

Joint SBI and SBSTA Chairs Dialogue with Observer Organizations, COP28, Day 4

Scheduled Date and Time: 12/3/23 14:00-15:00

[note: started at 14:13 and ended at ~15:00]

Location: Meeting Room 9

Notes recorded by: Benjamin Shindel

Affiliations of notetaker: American Chemical Society + Northwestern University

Meeting Summary (see later pages for full, detailed notes):

Opening Remarks:

- **Chair's Introduction:** Emphasized the purpose of the meeting for discussing negotiations, allowing all groups, especially the 9 main constituencies, to speak.
- **Harris Vreuls (SBSTA Chair):** Mentioned logistical issues like long queues, progress in most negotiation items, and efforts to keep negotiations open.
- **Nabeel Munir (SBI Chair):** Stressed the importance of an open, transparent, and inclusive process, noting progress on draft resolutions, GST, mitigation programs, loss and damage fund, and the standing committee on finance.

Q&A Session:

ENGO's Question: Concerned about the slow pace of negotiations regarding NAPs.

- **SBI Chair's Answer:** Assured that texts related to these negotiations would be released soon.

Farmers' Question: Asked about the lack of progress on food insecurity negotiations since Sharm el-Sheikh.

- **SBSTA Chair's Answer:** Acknowledged the slow progress and mentioned that some parties were operating under the assumption they had a full two weeks, leading to a slowdown. Pressure has been applied to expedite the process, especially concerning the agricultural work program.

IPO's Question: Inquired about the structure and timeline of the loss and damage fund.

- **SBI Chair's Answer:** Informed that the negotiations for the loss and damage fund were complete, with details to be discussed at a future date.

RINGO (Beth Martin) Question: Requested more transparency in the negotiation process, especially regarding room access issues caused by party overflow. Thanked chairs for work on transparency regarding PLOP details, and acknowledged the unsustainability of larger and larger room sizes to accommodate increasing COP attendance.

- **SBSTA Chair's Answer:** Addressed the issue of room capacity and security. Informed that the secretariat was instructed to allocate larger rooms if needed, but balancing this with the need for informal settings was challenging.

TUNGO's Question: Concerned about the just transition work program and the premature presentation of bracketed texts before negotiations had even begun.

- **SBI Chair's Answer:** Explained that co-facilitators were asked to find common ground; if not possible, they introduced brackets to focus discussions on contentious issues.

YOUNGO's Question: Highlighted the need for stronger texts on fossil fuel phase-out, debt cancellation, and the importance of youth in COP28.

- **SBI Chair's Answer:** Stressed that the GST group was actively engaged in discussions around these issues, and emphasized the need for ambition beyond the lowest common denominator.

BINGO's Question: Sought insights on the private sector's role in GST and expressed concerns about regression in Article 6.2 negotiations.

- **SBSTA Chair's Answer:** Acknowledged the issue of more people than seats, the balance between security and accessibility, and the challenge of accommodating everyone. Mentioned ongoing efforts to manage room allocations and encourage those without active roles to leave, to make space for observers.

Question from Observer on Liaising with Other Groups: Inquired about cooperation with other working groups, focusing on women's involvement.

- **SBI Chair's Answer:** Discussed ongoing discussions about gender, noting the increasing trend of gender representation in all bodies, though acknowledging there's still progress to be made.

Question from Observer on Equity in Just Transition: Asked if discussions would focus on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), equity, and justice.

- **SBSTA Chair's Answer:** Indicated that the draft texts included concerns about gender, youth, and indigenous groups. Noted these elements were incorporated in GST and that it's up to parties to bring these elements into the just transition work.

BINGO's Follow-up Question: Emphasized their expertise in adaptation and the importance of being inclusive in the negotiation of adaptation frameworks.

- **SBSTA Chair's Response:** Acknowledged BINGO's input and hoped that parties were also considering their expertise.

TUNGO and YOUNGO's Questions: TUNGO emphasized the importance of group inclusion, while YOUNGO asked about the next steps post-GST.

- **SBSTA Chair's Answer:** Mentioned that parties are discussing next steps for GST, including lessons to improve future GSTs and activities needed afterward. The draft text is under negotiation.

Full, unsummarized notes taken during meeting:

Chair begins meeting, thanks SBI and SBSTA chairs: point of meeting is to talk about negotiations, all groups will have chances to speak, starting with the 9 main constituencies, and then move to others

Harris Vreuls, SBSTA chair's opening remarks: we are aware of problems outside, long queues, etc, they have talked to secretariat on that, they are working on it

- progress is being made on most negotiation items, hope to reach a deal in the next few days
- SBI chair and I are trying to keep all negotiations open

Nabeel Munir, SBI chair's opening remarks: we want this to be open, transparent, inclusive; we are working on issues with getting into negotiations

- thank all observers for their contributions
- draft resolutions are being generated, hope to reach agreements on many items by end of session
- GST: global active participation in high-level events
- mitigation program: informal agreement (?)
- loss and damage: great success in creating fund, quite a few pledges already, hope this will be a boost on other things (such as santiago network)
- standing committee on finance: high participation, hope it will move forward

Back to overall Chair: we will take 3 questions at a time and then allow chairs to respond

ENGO: Q: we think negotiations are going pretty slow w.r.t. NAPs and _____, would be nice to have a text soon

FARMERS: Q: parties are not making progress on sharm el sheikh negotiations of food stuff (insecurity), how will impasse be broken

IPO: Q: we want to know more on the architecture of the loss and damage fund and timeline?

SBI chair: wrt ENGO Q, we hope that the texts will be released very soon, w.r.t. Loss and damage fund, the negotiations are complete, so details will happen at a future date

SBSTA chair: related to FARMERS Q, we know they are slow, but a number of parties thought they had a full 2 weeks and were slowing down process accordingly, but now they will try to fast track

- we told them to get started with agricultural work program in particular, please ensure that you finalize your work during these sessions, pressure applied to parties

Chair: more questions:

RINGO: Q (from Beth Martin): we appreciate the work you're doing to do w.r.t. Queues, we appreciate extra transparency, especially details on the PLOP... we want to be clear that

observers are not the problem: party OVERFLOW is, there are many more of them than observers, the pressure on access to rooms is thus party overflow. Larger and larger rooms is unsustainable (especially for informal negotiations). RINGO continues to argue for transparency, not particular outcomes to negotiations. We request more transparency, in particular for access to submissions generated as part of the negotiating process. We truly believes that observers have a role in the negotiating process and RINGOs and colleagues have meaningful contributions to make in the process.

TUNGO: Q: w.r.t. Just transition work programme: there is no agreement between parties on presented text, we do not understand why text is being presented with brackets and options before negotiations have even begun. We regret the divergence between parties on this concept, because we lose out in narrow definitional conflicts... but we also think it would be bad to water down the decision from sharm el-sheikh

YOUNGO: Q: w.r.t. Inclusive processes and observer participation:

- 1) remind that the GST process is because we are not on the necessary pathway and we need stronger text on fossil fuel phase-out and ending subsidies for fossil fuel finances
- 2) GST needs to call on debt cancellation as colonial debt collection is bad
- 3) we have seen that the role of young people is very important at COP28

BINGO: Q: we would welcome your thoughts on GST, how do you see private sector being helpful in carrying forward GST outcomes; we were grateful to be involved in technical phase, could that serve as a model for the political phase?

-w.r.t. Article 6, pleased to see progress, but with 6.2 there is a sense of regression, which is troubling. We wanted to see the full operationalization of article 6 and want to know how we can help with a constructive and ambitious outcome

Chair: back to SBI and SBSTA chairs to answer

SBSTA chair, answering:

-more ppl than seats: there's a security problem, only seated ppl are allowed. There are a large number of admitted ppl, which can create problems with rooms. We have instructed the secretariat to check how many ppl were allocated to a meeting, and to try and accommodate the next day with larger rooms. However, informal settings then become too large and be set in plenaries which can make things more difficult. There's usually an ask that ppl without active role to leave, so that observers can be in the room. There's always a balance, we can only ask ppl and hopefully it will be followed up, we don't want to ask the secretariat to pick out ppl to leave.

-w.r.t food negotiations, we thought that parties will be on route to agreement, but then parties came up with even more problems, so we're working with chair to help. W.r.t text being released before negotiations, it was a helpful measure to get negotiations started, to open discussions and try to get progress

-w.r.t. Transparency Q from RINGO, we will work to be as transparent as possible, if submission processes are part of negotiations, it depends on the arrangements with the parties, we will reach out to co-facilitators to make this more available

-pre-sessional meetings: I indicated to parties that my expectations were that it could be finalized, because only technical negotiations; some unforeseen problems showed up, but they will report back to me

SBI chair:

-a lot of ppl registered this year, so yes, number of ppl is becoming a problem, growth is unsustainable... for example Pakistan cannot host 100k ppl for a COP, it's a genuine issue that some countries cannot host these size COPs

-w.r.t. Bracketed just transition text, we have asked co-facilitators to be as helpful as they can, so they try to find commonality and if they can't they produce brackets so they can concentrate on the issues

-w.r.t. YOUNGO Q, it's a party driven process, so parties have to agree on things, GST group has been meeting almost 24/7, so it shows the engagement going on, which is positive. They are discussing all of the issues, we are hoping that they don't come up with the lowest common denominator, they have to be more ambitious

Chair: opening floor to any UN agencies to ask questions

JP Ameril from LM (?) institute, Children's Rights Initiative?: every child needs to be considered in climate negotiations: Q: we have brought some quotes from children that I would like to mention:

- "grownups if you don't remember you need to take care of us"

- children least responsible for climate change

- we want your cooperation to make this a COP for children

UNICEF: Q: consistent feedback is supportive w.r.t. Consideration of childrens' rights, ensure their perspectives are heard under UNFCCC process; home for this would be directly under the authority of the SBI/SBSTA chair, we think

Chair: back to SBI and SBSTA chairs

SBI chair: childrens' quotes can be helpful, adults sometimes get into petty fights without understanding how it affects children; childrens' rights are important, and there are consultations going on, a children and youth pavilion, ppl are trying to engage children and ppl who work with childrens' issues

-whether it is possible through SBI/SBSTA, this has to be brought up through the parties so that they can bring that to the table; these discussions are happening but they need to be brought to the more formal part of the discussions, rather than in the pavilions and more open areas... they need to mandate that SBI/SBSTA do this in formal negotiating rooms

Chair: second round of questions from any observers constituencies

Q: we want to liaise with other working groups to encourage them to work with women (?)

Q: International Environmental Lobby?: equity important for just transition, are these discussions going to focus on CBDR, equity, justice?

Chair: back to SBI and SBSTA chairs

SBI chair: we are already discussing gender, there are agenda days for discussing gender related issues, just came from meeting about office of elections, and clear presentation on gender representation in all bodies; clear trend that gender representation is increasing, we're not there yet in all bodies, there are still things we need to do, I agree with concerns

SBSTA chairs: w.r.t. Gender, youth, indigenous, there's draft text that incorporates these concerns, in the produced notes, those elements were included in GST, and for the just transition work, it's up to parties to bring in those elements, a number of parties will do so

Chair: other Qs?

BINGO: Q: we have the expertise to give input knowledge on adaptation, in terms of framework being negotiated, it would be important to be inclusive of BINGO expertise

TUNGO: inclusion of various groups important

YOUNGO: what are next steps after GST: how are we going to move ahead, what should be the way forward for GST?

Chair: back to SBI/SBSTA chairs

SBSTA chair: we are listening to BINGO, we hope that parties are also listening; w.r.t GST, parties are discussing next steps, what will happen in the future, it's in the hands of parties how to find a followup, do we learn lessons from this to improve the second GST (every 5 years, obviously) and are activities still needed afterwards, draft text under negotiation