



UPDATE ON UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS

PRESENTATION BY DDG MR MAESELA KEKANA

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

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ORGANIZATION OF THE COP

- UNFCCC's UAE Climate Change Conference (COP28/CMP18/CMA5) takes place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December 2023;
- The upcoming conference will be comprised of the three governing bodies:
 - ✓ Twenty-eighth Conference of Parties (COP28);
 - ✓ Eighteenth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP18); and
 - ✓ Fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5) sessions.
- The sessions of the governing bodies will be preceded by the two Subsidiary Bodies:
 - ✓ Subsidiary Bodies for Implementation (SBI), and
 - ✓ Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).



BACKGROUND

- COP28 is taking place at a time when all regions of the world are facing challenges posed by a rapidly changing climate and the best available science is informing policy makers on the risks and potential solutions.
- It is also a period of increased geopolitical tensions, trade disputes and divisions amongst Parties on issues such as carbon border taxes, particularly between developed and developing countries.
- Many countries are facing resource constraints that hinder their ability to take decisive climate action and developed countries continue to backtrack on their commitments and to try to reframe the nature of climate finance.



GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR UAE CLIMATE CONFERENCE

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host a Summit at the start of COP28 on 1 and 2 December 2023 to bring together world leaders to present:
 - Progress and ambition across all pillars of the Paris Agreement,
 - Provide momentum and,
 - Guidance for the remainder of the COP.
- President Ramaphosa has accepted the invitation to the Summit.
- A central concern of developing countries is to secure:
 - Adequate, predictable, at-scale and appropriate means of implementation support for their climate actions and just transitions,
 - Recognition of their right to development and to development space.
- COP28 provides a key platform for both progress on negotiation issues under the UNFCCC, as well as for broader conversations, including on the need for transformation of the global financial architecture.



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RSA EXPECTATIONS FOR UAE CLIMATE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES (COP28)

- South Africa negotiate as part of the Africa group and lead several thematic areas on behalf of the group.
- COP28 will be an important moment in the multilateral process, with the first Global Stocktake to be concluded that should inform the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and enhance international cooperation.
- The UAE has appointed South Africa and Denmark as the Ministerial-level co-facilitators on the GST ahead of COP28.
- Furthermore, COP28 needs to take forward discussions on the transformation of the global financial architecture and reform of the Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions to make them fit-for-purpose in assisting countries to achieve sustainable development.
- COP28 needs to contribute towards unlocking support for developing countries and deliver on key mandates such as the:
 - Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework,
 - First set of CMA decisions under the Mitigation Work Programme, as well as
 - Adoption of the modalities and scope for the Just Transition Work Programme.



POSITION FOR COP 28

On Adaptation

- Parties must agree on the framework for the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme, which aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- COP28 needs to adopt a set of high-level targets and key indicators, such as to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the global population to adverse effects of climate change by 50% in 2030 and 90% by 2050.
- Double adaptation financing.
- Ensure that 100% of developing countries are supported to implement their national plans.
- Ensure universal access to multi-hazards early warning systems by 2027.



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POSITION FOR COP 28

On Loss and Damage

- Parties should agree on the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Finance and funding arrangements that meet the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- Loss and Damage Finance should be new, additional, predictable, accessible and adequate to support all developing countries.
- It should be separate from finance for adaptation and not increase the debt burden of developing countries.



POSITION FOR COP 28

On Mitigation Work Program

- The work programme must consider equity and historical responsibility.
- Developed countries should not:
 - renege on their ambition in light of new energy challenges.
 - not push developing countries into accelerating their greenhouse gas emission to compensate for their GHG emission reductions.
- Developed countries should respect the just transitions of developing countries.
- Should honour their own pledges to assist developing countries for their just transitions.
- Parties should share experiences to enhance implementation of mitigation commitments including exploring new areas to enhance mitigation ambition.
- Mitigation Work Programme decisions should assist countries to scale up their efforts to implement their NDCs by making available new financial resources and technology transfers to developing countries.



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POSITION FOR COP 28

On Global Stocktake

- The first global stocktake (GST) will take place in 2023, as agreed under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, which provides that the CMA shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals, including on mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, in light of equity and the best available science.
- The objective is to assist Parties to prepare more progressive Nationally Determined Contributions in the next cycle and to enhance international cooperation.
- GST should provide a comprehensive stock taking assessment of implementation, with a clear set of recommendations on how to achieve all the goals in the Paris Agreement, under the Convention.
- GST should identify opportunities for enhanced action and support, including international cooperation for climate action.
- GST should not be utilised to advance new interpretations of climate finance by developed countries or for the adoption of non-negotiated decisions on fossil fuels and energy.



POSITION FOR COP 28

Finance

- Some studies indicate adaptation costs for Africa in the range from USD 259 to USD 407 billion between 2020 and 2030, representing an annual average need between USD 26 and USD 41 billion.
- We need a specific and massively scaled-up new quantified long-term goal for finance that is based on the needs of developing countries and backed up with a collectively negotiated implementation roadmap.
- We need concrete proposal that the financial commitments and obligations by developed country parties under Article 9.1, as well as the \$100 billion per annum target, will be met.
 - This will be essential for rebuilding trust after developed countries failed to honour their pre-2020 commitments.
- We also need to see evidence that support will be new and additional and not a repackaging of existing support.
 - It is not sustainable to expect developing countries to have to resort to loans that come with onerous conditionality, infringement on policy space and that exacerbate the debt crisis.



POSITION FOR COP 28

Just Energy Transition

- COP27 agreed to establish a new work programme on just transition pathways and to define the scope and modalities of this work programme at COP28.
- South Africa serves as the lead negotiator for the G77 and China, which seeks a multilateral platform to discuss both the international and national aspects of diverse just transitions pathways.
- Developed Parties seek to narrow the discussion to exchanging best practices on national experiences on energy transition, delinked from the guiding principles of the Convention of equity and CBDR&RC.
- The framework would further enable ambitious climate action by developing countries, while making financial flows consistent with the pathway towards low-emissions and climate-resilient development.
- Such a Framework could support the coal phase-down programmes and ambitious renewable energy investments in developing countries.
- Should provide more programmatic support for the planning and implementation of long-term net-zero targets linked to countries' NDCs and the next round of NDCs, to be communicated in late 2024.
- Developing countries are seeking a more equitable international system and, at the national level, an all-of-society transition in the context of sustainable development and the right to development to address poverty, inequalities and unemployment, with a focus at the UNFCCC on securing enabling means of implementation support.
- Developed Parties seek to narrow the discussion to exchanging best practices on national experiences on energy transition, delinked from the guiding principles of the Convention of equity and CBDR&RC.



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CONCLUSION

The COP28 outcomes should support implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. SA will emphasize the following:

- Urgent need to enhance international cooperation for climate action and on identifying opportunities for action across all sectors of the economy.
- We need to continue building momentum of global economic reforms, including for the MDBs and significant debt restricting/reform to reduce the heavy debt of developing countries.
- The speed and trajectory of our journey towards the sustainable just equitable society - narrow the gap between pledges and actual implementation on the ground.
- We need a specific and massively scaled-up new quantified long-term goal for finance that is based on the needs of developing countries and backed up with a collectively negotiated implementation roadmap.
- Global Stocktake outcomes that is centered around the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities & respective capacities (CBDR &RC), equity and best available science.
- Multilateral agreements on financing Just Transitions.
- South Africa stands ready to play a constructive role for the success of COP28.



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Thank You



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