

Umbrella Group – ADP Opening Statement (October 2014)

~~Good~~ Excellencies,
Co-Chairs, Colleagues.

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group of countries: Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and Australia.

Umbrella Group countries are committed to delivering the ADP's mandate at Paris. Time is short. We are ready to work with you and all Parties, to deliver outcomes that are ambitious, effective, durable, promote global participation and co-operation, and set us on a pathway to address climate change in tandem with building global prosperity.

Co-Chairs,

We know what we have been asked to deliver at Lima – elements for a negotiating text, and clarity on the information to accompany intended nationally determined contributions. We trust you, Co-Chairs, to lead us in the challenge of realising these aims. To make them a reality we must now prioritise our negotiating time to ensure success.

We see the Paris outcome as a package with three components: the legally binding agreement, schedules, and COP decisions including on INDCs.

A first priority must be to give countries the guidance they need to prepare and communicate intended nationally determined contributions well in advance of Paris, and by the first quarter of 2015 if ready.

We are ready to negotiate a decision that:

- Gives guidance on the up front information that will help countries prepare clear, understandable and quantifiable emission reduction contributions;
- Clarifies how intended contributions will be considered after they are submitted, to aid understanding of individual countries' efforts and overall effort.

We also think it will be essential to achieve better clarity on several key dimensions of future nationally determined contributions – including the length of initial contributions, methodological approaches, the approach to accounting rules, and ensuring the final form of contributions supports the broadest possible participation. These issues will be material to Parties' ability to finalise contributions, so must be a near term priority.

Co-Chairs,

The Warsaw decision made clear that INDCs are nationally determined.

But to meet our global goal, it is essential all countries contribute to reducing or limiting emissions. Umbrella Group countries see the up-front processes in 2015 - including up front information and ex-ante consideration – as processes designed to be fit for the purpose of building collective confidence in contributions toward the Convention's overall objective of reducing global emissions.

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In tandem, we must consider approaches that are fit for purpose for other elements of the 2015 agreement, including adaptation and support. We will also need to consider how to embed a cycle of contributions over the longer term, and design a transparency framework that supports the agreement.

So another priority for this session must be to generate a more focused understanding of the elements for the 2015 agreement.

The ^{outcome on} ~~elements decision~~ from Lima should set us up to establish core provisions for ~~all~~ ^{areas} elements ~~to be reflected in the Paris agreement and to be further elaborated in COP decisions~~. This needs to ^{recognise} ~~set~~ the parameters of the common rule-set we'll all be working towards. Transparency and accountability provisions using a common framework will be critical for an effective and credible agreement.

If we are to reach agreement on elements for a draft negotiating text, we will need a more concise, streamlined and structured elements document that:

- Draws out the areas which can genuinely form a basis for agreement in Paris;
- Starts to delineate what the Paris agreement itself should contain, and what complementary, as well as subsequent decisions can elaborate.

We trust you to guide us - as you have done - through the next step of generating a more concise and focused elements document for Lima, reflecting on our discussions at this and previous sessions, and submissions made by the full range of Parties and Groups.

Co-Chairs,

A further priority is to continue the useful progress the ADP continues to make on enhancing pre-2020 mitigation ambition through workstream 2.

The technical expert meetings have demonstrated how countries can build enabling environments and overcome barriers to effective mitigation action. Importantly, they are also bringing into our discussions international and regional organizations, sub-national entities and the private sector. We look forward to this session's meetings on carbon capture, storage and use, and short lived greenhouse gas emissions.

We need to continue to take stock of the expert meetings we have held throughout the year, including hearing examples of how our discussions may be bearing fruit back at home and the domestic context.

In considering how we take this work forward into next year, we need to ensure we maintain the practical, educational and co-operative focus that has made the technical expert meetings a success. We also need to keep in mind how further requirements under this workstream may impact Parties' and the UNFCCC's resources in tandem with intensive negotiations and preparations for Paris.

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Co-Chairs,

The Umbrella Group sees a critical condition to our success: that is ensuring that the ADP builds a genuinely global, common legal platform for climate action by all. That is the core of our mandate. That platform should recognise national differences, and promote efforts that are appropriate to each country's circumstances and capacities. But it cannot afford to perpetuate a divided world view.

Co-Chairs,

We continue to offer you our ongoing support in your leadership of this process. We look forward to working with all Parties to deliver a successful ADP outcome in Lima.

