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Speaking to the COP27 Global Stocktake Technical Dialogues 2

Thursday, 10 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheik.

Negotiators from the following countries were in attendance:

Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, EU (+27 countries), Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Senegal, Seychelles, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay

Civil society representatives included RINGO, BINGO, ENGO, Women and Gender, and Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you, Harald and Farhan, and thank you Secretariat team.

I will begin with my understanding of ‘holistic and integrated approaches’, offer several positive examples, and then challenge us with needed approaches that can strengthen the Global Stocktake and signal wider international cooperation.

And in this presentation, and our wider discussion, I encourage us to engage both from here (HEAD) and from here (HEART) –

In my experience, holistic and integrated refers to approaches which:

- Address the root causes driving climate change while also helping heal related planetary crises, including existential rates of species extinction, chemical pollution, soil erosion, and ocean acidification.
- And which prioritize people and protection of nature, over profit and power interests.

In the last year alone, we celebrated the following international cooperation on holistic and integrated approaches

- 1. The UN General Assembly recognition of a human right to a clean, sustainable and healthy environment – an optimistic and hopeful vision**
- 2. The BEYOND Oil and Gas Agreement – BOGA – a brave commitment and witness**
- 3. And with ever-growing research that a ‘human rights-based approach’ results in more coherent, legitimate, and sustainable policy.**
 - a. In sum, more successful policy**
 - Human-rights based approaches, known as ‘rights based approaches’ in the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, embed human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - They embed meaningful public participation in decision making, access to information, and education;
 - Gender equality;
 - Just transition;
 - Protection of biodiversity;
 - Intergenerational equity and child rights;
 - And cooperation as a human rights obligation.

I will now reflect on holistic, and integrated approaches that can dramatically scale up climate action, but need greater international cooperation that the GST engagement can signal.

1. **To repeat, rights-based approaches can ground holistic and integrated action in the GST, while also guiding us toward policies which are experienced as fair - and more likely to be supported than rejected.**
 - a. for **without people's support, we are lost.**
 - b. and without a healthy and fair vision, **our people are lost.**

2. **The GST can emphasize the importance of truthful engagement with people about what is happening, why it is happening, and how they can help.**
 - a. Article 12 climate change education
 - b. Truthful engagement, for example, in high consumption, high emitting countries. Globally, households with income in the top 10% contribute about 36-45% of global GHG – those racing for more, when 'enough' would best protect their children.
 - c. Truthful engagement on diet - 1/5th of GHG emissions are linked to human diets, yet scientific findings on meat and dairy - the unsustainable production/consumption of which drives land degradation and species extinctions - are usually suppressed in intergovernmental negotiations.

3. **The GST can highlight how sustainable and just economic systems, and sustainable agriculture transitions, are essential for a stable climate and environment.**
 - a. Both the IPCC AR5 and AR6 identify economic growth as the top driver of CO2 emissions.
 - b. And the Paris Agreement calls for *'sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead -*
 - c. The GST can integrate the IPCC definition of sustainable land management, and signal the need to include 'environmental cost' in our definition of 'cost'.
 - d. The GST can break down silos and signal international cooperation to support accountability movements – the rights of nature, ecocide, ecological rights of children, a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, an International Court of Justice advisory opinion on human rights obligations in the context of climate action, and dropping 'limited' from 'limited liability'.

4. **The GST can stress the effectiveness of community-based, bottom-up climate action, including examples of positive regulation to promote decentralized renewable energy ownership that has massive holistic and integrated benefits, including peacebuilding. For example:**
 - a. **For example, positive regulation in the German example**, where cash poor people can own solar panels through the right to a state development bank loan, the right sell energy at a subsidized rate that directly repays the loan, leading to individual ownership and a helpful income.
 - b. **Negative** - in England (not Scotland or Wales), community-led sustainable energy groups struggle to get permission to build a community on-shore wind turbine. The will but not the way.
 - c. **Worldwide**, most solar panel ownership remains accessible only to the middle to upper class.

5. **The GST must keep focused on emissions reduction at source, or we will miss this brief window to influence our children's chances – and their right to - a livable and sustainable planet.**
 - a. Our human family now recognizes dangerous climate change is happening, but because many root causes offer lucrative financial profits, we stall. The safer IPCC temperature pathways reflect rapid reduction of fossil fuels, yet disturbingly we are seeing fossil fuels – the main driver of climate change – being reframed as okay – rely on carbon off-sets despite IPCC warnings that land can shift from sink to source, on geo-engineering such as Carbon Dioxide Removal - which threatens biodiversity and food security and which IPCC findings relate for 'hard to abate' emissions, not general mitigation. Or geo-engineering technologies like carbon capture storage which is not-yet available to scale, is energy-intensive, expensive, emissions inefficient and passes challenges of limited storage, leakage, and delayed action onto our children.

6. **The GST can emphasize how real human security is a livable and sustainable planet.**
 - a. We humans currently spend over 2 trillion every year on military expenditure, explained as 'security'.
 - b. The GST can signal the urgent need for proper rules in reporting military and conflict-related emissions, both under the Paris Agreement and in national inventory guidelines under the IPCC. (est. at 5% of global emissions)
 - c. The GST can highlight how climate finance can be raised through shifting military funding away from weapons that kill people, and toward climate action and loss and damage.

7. **The GST can signal the critical need for GRANTS rather than LOANS in a world facing a sovereign debt crisis.**
 - a. To signal how DEBT RELIEF could benefit holistic and integrated policies in countries crippled by debt repayments intensified by COVID 19.
 - b. And raise climate finance through polluter pay taxation, such as taxing fossil fuels at extraction, international aviation, and financial transactions – creating revenue for integrated action, support to vulnerable communities, and loss and damage.

8. **The GST can signal the critical role of international cooperation to regulate banks' investment in fossil fuel infrastructure, and to shift billions out of fossil fuel subsidies and into climate action.**

9. **The GST can embrace language of responsibility - we are liberated when stop denying, stop avoiding. Historically responsible, extraction wealthy countries, can do so much more.**

10. **Finally, signal the need for international cooperation to stop the arrest and killing of environmental defenders**
 - a. they are our prophets.
 - b. **Silence them, and we silence our future.**

Thank you