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ANTALYA CLIMATE NEWS UPDATE
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Call to intensify efforts to bridge differences

Antalya, 18 Nov (Meena Raman) – In a mid-week update issued morning of Wednesday, Nov 18, on the "Organization of Work" to heads of delegations (HoDs) from the COP31 Presidency, **Murat Kurum** (**Turkiye)** and Presidency of Negotiations **Chris Bowen**, (**Australia)**, the need "to intensify our efforts, bridge remaining differences and finalize draft text", was stressed, stating further that Parties must "act with the urgency the climate response requires to complete our work here in Antalya with consensus outcomes across all items." The Antalya talks are scheduled to end on Friday, Nov. 20.

The communication (which was shared with TWN), further states that "We have 21 mandated items on the agendas which are yet to reach resolution, and time is running short." It called on the HoDs to "encourage your delegations to accelerate the pace of work."

The Presidencies informed Parties of the organization of work for the rest of this week, stating that "substantial progress achieved across a number of agenda items, including the host of the Climate Technology Centre, the Third Review of the CTCN (Climate Technology Centre and Network), Action for Climate Empowerment, Periodic Review (of the UNFCCC), GCF (Green Climate Fund), GEF (Global Environment Facility) and FRLD (Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage), NAPs (National Adaptation Plans), LDC (Least developed countries) Matters and Article 6 (of the Paris Agreement on market and non-market approaches) items."

The note further states that "additional negotiating time will be allocated to these items today (Wed) to support their finalization," adding further that "we encourage heads of delegation to authorize your negotiators to exercise flexibility and agree text in rooms today, as there will be limited scope to allocate additional time."

The Presidencies acknowledged "the intensive efforts made on other matters, including relating to just transition, adaptation, finance, mitigation and response measures. While important progress has been made, further work and political engagement will be required to bridge remaining differences and secure consensus," stating further that "the Presidency will make negotiating time available for Parties to resolve outstanding issues today."

The note also states that the Presidencies "will continue to work closely with co-facilitators and Ministerial pairs to identify pathways towards convergence and support Parties in advancing negotiations including through the release of draft texts by early tomorrow (Thursday, 19 Nov.)."

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The update also states that "the Presidency is continuing its consultations on the adoption of the rules of procedure and decision-making in UNFCCC matters."

Parties were also informed that "consultation on strengthening the UNFCCC process with Parties… will take place on tomorrow (Thursday, 19 Nov.).

On the "cover decision", the note states that "we are reflecting carefully on the views expressed and will provide a new draft for Party consideration as soon as possible. We remain committed to consultation with Parties in a manner which is inclusive, transparent and predictable. Any decision, and elements therein, will be agreed by consensus. We ask that Parties be prepared to meet with the Presidency for further consultations on this proposed decision as required."

The Presidencies also said that they "will convene a Divan (Conversations among ministers) today…A concept note with information on the Divan was shared with Parties last night." (See further details on this below).

Further, according to the update, on Thursday, 19 Nov, "we plan to convene the first part of the closing plenaries of the governing bodies to consider and adopt draft decisions that are ready for adoption," adding further that "additional draft decisions that become ready thereafter will be proposed for adoption during the second part of the closing plenaries later in the week."

COP 31 DIVAN

In the concept note on the Divan, Parties were informed that it will be held today, from 5pm–7pm.

"The Divan will be an informal, Party-driven and transparent discussion chaired by the COP President. Ministers are encouraged to respond directly to the guiding questions, speak to one another as well as to the Chair, and explain where their delegations see room for common ground and what they would need to reach agreement."

On the "Purpose of the Divan", the note states that the "conversation will bring ministers together to discuss key cross cutting issues" and "will give ministers a chance to speak openly and hear directly from one another. This will help the Presidency bring together the work of the ministerial pairs, the Presidency consultations and the technical negotiations into a balanced package by the end of the week."

The note states further that "COP31 must meet the global moment and accelerate implementation to keep 1.5 (Celsius) within reach and strengthen resilience, supported by the right enabling conditions. Discussions here in Antalya have had a strong focus on how we come together to set out a clear vision for ambition and action, supported by means of implementation and international cooperation. We have heard a strong call for COP31 to respond to the challenges and opportunities we face today and deliver global results and impacts on-the-ground." In this regard, the guiding question to be considered is "How can COP31 send signals and capture a clear plan of action which meets the moment, while respecting national circumstances and priorities?".

MAJOR FAULT LINES PERSIST

With just three days remaining before the COP ends, negotiations are indeed in a frenzy as usual. Wide divergences still remain, with many along North-South lines.

In the negotiations held last evening on the Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP), which is supposed to focus on Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement in the context of Article 9 as a whole, the **European Union (EU)** said clearly that it could not engage on the basis of the draft text prepared by the co-facilitators, and this triggered a strong response from the **G77 and China** who called for a suspension of further talks, while they take the matter to their HoDs for further guidance on the matter. (For further background on the matter, see TWN Update 4). The G77 and China wanted the focus to be about Article 9.1 on the mandatory provision of finance by developed countries, while the EU wanted focus on Article 9 as a whole, which is seen by developing countries as diluting the focus on Article 9.1. The stance of the EU is supported by all other developed countries as well in terms of the scope of the CFWP.

Parties are also very far apart on the scope of the 'cover decision', with many questioning the need for it and the process itself. A 19-page draft text was presented by the COP Presidencies for the consideration of Parties on Monday, 16 Nov.

Consultations on the text revealed many areas of controversy including: acknowledging "the historical responsibility of developed country Parties for climate change,"; recognising "that capabilities and responsibility for action and support are evolving"; references to "scientific findings on 1.5°C overshoot", and recognition that "carbon dioxide removal will be required to return warming to below 1.5°C; " calls for "global efforts to increase the share of electricity in total final energy consumption to 35% by 2025"; "rapid and substantial reductions on anthropogenic methane and other non-carbon-dioxide emissions"; urging Parties to "transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just orderly and equitable manner"; "tripling finance for adaptation…to reach USD 120 billion" and so on.