

**RINGO Opening Statement
June Session/Virtual SB
31 May 2021**

Thank you, Chairs, for the opportunity to speak at this joint opening plenary. My name is Tracy Bach, and I represent the Research and Independent NGOs or RINGO.

All subsidiary bodies have significant agendas to cover in the next three weeks. RINGOs support Parties' commitment to use the time wisely to make progress on the high volume of work accumulated in the absence of sessions in 2020.

In the few months remaining before COP26, we urge Parties to take real and tangible actions to strengthen ambition in their enhanced NDCs, formulate long-term low emission development strategies, and commit to a pathway of green recovery from the pandemic.

The pandemic has prevented us from meeting in-person, which is crucial to build trust and foster collaboration. But there is much we can do virtually. We can use these virtual SB meetings to continue to exchange ideas and learn from each other, engage in dialogues and explore ways to find consensus on difficult issues, and overall build our capacities to deal with climate change.

The RINGO constituency, along with our colleagues back home, offer climate-related expertise that can contribute to efforts to combat climate change from the local to international levels. As researchers, scholars, and educators, we provide information urgently needed to develop and implement NAPs, NDC, and related climate efforts. Many of us work at universities where research, development, education and capacity building are our daily business. We are eager to partner with governments, civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders to promote understanding of climate change and designing solutions. RINGO members will continue to play our part in fostering an open, transparent, and evidence-based UNFCCC process.

Participation and engagement with relevant stakeholders endure as core issues. We appreciate the efforts underway to conduct the virtual sessions of the subsidiary bodies in a manner that allows meaningful participation by all. We recognize that conducting the sessions virtually poses unique constraints and opportunities, and we commend the Secretariat for its effort. The RINGOs endorse the efforts to ensure an open and inclusive UNFCCC process that welcomes diverse perspectives. We offer our help and support.

Thank you.

Delivered by Tracy Bach, Co-Focal Point, Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)