

**Opening Plenary ADP
29 April- 3 May 2013, Bonn**

Thank you Co-Chairs,

I have the honor of speaking on behalf of AILAC (the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean), which includes Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and my country, Chile.

Let me begin by associating our Group with the intervention made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of G77 and China.

We are beginning a new era of the negotiations, in which we can now place our full attention on the urgent work of the ADP.

It is important to highlight, however, that we are now well into the second year of our work, out of a period of four years that we have given ourselves to negotiate and finalize a new agreement. At this point in time, we are approximately six months from the halfway point to the finish line, and we are only just beginning concrete discussions. For this reason we are conscious of the urgency driving us to take a meaningful step forward in these negotiations.

Under these negotiations, we find ourselves with unique opportunity to agree on a truly transformative agreement that will meet the objective of the Convention and the 2-degree goal in order to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system. At this juncture, we see the need to be flexible and creative, and to consider in our discussions all relevant issues as well as the interlinkages between these issues. We should look at the relationships between the different topics of negotiation and avoid a compartmentalized approach.

We believe that the Convention is a **living instrument**, which should be interpreted in a **dynamic way**. Its principles are tools that should allow for the effective implementation of the Convention, in light of today's realities.

More specifically, we believe that the appropriate **scope of the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities** is as follows: **common responsibilities** reflected in the **adoption of legally binding commitments by all parties**; differentiated responsibilities in the sense that each Party should make a **fair contribution**; and **respective capabilities** that should be taken into account in order to define the nature and amount of Parties' contribution in relation to mitigation as well as means of implementation. We should remember that this **principle** should be a **tool for action** and not a refuge or excuse for inaction. The operationalization of these principles should help us achieve sufficient levels of effort to achieve our common objective of protecting the climate system and keeping the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius.

These joint actions are the only ones that can really lead us to reduce climate change impacts. When we all act, we are reducing the impacts and protecting the most vulnerable, and only then will we have achieved **true climate justice**.

To ensure that all of the principles and their implementation are carried out in an ethical and transparent way, we should think responsibly and urgently about the rules that will allow us to achieve transparency and comparability in the efforts that we must all take forward.

The Convention recognizes our right to sustainable development. The challenge before us is to achieve this without it leading to a dangerous increase in emissions levels. Examples in our own region demonstrate the **efforts that we are all making** to implement low emissions development strategies that will allow us to decouple our trajectories of economic growth from an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts such as these should be recognized and supported and the new agreement should include **positive** incentives for **all parties develop in a sustainable, low carbon way**.

Just as we are acting on mitigation, we are also carrying the burden of adaptation with our own national resources. So far, we have not seen these efforts aided by concrete support mechanisms. Our countries are losing capital due to climate change, which is preventing us from continuing on a path of sustainable development.

2013 is also the year in which we will begin to undertake the review. In this process, we should find the elements based in science that inform the negotiations for decision making in 2015. This process should be the corner stone to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Let me also add that we support your idea to create a contact group. We are flexible on whether to do so here in the April session or during the second part of this session in June.

Distinguished Co-Chairs, we have 24 hours of discussion over the next 5 days of this session, which we hope will be very productive. We have had twenty years of negotiations, and we have two left to reach a new agreement. At this moment, each hour counts, because hour by hour the impacts of climate change increase around the world. And as our Philippine colleagues reminded us is Doha, tomorrow it could be anyone of our countries facing the devastating and debilitating effects of a climate change related natural disaster or extreme weather event.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.