

AILAC Joint Closing Plenary Statement

Virtual Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC

June 2021

Thursday, June 17th, 2021

Thank you Chairs.

1. Paraguay has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the AILAC Group of countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. Allow me to align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Distinguished Chairs and colleagues,

2. Despite all the connectivity and time zones difficulties that we have faced in the last weeks, we have taken part of a great number of virtual meetings and joined our partners in finding answers, despite the very real limitations that the multilateral framework seems to have, to provide solutions to the climate crisis. Solutions that are real, and not just convenient to some, or all, but rather convenient to the cause.
3. AILAC has attended these meetings to progress our understanding of our positions, to use dialogue to overcome our differences, not for the sake of overcoming them, but to deliver solutions that are true to what science demands, beyond our own national interests. We are here to foster *that* common ground. We came here to craft the basis for our future discussions in Glasgow. And we believe that at the closing of these first Virtual Negotiating Sessions, despite the setbacks, reticence and challenges we have begun that journey with this first step.
4. Perhaps not every single agenda item has reached the same level of deliverables. Yet, this only illustrates the heterogeneity of our negotiation mandates and not a deficiency of our process. Moreover, and in line with the position of the G77 and China, it is our view that any documents capturing progress from these sessions are prepared by the co-facilitators and the SB Chairs under their responsibility based on their broad understanding of the views of all Parties. These documents will not prejudice future conclusions or decisions. AILAC has trusted you, Chairs and co-facilitators, to take the work done here and generate informal texts in the manner that you believe best enables us to build progress in our deliberations. We look forward to build upon these outputs in future discussions and working towards the deliverables of our diverse mandates.

Chairs, colleagues,

5. **Common timeframes** are instrumental to ensure that NDC communication and implementation both reflect the latest available stocktaking and scientific information. We welcome the constructive spirit which many have displayed in seeking to frame all options in a manner that allows us to highlight the key elements for negotiation and lay the building blocks for a decision on this issue that catalyzes and DOES NOT hinder progression and ambition in NDCs so as to deliver the long-term targets under Paris. It is clear, however, that some Parties, including AILAC, still have important concerns, and that it is not straightforward to converge on a framing of the options in a concise manner to serve as a basis of future negotiations. We welcome attempts by the cofacilitators to lead us on this, and hope they can reflect the latest comments heard in their informal text, so it can serve as a basis when next we meet.
6. AILAC considers the **global stocktake** to be of fundamental importance in the operation of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement. We welcome the fruitful deliberations between Parties on the sources

of input and how to efficiently process them. We appreciate the balanced view of the cofacilitators' informal text, as well as the inclusion of all views in a dedicated website. With regards to the non-paper by the SB Chairs on the preparation of the GST, we note that its current framing is backward-looking, in keeping with the language of decision 19/CMA.1.

7. We recall that the objective of the GST is to help us drive ambition, and therefore urge the SB Chairs broaden their view and consider *the latest scientific thinking on the changes we need on the ground* as part of the conceptual framing of the GST. We look forward to an analytical approach and guiding questions that are forward-looking, to guide us in terms of what we must do, not simply track what we have done. It is obvious that the **second periodic review of the long-term global goal** must serve as a key input to the global stocktake, and that the third Structured Expert Dialogue must include the IPCC reports expected in the first half of 2022. Since we have already delayed the COP due to the COVID19 pandemic, we see no obstacle to adjusting the periodic review dates accordingly so the best available science can be considered, and we urge all Parties to join us in this.
8. We thank co-facilitators and the SBSTA chair for the effort made structuring informal notes on **transparency** that have composed a good basis for discussions and reflect in some way different Parties' positions. We also thank the Parties for their willingness to advance the discussions and provide feedback on the content of the informal notes to ensure a language aligned to the modalities, procedures and guidelines and Parties' positions adequately reflected.
9. For AILAC, informal notes on SBSTA agenda item 14 contain most of the technical elements that we, as Parties, need to further progress in our deliberations, so this is an effort that should not be lost. These informal notes are a reference for our work towards the COP. Nevertheless, we also need co-facilitators to follow a more balanced approach when including and compiling inputs from Parties the next time we meet. This is crucial to preserve Parties' trust in the process.
10. Regarding intersessional work, for AILAC it is of the utmost importance to have additional workshops to continue our technical work with particular focus on the common reporting tables and tabular formats. Without this intersessional work for us, it will be very challenging to guarantee a robust and consistent outcome for this agenda item in Glasgow. Finally, we want to remind all parties that the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement is of vital importance for the functioning of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement and, therefore, finalizing the negotiation of the enabling elements of this framework is instrumental for implementation and the achievement of the long-term goals. We need to ensure success in this negotiation phase to get the transparency framework machines up and running as soon as possible.
11. Regarding **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**, we appreciate the effort made by the SBSTA Chair in convening technical dialogues, even before informal June Sessions. Nevertheless, the group expected a more balanced prioritization of the topics for these sessions, aimed to address fundamental issues needed to protect the ambition and integrity of both Article 6 and the Agreement itself.
12. In any case, AILAC recognizes the progress made during these sessions and, in consequence, the group anticipated the possibility of having an informal note on Article 6 that reflects the progress made, the possible meeting points and differences that still exist but, especially, those options that have started to profile themselves as potential angles towards the solution to the more complex issues. Despite this not being possible, we thank the SBSTA chair for the summary notes provided during these sessions.
13. On the other hand, AILAC wants to stress the importance of continuing with our work at technical, heads of delegation and high levels. In this sense, we would appreciate if more meetings could be ~~con~~vened to

continue enhancing our understanding of more complex technical issues. We also welcome the Ministerial meetings that will be held in June aimed to address and provide guidance to the work from a political angle. Finally, we reiterate our willingness to work together to reach, at CMA4 in Glasgow, an outcome that is true to the role that Article 6 was envisioned to play in achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and by no means hindering them.

14. AILAC appreciates the development of the **Workshop on long term finance** and the **Workshop over Article 9.5 biennial communications**, which have both brought political attention to the broader finance agenda in which we call for adequate provision and mobilization of finance, including public, grant-based finance for adaptation, so to address the needs and priorities of developing countries to leverage national climate action.
15. As for the finance negotiation items, we could have benefitted from additional sessions to further discuss the Terms of Reference of the Fourth Review of the Adaptation Fund as well as the urgent technical and financial support to the enhanced transparency framework through the GEF. We look forward to engaging in both issues and in the comprehensive finance agenda before and in Glasgow, in particular to hear of additional financial commitments from our developed country counterparts and in regard to the initiation of negotiations over the new goal on finance, so that financial support aligns in quantity, quality and composition to the ambition posed by the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals.
16. On adaptation issues, AILAC welcomes the work of the co-facilitators and the engagement of Parties in expressing their views under **the SBSTA agenda item on the Nairobi Work Programme** and **the SBI agenda item on National Adaptation Plans**. However, and unfortunately, we consider that we felt short from meeting the SB Chairs expectations on these agenda items that are of utmost importance to us, vulnerable developing countries. We esteem that much more progress could have been made if we had been able to allow the co-facilitators to include, in their informal notes, possible elements of an outcome on both items. Such elements could have served as an excellent basis for resuming discussions and making the best use of our time in Glasgow.
17. AILAC also takes the opportunity to express our appreciation to the COP 25 and COP 26 presidencies for the informal meeting on **the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage** that was convened during this SBs session in response to the request made by our G77 and China Chair. We look forward to **the rapid operationalization of the Santiago Network** in the way that best serves its overarching objective of catalyzing technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in developing countries.

Distinguished Chairs,

18. To end on a positive note, we praise the fact that the **Durban Forum on Capacity Building** and the **Fifth Meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building** have taken place during these sessions. These two events show how we can efficiently take advantage of virtual means to progress in our deliberations and actively take decisions. The PCCB in particular has been doing an excellent job in enhancing coordination and coherence amongst different constituted bodies as well as in promoting greater understanding of capacities gaps and needs of developing countries.
19. We have now concluded our virtual sessions. **We encourage all Parties to reflect upon how to best use what we have heard, we have learnt, and above all what we wish to achieve. If we do not have a common vision, persevere from this starting point, and believe that WE CAN DO IT, the base that we've built over**

these many hours will be lost.

20. The Glasgow COP CAN deliver on its mandates, provided we build from this foundation.

21. Let me finish by thanking you, Chairs and the Co-Facilitators for your leadership, the Secretariat for its hard work, and to all Parties for being present and engaging in active dialogue. AILAC remains open to continue working constructively towards COP26, seeking common ground that may result in a better starting point for November.

Thank you,