

Parties call for ADP Co-chairs to produce streamlined text for substantive negotiations to begin

Bonn, 9 June (Indrajit Bose and Meena Raman) – At the stock-take meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) held on 8 June, Parties called on the Co-chairs to produce a streamlined and consolidated text to accelerate the pace of work, so as to enable substantive negotiations to begin as soon as possible.

The **G77 and China** said that “we are of the view that the success of this process now hinges on Parties demonstrating their trust in your leadership. It is our view that your leadership and further guidance during this week will help Parties to expedite our work and to leave Bonn with a solid basis for our next session.”

South Africa, speaking for the **G77**, proposed that “the Co-Chairs identify within and across sections (of the Geneva text), similar paragraphs and cluster those paragraphs dealing with the same issues and or themes in the streamlined consolidated text. We must agree that the result of your work would be without prejudice to the existing proposals and without prejudging the priority and sequencing of issues. The same approach should be followed across the different sections of the entire Geneva text.”

It also requested that the Co-chairs “give clear guidance to the co-facilitators on how to move forward in the next round of textual negotiations in order for us to work through the text with clarity and in a consistent manner so as to enable Parties to start substantive negotiations.”

The G77 and China also stressed the “need to create opportunities for Parties to reflect on cross-cutting issues, such as scope (of the agreement), support, thematic parity, equity, differentiation, structure, legal form, at an appropriate time. This would not be a theoretical exercise, but rather take place in the context of specific text that Parties are working on. The views expressed would be captured in your

working document. Such an approach would be an important output (of the current ADP session), as it will help in facilitating negotiations in the forthcoming sessions.”

The G77 said further that “the Paris outcome must address all the elements as agreed to in the Durban Platform in a balanced manner. In this regard we emphasise the urgency and importance of advancing textual negotiations on a decision for workstream 2 (on pre-2020 ambition).” It added that “it will be submitting a text on elements for a decision on pre-2020 ambition today. Given our submission and those of other Parties, we see great value in holding additional facilitations this week to further advance our work on the pre-2020 decision.”

The Group also stressed the importance of clarifying “the nature and status of the document that will reflect the progress made here in Bonn and especially its relationship to the Geneva text.”

The call to accelerate the pace of work and for the Co-chairs to lead in producing the text was echoed by all Parties, both developing and developed countries. Over the past week since the Bonn meetings started in 1 June, Parties have been engaging in a first and second reading of the Geneva negotiating text, working through facilitated meetings to help streamline and consolidate the text. Despite the intense engagement of some Parties, including in providing proposals for streamlining, the Parties were of the view that the progress has been slow.

ADP Co-chair Ahmed Djoghla (Algeria), in his opening remarks at the stock-take meeting said that Parties had shared concerns on the slow pace of work to deliver “a more readable, concise, and manageable negotiating text without duplication or repetition and with clear options.”

Speaking for the ADP Co-chairs, he clarified the following points: “(i) The only official document that will remain with us until withdrawn in Paris is the Geneva negotiating text. The products of this session in Bonn are tools and non-papers aimed at facilitating the adoption at the 21st meeting of the UNFCCC’s Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the Paris agreement; (ii) The expected outcome of this session is the first streamlined and consolidated text; Streamlined paragraphs agreed in the facilitated groups have been made available through our daily updates on the ADP website. These streamlined paragraphs will be included in the new version of the working document to be published in the course of today (8 June); (iii) The co-facilitators will continue to respond expeditiously to any request for further consolidation and streamlining, without leaving out any position and without sacrificing any option, so as to achieve a full re-aggregation of the text. To this end, the co-facilitators have been encouraged to convene bilateral meetings between their facilitation sessions. We, the Co-Chairs, also intend to convene bilateral meetings to prepare for the next stocktaking meeting, if convened, on Wednesday (10 June); (iv) The consistency of the method of work across the facilitation groups will depend on the consistency of the requests of Parties addressed to the co-facilitators; (v) The further clarification of concepts and better understanding of positions are being addressed within the facilitation groups in relation to the text. If needed, a stocktaking meeting will be convened on Wednesday to provide an opportunity for further clarification of concepts at the ADP level. However, we believe that such a discussion should be linked to the text; it should not be used to restate well-known positions or be a broad philosophical discussion.”

Co-chair Daniel Reifsnyder (the United States) added that Parties would get the opportunity to discuss the way forward on the concluding day of the Bonn session (which will be on 11 June). They would discuss what is to be done in the forthcoming ADP sessions planned from 31 August - 4 September and 19-23 October.

After the interventions, Djoghlafl said it was clear from Parties’ interventions that they wanted to expedite and to arrive at a negotiating text that is clear, concise, manageable and workable, and one that did not sacrifice any options. “Some want the negotiating text earlier. I doubt something can be done unless you give us the assurance that you will take it and not throw it in the bin, and we can agree on how to do it. But this will not work. He added that there would be two more sessions on workstream 2 and if Parties felt they might need more time, they would get more time to discuss

workstream 2. He said that another stock-take would be scheduled for 10 June.

On the next steps, Djoghlafl said that the Co-chairs would meet with the co-facilitators and with the Secretariat’s help, reflect on the proposals of Parties and try to come up with a document. “The mandate is very clear. Facilitation meetings should continue to streamline the text ... You are the best placed to know where you stand with a clear understanding on paragraphs that can be identified as potential paragraphs, which we can always put for consolidation,” said Djoghlafl.

Several developing country Parties also stressed on the need for additional sessions on workstream 2 (pre-2020 action).

France, as the incoming COP 21 Presidency, welcomed the positive spirit of Parties and “did not want a last minute scenario” (for the Paris outcome). It stressed the need for a transparent process that delivers. It said that Parties had given strong support for a new document by the end of session and to accelerate the process, stressing that “the only way for the inclusive process is here.”

During the stock take session, the ADP Co-chairs also asked of Parties to reflect on the suggested structure for a decision at COP 21 and what elements of the Geneva text should be part of an accompanying COP decision and what should be part of an agreement. Reifsnyder said that there was no clarity on this and that the UNFCCC was only 22 pages with very short articles. He said there is need to discuss this, as it would help the Co-chairs.

Clear differences emerged on the issue between the developing and the developed countries on this.

Speaking for the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)**, **Malaysia** said that it is premature to discuss the issue because “we have not agreed on what the core elements of the agreement will be”. “We can agree on a general principle such as guidance and timing. We feel requiring Parties to identify at this early stage is premature. We request consideration with that aspect of the work in subsequent sessions,” said Malaysia.

China said it is more important to focus on streamlining the Geneva text rather than discuss what elements should go to the decision and what should be in the core agreement. It added that as a general principle, the agreement should be comprehensive and cover in a balanced manner all the elements and should not be only about mitigation. It said that at this stage that there needs to be guidance or principles on what is in the core agreement and what is not. The

general or big issues should be part of the core agreement while leaving detailed rules for operation and further guidelines elaborated through COP decisions for Paris and beyond. Priority should be on streamlining and consolidating and next time, we can decide on the matter. That is the right approach, said China.

In response to Co-chair Reifsnnyder who said that there is no hierarchy between what goes in the agreement and what goes in a decision, **Tuvalu**, for the **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** said, “We don’t agree there is no hierarchy. There is a hierarchy of decisions. We heard from Parties to move whole sections to the Geneva text. We need clear discussion on what is in the Geneva text and what could be seen as downgrading of work in the decisions.”

The developed countries, on the other hand, presented their views on what they saw as issues belonging to a COP decision and what should be part of the agreement. They said that the agreement should be concise and that detailed rules and anything that is time bound should be part of the decisions.

Highlights of other interventions

Speaking for the **African Group**, **Sudan** called for increasing the pace of negotiations and clarity in the mode of work in facilitated sessions. It said that the secretariat should identify themes and concepts of the streamlined consolidated text, while ensuring that the integrity of Parties’ options remain intact. The Group also called for discussion on differentiation, structure, scope and legal form and said that it would help streamline across sections. Stressing that all options remain on the table, the Group said it is important to capture the status of the documents.

Speaking for the **LMDC**, **Malaysia** said the group had provided texts, paragraphs and participated in the consolidation exercise but that the pace needs to be accelerated. Calling for a change in gear, Malaysia said that it is time now for the Co-chairs to produce a document that would be streamlined and consolidated and which would help negotiations to begin. It said that all options could be retained and language could be tweaked provided it was done in a balanced way.

Speaking for the **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**, **Maldives** hoped that all the co-facilitators continue to work on clustering tables and said the Co-chairs should produce a consolidated version of the Geneva text where all the options remain as is. Calling for a co-facilitated dialogue on workstream 2, it asked of the Co-chairs to develop indicative milestones to be achieved by the next two ADP sessions.

Speaking for the **LDCs**, **Angola** stressed on the need to begin negotiations based on the working document which the Co-chairs produce. It said on workstream 2, Parties need to move beyond the technical examination processes and complement and strengthen National Adaptation Plans.

Speaking for the **Arab Group**, **Saudi Arabia** said it is important that the streamlined working document comes early in the process, which would help move to the real negotiations mode at the next ADP session.

India said that the Durban mandate related to two workstreams. It highlighted that workstream 2 was not getting the balanced time allocation. “Workstream 2 is quite important from the developing countries’ point of view. All submissions made today flag the importance of workstream 2. We need to evolve clear elements of the workstream 2 document by the end of this session. You will receive proposals from G77 and China, AOSIS and the EU. It is enough to give you an idea how to proceed. But we need allocation of time to workstream 2 so that some kind of preliminary negotiations are held and a document on workstream 2 is arrived at,” said India.

“We are working diligently till late. We are being efficient but this is time to take stock and pause and think whether we are being effective. Why should we wait till the end of the session for the streamlined and condensed document? Why not tomorrow? Different sections are moving at a different pace. We urge the Co-chairs that with the benefit of inputs and the combined wisdom of the co-facilitators, to produce a condensed and streamlined text by tomorrow so that from tomorrow till the end, we can indulge in negotiations”, said India. It also said that cross-cutting issues are welcome and that equity must be included in that discussion. On sequencing, India said Parties should first decide about what would be the parts of the agreement. Only then should we look at the COP decisions, it added.

China said there is need for more clear and consistent guidelines to the co-facilitators to follow the same process. It said since the pace of work was not the same across different sections, there is need for guidance on how to approach and cluster paragraphs. China further said there is a need to make options clearer and that streamlining is a priority to further focus on textual negotiations in the forthcoming ADP sessions. It also said that workstream 2 is part of the Paris package. “It is not part of the Geneva text, so there is a lot more work that is to be done to speed up workstream 2. We need to take a balanced approach to both the workstreams. Pre-2020 implementation is a very important factor to build trust and confidence,” said China.

Peru said streamlining of every section should be done before the work of every session. It called for the consistent use of editorial tools, while keeping all the positions on the table. It also said that the next session of the ADP should begin with a concise document to finally negotiate and called for the first draft decision on workstream 2 issues to be produced by the end of the ongoing session at Bonn.

The **European Union** was concerned that Parties had spent a week engaging in an exercise that should have been done by the secretariat. “We are negotiating a legally binding agreement and we need to familiarise ourselves with the ideas in the text. We need a negotiating text that is structured coherently,” the EU said.

Speaking for the **Environment Integrity Group (EIG)**, the **Republic of Korea** also said Parties need to speed up the process and called for a working document as a starting point for negotiations in September.

The **United States** called for a shorter document with clearer options. It stressed the need to see the landing zones on the content of the agreement, the legal character of the agreement, to reduce the number of options in a logical order. “This means we need to engage in negotiations,” the US said. It added that Parties could discuss cross-cutting issues if the discussions were aimed at shortening the text. It also called for “adding a couple of extra days” for the August session of the ADP.+