

Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) at the Opening Plenary of the fifth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1.5)

30 April 2018

Co-chairs,

The African Group would like to express its appreciation of your efforts in guiding the work of the APA to date. We reaffirm our support, and determination to ensure that COP 24 in Katowice delivers on the mandate, as such conclude the work of the APA. The African Group supports the statement made by Ambassador Wael on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would however seek to emphasise some perspectives and priorities of the African Group.

Co-chairs,

We would like to outline our vision for this fifth part of the first session of the APA. Firstly, we support the notion of progressing the informal notes towards full textual narratives with proposals and options. We would underscore the importance of capturing options presented by Parties and Groups, as it is central to achieving the next step towards a negotiating text. It is going to create space for a first reading of the informal notes, such that views expressed in submissions after APA 1-4, can be included.

Co-chairs,

Secondly, the African Group is fully behind the understanding of the APA mandate being to deliver operational guidance on all issues, with guidance being granular, specific and clear. Being faithful and true to the Paris Agreement is ensuring that all its provisions can be implemented from 2020. We are concerned about varying levels of details across the various agenda items.

It is evident that post 2020 arrangements on finance, and more specifically, procedures for the communication of indicative support envisaged in Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement is lagging behind. Furthermore, the ever-critical clarity and consistency of information necessary to understand progress towards global adaptation action is lacking progress on the identification of methodologies and guidelines for generating that information.

Co-chairs, these are some of the critical issues to ensure a balanced outcome in Katowice, and an outcome, which can bring the African Group to the consensus.

Co-chairs

There are other issues that Parties and yourselves should reflect on, which include, but not limited to the maturity of the various pieces of work. Balance will be very important in both the outcomes of COP 24, as well as the further work to be undertaken going to 2020. It is important that we have full operational guidance to all provisions necessary to implement the Paris Agreement in its totality.

Furthermore, you raised the issue of linkages and interdependencies that Parties need to coordinate their positions on. The African Group is indeed coordinating to ensure that issues do not fall between the cracks. What is most concerning for us is interdependencies, such,

- In Agenda Item 3, specifically on mitigation accounting, we are of the view that a clear understanding of the quantifiable aspects of the different types of NDCs and the discussions under markets is critical for conclusion on this aspect of the agenda item, and the African Group also highlights to other agenda items, as APA 4 and
- In Agenda Item 5, specifically on tracking progress of NDCs, similarly to mitigation accounting, due to the diverse nature on NDCs, it is our view that, such tracking is possible on the basis of understanding the features and information contained in different types of NDCs.

Co-chairs,

Let me reflect on some African Group priorities by issue,

On mitigation it is quite evident that there are some political and technical issues that are hindering progress in this negotiation. We need to afford some time to clearly understand the political issues, such that we move from an informed position, as we move towards a negotiating text. Substantively, it is our view that a focus on the information to be communicated per-type of NDC is the most important aspect to focus our effort on whilst we seek further understanding on the scope of NDCs and how differentiation can be operationalized with the three broad areas under discussion. The African Group is of the view that the scope of NDCs includes mitigation, adaption and means of implementation in accordance with Article 3 of the Paris Agreement.

On adaptation, very limited progress has been made noting that elements of information to be contained in the Adaptation Communication are already outlined to a large degree in Article 7.10. Elaborating information under each element has been our task and limited progress has been made in respect of ensuring that such information is consistent, clear, and can be aggregated.

We are concerned about the outputs of the four mandates to the AC/LEG/SCF where the delivery on the mandates was devoid of the emerging understanding in the discussions under the APA. We have specific views on each in respect of further work to successfully conclude these mandates and we are available to engage.

On transparency, we have a significant amount of material that can be used to advance towards a negotiating text. The Africa Group is concerned on the lack of specificity on information pertaining to support. In the SBI agenda item covering Article 13.7 of the Paris Agreement, we would emphasize the importance of tracking progress of provisions of Article 9 in its entirety.

On the **Global Stocktake**, Parties have made significant progress in exchanging views and understanding. We would like to re-emphasise the importance of ensuring that the Stocktake is undertaken in accordance with science and equity, in this respect the Group of 77 and China submission on equity should find expression in subsequent iterations of the informal note.

Furthermore, we believe it is important to strengthen the understanding of Article 14.3 in particular the role of international cooperative initiatives to enhance action.

On Facilitating implementation and compliance, Africa Group will continue to engage in contributing to the development of MPGs of the compliance mechanism. We note that the progress on the PA work programme is critical for developing detailed modalities and procedures. The Africa Group will work constructively with Parties for reaching understanding and defining the scope of the compliance committee, at this session and at COP 24.

Co-chairs,

In closing, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to supporting your efforts. We encourage you to continue with your approach of inclusivity, Party consultation, and emphasise the importance of such as we enter this delicate phase of our negotiations.

I thank you Co-chairs