

RINGO Closing Statement
June Session/Virtual SB2021
17 June 2021

Thank you, Chairs, for the opportunity to speak at this joint closing plenary. My name is Melissa Low, from the National University of Singapore, and I represent the Research and Independent NGOs or RINGO Constituency.

At the close of the 2021 Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies, we thank Parties, co-facilitators, SB Chairs, Presidencies, Secretariat and observers for engaging constructively and capturing views in informal notes despite unprecedented and trying circumstances. A number of mandated events also took place during this session. The RINGO constituency, along with our colleagues back home, are ready to assist Parties now, and in areas that require intersessional, technical and future work on the SBSTA and SBI agendas, with a particular focus on issues related to the Paris Agreement and preparatory work for the first Global Stocktake.

This virtual session of the SB has revealed significant constraints to effective engagement of both Party and non-Party stakeholders. We will need to work harder to further enhance the openness, transparency, inclusiveness and balance of stakeholders in a manner that enhances the implementation of the Convention.

We echo calls for greater clarity on observer participation at COP26, while recognizing the need to balance safety of participants and effective representation. The RINGOs encourage the enabling of non-admitted NGOs from the host country to attend COP26 and flexibility of participation such as through the daily badge system where possible. Given the uneven rate of inoculation to Covid-19, preventing some from travel by November, we also encourage the continued and further use of all available virtual tools for remote participation for observers.

The RINGOs look forward to the upcoming Regional Climate Weeks in the Asia-Pacific and Africa in July, and future opportunities to continue momentum towards success at COP26.

Thank you.

Delivered by Melissa Low, Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)