual people facing the real impacts of climate change on the ground.