
STATEMENT BY CHINA ON BEHALF OF BASIC AT THE OPENING PLENARY OF COP25

2nd DECEMBER 2019, Madrid, Spain

Madame President and Mr. Chair,

China has the honor to deliver the statement on behalf of the BASIC group comprising of Brazil, South Africa, India, and China. I would like to begin by thanking you, the presidency, and pledging our full support at COP25. Allow me to express appreciation to the government and people of Spain for their hosting of the COP and their hospitality.

The group aligns itself with the statement by the State of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China. We welcome the conclusion of the bulk of the Paris Agreement Work Programme in Katowice, but in the meantime, we are fully aware of the challenges ahead. Today unilateralism and protectionism jeopardize the global efforts to combat climate change. There are issues pending that cast a shadow over the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. There are significant gaps in the provision of support that hamper developing countries' capacities to take action. In this context, BASIC countries reaffirm our full commitment to upholding multilateralism and engaging constructively to resolve challenges. And we call for all Parties to join hands, as this is the only way out of the climate crisis, for the well-being of humankind.

Madame President and Mr. Chair,

The Paris Agreement is a landmark, achieved despite diverse political systems, distinct capabilities, and the different national circumstances of 195 parties. Now it's time for us to get prepared to honor this hard-won agreement, and our commitments. In this regard, the group emphasize the importance of a faithful implementation of the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement, in particular of its goals and principles, and also underline the importance of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

In the era of implementation, the Group attaches the utmost importance to the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, as well as the nationally-determined aspect of the Paris Agreement. Developed countries should fulfill their obligations to take the lead, including significantly raising ambition, achieving carbon neutrality as early as possible, providing adequate support, and showcasing feasible pathways and policies

to share with developing countries.

In the era of implementation, the group stresses a holistic interpretation of “ambition”, which includes ambition of action and ambition of support; ambition on mitigation and ambition on adaptation, and ambition in addressing loss and damage.

In the era of implementation, the group recalls the significance of the means of Implementation. Developed countries shall provide finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries, and climate finance shall be new, additional, and with a significant publicly funded component.

Madame President and Mr. Chair,

The BASIC group stresses that the key outcomes of COP25 are to conclude negotiations under Article 6 of Paris Agreement, to achieve progress on climate finance, and to produce robust outcomes on addressing pre-2020 gaps.

On Article 6-related items, the group looks forward to concluding the discussions in accordance with the mandates and principles set out in the Agreement and the accompanying decision. Decisions on other subjects should not pre-empt the outcomes under Article 6, and the issues should be addressed in a balanced and inclusive manner.

Public finance is the fulcrum of enhanced climate ambition by developing countries, and developed countries must honour their climate finance commitments of providing USD 100 billion per annum by 2020 for developing countries in a transparent and grant-based manner. Further, developed countries must progressively and substantially scale up their financial support and finalize a new collective finance goal, based on the needs and priorities of developing countries, in time for the global stocktake in 2023 to inform Parties for future action through NDCs.

It is important to address the significant gap in funding scale of the financial mechanism of the Convention, particularly the GCF and the GEF. Developed countries need to speedily transform their pledges into signed contribution agreements/arrangements. Furthermore, those Parties that have not yet fully signed contribution agreements/arrangements from the IRM period should ensure that outstanding pledges are confirmed urgently. We express our concern regarding the politicization of decisions related to funding proposals at both the GCF and GEF. The group underlines the importance of the transparency of support, including its predictability, and urges developed countries to engage constructively to formulate clear guidance for the biennial communication referred to in Article 9.5, which should include common reporting tables. There should be equal progress on both ex ante and ex post biennial communication of quantitative and qualitative information by developed countries on public financial resources to be provided to developing countries referred to in Article 9.5 as well as Article 9.7 of the Paris Agreement.

On the pre-2020 stocktake, the group wish to draw special attention to the fact that pre-2020 ambition is an important agenda for developing countries. Pre2020 is not about time scale, but about commitments. When commitments are fulfilled, the mission of pre2020 accomplished. The Group is concerned about the pre 2020 gaps due to insufficient and unfulfilled commitments by developed countries in terms of mitigation, adaptation and provision of means of implementation. The time is ripe to constructively address this issue and devise a concrete way forward. Developed countries must be encouraged to act expeditiously and responsibly to close the pre-2020 implementation gap so there is no transfer of burden to developing countries in the post-2020 period. It is important to produce a concrete outcome at COP25 of arrangements to comprehensively assess the pre2020 progress and gaps and to close the gaps by developed countries in post 2020 period. The group also call on the Parties that have not yet ratified the Doha Amendment to do so as soon as possible to ensure its prompt entry into force.

On adaptation, it is critical that there is overall balance between action and support, and mitigation and adaptation in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. To this end, the Group looks forward to hearing the report of the Adaptation Committee under the CMA, and welcomes the proposed consultations by the Presidency on the Global Goal for Adaptation at this session, so central to adaptation in the Paris Agreement, and envisage that this will lead to further necessary work under the CMA.

On the review of the WIM, the group welcomes the review based on the mandates, and stresses the importance of addressing loss and damage on the basis of equity, and in accordance with the principles of CBDR-RC and the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement and COP decisions.

Madame President and Mr. Chair

The BASIC Group assures you our full commitment to working with you and all other Parties towards the success of COP25, in an open, transparent, consensus-based and party-driven manner.

Thank you.