

SBSTA Agenda Item 8c “The 2013-2015 Review”: SED co-facilitators at SBSTA Closing, Lima, 6.Dec.2014, 15h00-18h00

Chair of the SBSTA, distinguished delegates.

Thank you for this opportunity to inform you of progress made by the structured expert dialogue (or SED) of the 2013-2015 review.

Let me remind us, in 2010, the COP decided to periodically review the adequacy of the long-term global goal to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention (theme 1 of the review) and overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention (theme 2 of the review).

The first such review, the 2013-2015 review, is also mandated to consider strengthening the long-term global goal, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C. The SED aims to ensure the scientific integrity of the review through a focused exchange of views, factual information, and ideas between experts and Parties.

Over the past year, the SED has convened twice, and both meetings were open to all Parties and observers. Its second meeting was held in conjunction with SBSTA 39 and SBI 39 in November 2013, in Warsaw, Poland, and its third meeting was held during SBSTA 40 and SBI 40, in June 2014, in Bonn. The fourth session started here in Lima and will be resumed in Geneva in February 2015.

The SED is taking into account various inputs and that without any strabismus. SED 2 supported Parties in internalizing the key findings contained in the contribution of Working Group I to the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. SED 3 focused on the contributions of Working Groups II and III to that report.

At all meetings held so far, Parties engaged in a constructive discussion with present experts, and addressed the two themes of the review in a balanced manner. Almost with prestidigitated summary reports, information notes, agendas, copies of all presentations and webcasts or audio recordings of our

meetings, are available on the SED home page of the UNFCCC website, and I strongly encourage anyone who should not yet have found time to do so, to read the summary reports. They are not only interesting and worth-reading, but also quite different from the normal UNFCCC documents with all the enlightening colored figures and fascinating information.

Let me say something about the Lima meeting of the SED, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 2nd and 3rd December. Since the past SED meetings have supported Parties in internalizing the key findings contained in the contributions of the three IPCC working groups to the AR5, SED 4 aimed to finish complementing, and start summarizing and conceptualizing the information already discussed with a view to completing the dialogue.

The first part of SED 4 focused on the Synthesis Report of the IPCC, while part 2 heard from experts from UN Agencies and other international organizations, who presented the work of their organizations contributing to the progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal.

From us co-facilitators viewpoint, let me perhaps highlight two key messages that have emerged from our work so far:

1. Firstly, at SED 3, we heard from IPCC experts that assessing the adequacy of the upper limit of global warming in the light of Article 2 of the Convention involves both risk assessments and value judgments. In the AR5, the IPCC provides an analytical framework that can be a foundation for a collective agreement on how much global warming is acceptable. In our view, the SED has thereby proved that it is already a successful vehicle to inform and support policy formulation, taking into account the various values and recognizing that what constitutes an intolerable risk may differ across sectors, regions and countries.
2. Secondly, limiting global warming to below 2 °C calls for adopting a long-term approach to climate change, which in

turn calls for science-based management of the global pathway towards a low carbon and climate-resilient future. To that end, the SED has been able to considerably contribute towards an increased understanding of the relationship between near- and long term actions, both on mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, the periodic review of the long term global goal can play a positive and essential role in any process that assesses the progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, thereby strengthening the science–policy interface.

I would like to thank all experts and Parties who attended the meetings of the SED, which I believe were very constructive and brought the best available information from science and enabled you, the Parties, to internalize the key findings presented to elaborate policy on a sound scientific basis as you progress towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future here in Lima, as well as in Paris next year.

Thank you Chair.

