



STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY H. E. AMBASSADOR DR. IBRAHIM MIRGHANI IBRAHIM, HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN, AT THE OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARIES OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG- TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION UNDER THE CONVENTION (AWGLCA)

Opening plenary, 29 March 2009, Bonn:

The Group reiterates that this process must be an open, party-driven, transparent, and inclusive process and focusing on the implementation of the Bali Action Plan.

We meet today at a point of profound challenges to address the devastating impacts of climate change which, are only increasing, threatening the very existence of our societies and their development prospects. The Group would like to express its disappointment at the very slow progress of the implementation of the Bali Action Plan.

Our Group will continue its support and cooperation towards achieving the objectives of the Bali Action Plan, and reaching an agreed outcome that would "enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012", in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group would like to thank you for producing the document before us, as mandated, to facilitate the negotiation, building upon the ideas and proposals submitted by the Parties. The Group would like to draw attention, however, to the fact that many of its submissions have unfortunately been either omitted or not adequately reflected.

An example is the issue of Adaptation, which is the important priority for the Group of 77 and China. It is known that detailed proposals were submitted by members, and groups of members of G77 and China, on this very important and urgent issue, but were not adequately reflected in the document. Instead of focusing on meeting cost of adaptation as provided for in the Convention, the text places this obligation mainly on the developing countries themselves.

Similarly, the Group's concrete proposals on finance and technology have not been adequately expressed, nor have the commitments pertaining to these issues as stated in the Convention been explicitly included. The G77 and China would like to further share its concern that there has not yet been an open and clear exchange of views on specific proposals that the Group have submitted especially on the above issues.

Realizing that we should keep a constructive view, and having exchanged opinions with the AWG-LCA Chair, it is clear to us that the basis for negotiations are the parties' submissions and proposals. In this context we recall that this document is a paper prepared under the responsibility of the Chair, not reflecting a convergence of Parties' views nor, therefore, a basis for the further documents for negotiations. The G77 and China will continue to elaborate its proposals, priorities and focus areas from the perspectives of our group, expecting reactions from our Partners.

As we move into a negotiating mode and focus our attention on the enormous task before us, the Group of 77 and China will ensure that its positions are fully taken into account.

Time is running short, and much work has to be done in order to bring us to an agreed outcome at COP15. In this regard, the Group reiterates its call in this year of critical importance, for allowing sufficient time for its internal coordination in the organization of all sessions, including the pre-session period.

The G77 and China stand ready during this session to enter into an open and transparent dialogue that would move us forward in these discussions, and bring us closer to an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

As we strive for an agreed outcome and a constructive process towards that end, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its belief in the importance of maintaining the integrity of that process within the UNFCCC framework.

We enter this phase of our discussions to negotiate in good faith, and will work under your able guidance, towards an outcome that will serve all our interests in a balanced manner, that may define the global cooperation necessary for us to address this urgent and most serious challenge of our times.

Closing plenary, 08 April 2009, Bonn:

We encourage you to ensure that the process shall continue to be open, party-driven, transparent, and focusing on the implementation of the Bali Action Plan.

Every day that we spend in this process means the manifestation of more dangerous adverse effects of climate change to which all developing countries, and in particular the most vulnerable amongst us, suffer increasing loss and damage of lives, of settlements and of access to the basic necessities.

We need to act with urgency, and in a manner which is consistent with the objectives, principles and respective obligations of all Parties to this Convention. We would like to express our deep concern that up to now we see very little concrete engagement of

our partners, the developed country Parties, in this process. There remains a wide gap in the understanding of positions that would allow us to move together forward to Copenhagen. In particular, there is a serious implementation deficit regarding developed countries' commitments related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology under the Convention.

As we remain constructively engaged in negotiations, the Group would once again like to underline that we are undertaking a process to enhance the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. Therefore the Group is determined, in this process, to address the serious implementation gaps in the four main building blocks of the Bali Action, that is, mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology development and transfer under the Convention. All the proposals and submissions made by the Group of 77 and China, and its member States or groups of developing country parties, are made with a view to bridging all these implementation gaps.

The Group of 77 and China is looking forward to receiving a negotiating text in accordance with the mandate given to the Chair to prepare it for the June session. The Group, however, reiterates its position that the text should be based on Parties' submissions, proposals, and should reflect the Group's views and interests made through submissions and deliberation during the meetings of AWG-LCA.

The Group of 77 and China appreciates the discussion and exchange of views with the Parties during this session and considers it useful for further defining the milestones and the organization of the work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group given the limited time left.

While we welcome a renewed participation of the United States, we are still to hear from them how they aim to fully engage in an international process of negotiations, and how they view the proposals that are now before us.

The Group of 77 and China reiterates that for the developing countries all efforts of the international community should be conducive to change the current lifestyle, in particular that of Annex I Parties, and to place oneself in a sustainable development that would also contribute to the eradication of poverty.

The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate its commitment to participate in good faith and in a truly transparent and open process. We would like also to continue to work diligently to implement the Bali Action Plan, in order to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. This has to come through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in full conformity with the provisions and principles of the Convention. We have to face with determination the most serious environmental and developmental challenge of our times, climate change and its adverse effects.

Opening plenary, 1 June, Bonn:

The Group would also like to start by reiterating its position that the AWG-LCA process must be and continue to be an open, Party-driven, transparent, and inclusive process and focusing only on enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention as mandated by the Bali Action Plan.

This session marks a turning point in the LCA process in which serious substantive discussions on the content and form of the agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan shall start. The Group would like to thank you for producing the negotiating text as mandated by the fourth session of the AWG-LCA as an initial step in the negotiations that we will have before us.

The Group finds, however, at this point, that the text should contain more balance and a clear reflection of the proposals of the Group. To this end, the Group will actively engage in discussions on the structure and substance of the text, to help us move forward towards an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

The Group would also like to take this opportunity to restate its commitment to work constructively and diligently with all partners, in good faith, to make a real progress in this session towards reaching an agreed outcome that would "enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012", in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The Group underlines the need for urgency and concrete action to address climate change and its adverse effects, as all of the developing countries and in particular the most vulnerable among us are daily suffering the damaging effects of climate change. This Convention has entered into force fifteen years ago. It is now about time for us to live up to all our common but differentiated commitments under this science-based, legally-binding agreement, the only one dealing with climate change, the defining challenge of our times.

Closing Plenary, 12 June, Bonn:

The Group would like to reiterate its firm position that the AWG-LCA process must be and continue to be an open, full transparent, Party-driven, and inclusive process and focusing only on enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention as mandated by the Bali Action Plan. In this light, the Group of 77 and China urges the secretariat to ensure that all documents brought before us at the next session are translated into all six UN languages.

A widely diverse group with strong common interests, the Group however meets increasingly daunting challenges in coordinating its common positions as the process moves rapidly forward.

However large the spectrum of interests of a group of 135 developing countries represents, we have managed, and will continue to manage, to find common ground in our positions on these important negotiations, but time is of the essence.

The Group lacks an intersessional forum for forging these common positions, but more than that, we lack time to interact and refine these positions. We are trying all means available to us, through information technology tools, for example, but nothing replaces face-to-face interaction.

At the same time, it is well acknowledged within the system that when the Group does manage to move forward together, the process of negotiations also progresses much more rapidly.

Given the range of issues we face in the coming negotiations, and the complexity of some of these issues, the Group would need more time as we progress in our work to finetune their positions.

Urgent action is needed to address this serious challenge of climate change and its adverse effects. Agreement must be reached to forge an equitable global cooperation, in accordance with our common, but differentiated responsibilities which we have recognized, and the balance of these differentiated responsibilities which permeate each and every article of this legally binding agreement, the UNFCCC.

Fifteen years into its entry into force, we have developed a range of tools and solutions which would help us in our collective work towards enhancing the implementation of this convention, and enable its full, effective and sustained implementation.

Let us keep firmly in mind what we have agreed in this Convention: that the extent to which developing country parties will effectively implement their commitments under the convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country parties of their commitments under the convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country parties.

Implementation of commitments related to financial resources and transfer of technology therefore are crucial, and will determine whether we will indeed reach a "shared vision" and an equitable agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

Opening Plenary, 28 September, Bangkok:

We would also wish to take this opportunity to express the group's solidarity with the people of the Phillipines which recently suffered loss of lives and damage to crops due to the unprecedented rains which occurred in their country.

The group recognizes with appreciation and for the Convention's Secretariat for their excellent arrangements and the efforts made in preparing the documents for this session we would like to thank you Mr. Chairman, the facilitators and the UNFCCC secretariat for the work done to facilitate the negotiation in this session. The group also appreciates that many of the issues raised during the last session on the organization of work have been considered in this session

At this critical stage of the climate change negotiations the Group strongly feel the need to reiterating its standing position that the AWG-LCA process must be and continue to be an open, party-driven, transparent, and inclusive process. As we agreed in the consultations carried during the last informal meeting in Bonn, in this session the LCA must move into a full negotiation mode to define and shape the intended agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan.

The Group also fully recognize the need for all Parties to work diligently, faithfully and expeditiously in order to fulfil the objectives of the Bali Action Plan by COP15 and reach an agreed outcome that ensures the full, effective and sustained implementation of the convention.

The G77 and China, the largest negotiating Group in this process has put on the table, since a year ago, constructive proposals for concrete actions to address the implementation gaps, in particular for financing, technology transfer and capacity-building. We await the effective engagement of the developed country Parties on these proposals. Here in Bangkok, we call for immediate negotiations on the texts before us. Since it is only three weeks remained for Copengahen

We stand ready for full engagement in negotiations. On the other side, we see that no concrete numbers have been put on the table under the AWG-KP. Regretably, no concrete proposals were made for specific amounts of financing. No real willingness was expressed to consider technology transfer. What we noticed are only proposals to shift responsibilities to the private sector, to the markets which recently show to have failed, even worse they are shifting the responsibility to the developing countries themselves.

No serious engagement was shown by our negotiating partners, neither on the numbers required from them, nor in particular on meeting their commitments under the Convention related to the provisions of new and additional financial resources, meeting costs of adaptation and transfer of technology. Instead we learn, with great dismay and disappointment, of a recent communication on financing from the European Commission that again, shirks the fulfilment of commitments, shifting these obligations to failed markets, to private sector and to developing countries themselves.

On adaptation, proposals on the table from the developed country Parties relegates the main burden of adaptation to developing countries themselves, through the use of their own national budgets for mainstreaming adaptation, This is in full contradiction to the explicit terms of the Convention which puts those commitments of meeting costs of adaptation, and providing agreed full incremental costs to enable adaptation actions, on the developed countries. Instead promises were made to give an unspecified amount to a subset of developing countries, to help them assess their needs.

For all these reasons, the world was intended to be missled by their media into thinking that developing countries are blocking progress in these negotiations or a successful outcome in Copenhagen.

Now here in Bangkok, we would like to express very clearly that we are ready for negotiations; We have been ready for some time ago to engage fully into discussions of the concrete proposals that the Group of 77 and China has put on the table. The success of Copenhagen will depend on the progress that all parties should make here in Bangkok.

Closing Plenary, 9 October, Bangkok

The Group 77 and China continued, at this session, its active engagement in the ongoing negotiations - in all the elements of the Bali Action Plan in an equal and balanced manner aiming to advance the work of the AWG-LCA towards completing its mandate and reaching an agreed outcome in Copenhagen that effectively respond to climate change and its devastating impacts on developing countries

At this critical stage of the climate change negotiations the Group strongly feels the need to reiterating its standing position that the AWG-LCA process must be and continue to be an open, party-driven, transparent, and inclusive process. As we move closely towards Copenhagen we would like you and the secretariat to ensure the full participation of all developing countries in a way that enables them to adequately represent the concerns and interests of their vulnerable people and communities and achieve an outcome that is just and equitable

We are at a very critical phase of our negotiations. We are greatly concerned at this point for the introduction of elements that are outside the mandate contained in the Bali Action Plan, and completely inconsistent with the Convention. Such moves at this time cause great concern for our work and compromise the goal of reaching an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

The Convention, as you have said Mr. Chairman, is our home. It creates the space of understanding which allows us to move forward together and the Kyoto Protocol is the standard for the mitigation contribution of all Annex I countries. Be it in the magnitude and legal nature of commitments, be it in measuring, reporting, and verifying, be it in rules of compliance, the Kyoto Protocol is the established reference, now and in the future, in this field. In its work, the G77 and China does not consider options which are not based on the continued legal existence and effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol.

We are the defenders of the only legal instruments addressing climate change and their adverse effects. If these are redefined, or worse, rejected by developed countries, we would have no indication of where we will be without these instruments to address the increasingly urgent problem of climate change and its adverse effects. The rejection of these instruments imply rejection of historical responsibilities for the problem of climate change. Denial of historical responsibilities implies denial of the commitment to provide developing countries with the new and additional financial resources, of meeting costs of adaptation and of facilitating and promoting access to and transfer of technology.

Our partners claim that they are taking the lead. Saying it, however, is not doing it, and all we are hearing and seeing as proposals from developed country Parties in these negotiations point to the contrary. In mitigation, in adaptation, in financing and

in technology transfer, there are proposals shifting responsibilities to developing countries themselves, to failed markets, to private sector.

we have managed to advance in Bangkok on many specific issues. On some essential elements, however, we seem to be drifting apart from each other. The G77 and China reiterates its strong concern regarding proposals, including the proposals presented by our partners on frameworks for mitigation actions by all parties, that are incompatible with the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan. No amount of selective reading or creative interpretation will be sufficient to hide the fact that these proposals constitute renegotiations of the Convention with a view to generating new commitments that are entirely inappropriate for developing countries and also eliminate or diminish the appropriate commitments of developed countries. We oppose them directly and emphatically.

Adaptation remains the major concern for developing countries. Delayed or inadequate mitigation actions will only increase the costs and impacts borne by developing countries. Technology transfer and the provision of adequate financial resources are also a continuing concern in this process as we move to a low carbon economies. In addition, the social and economic consequences of response measures are of fundamental importance for developing countries. Response measures by developed countries could hinder the achievement of sustainable development, and hence, there is need to make progress in avoiding and minimizing negative consequences on developing countries and to ensure a gradual and just transition.

I would like to assure you that the Group will continue to support the LCA process and engage constructively in its upcoming sessions to achieve the aspired outcomes in Copenhagen. The G77 and China is committed to the climate change regime, committed to the negotiations underway and committed to a positive result. We are not demanding that our partners accept our terms, but calling on them to respect and accept the terms we have all agreed to, which is the Bali Action Plan, within the climate change regime. We are not refusing to engage, but hoping that we all might engage in a common effort that is constructive, not in a collective tearing down of what we have built since the Rio Summit in 1992. It is with this spirit that we will participate in the Barcelona discussions.

Opening plenary, 2 November, Barcelona

At this critical juncture of our negotiations, the Group of 77 and China reaffirm their willingness to engage fully in substantive negotiations that will allow us to arrive at an equitable outcome in Copenhagen that would fulfil the mandate of the Bali Action Plan to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, in accordance with its provisions and principles.

We reiterate our strong call for negotiations in an open, transparent and inclusive, and above all, Party-driven process that would allow the voices of the smallest to the biggest developing countries among us to be heard and taken into account

We reaffirm that the UNFCCC process is the only legitimate channel of these negotiations, and denounce all means that would place the determination of the agreed

outcome in Copenhagen in the hands of a few countries, be this at the highest political level.

We reject all attempts to undermine and weaken the two legally binding instruments dealing with this grave environmental challenge that affect the lives and livelihoods of our populations who, while contributing the least to this problem, are the ones who, daily, suffer the most from the adverse effects of climate change.

We deplore all efforts that would shirk the responsibilities to fulfil the legal mandate for agreement on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol with deep emission reductions targets as called for by science, and shift those responsibilities to the developing countries, by altering the balance of common but differentiated responsibilities under the Convention.

We call on developed country Parties to face their moral, ethical, political and legally-binding commitments under the Convention, in particular those related to the provision of new and additional, adequate and predictable financial resources and the development and transfer of technology and capacity-building

We underline that for an equitable agreed outcome in Copenhagen, it is essential to include in any agreed outcome adequate provisions for the establishment of mechanisms under the Convention for the operationalization of the financial mechanism under the authority of the COP, for meeting full costs of concrete adaptation actions of developing countries, and for an effective development and transfer of technology.

In turn, we will continue to pursue our sustainable development efforts, through growth and economic development that would cause the least damage to the environment, recognizing that the extent to which we will be able to fulfil our commitments under the Convention will depend on the extent to which developed country Parties will fulfil their commitments related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology, furthermore recognizing that poverty eradication and social and economic development are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries.

Closing Plenary, 6 November, Barcelona:

As we approach Copenhagen, the Group reiterates its standing position that the negotiations under AWG-LCA must be and continue to be in an open, party-driven, transparent, and inclusive process. We would like to request you and the secretariat to ensure a full and effective participation by developing countries in all the negotiations under Bali Action Plan.

At this critical stage before Copenhagen, the G77 and China would also like to reaffirm its strong position that the UNFCCC process is the sole legitimate forum of these negotiations, and denounce all means that would place the determination of the agreed outcome in Copenhagen in the hands of a few countries, be this at the highest political level. It is time to call upon those developed countries to stop such attempts that will only obstruct the efforts to reach a balanced ambitious and comprehensive outcome Copenhagen.

We are seriously concerned with attempts to take the negotiations outside of the ambit of this Convention, and to prejudge and undermine the process undertaken

under the only legitimate legally-binding Convention addressing the grave challenge of climate change.

The Group 77 and China is concerned over attempts to diminish the level of ambition of the outcome of Copenhagen. We deplore the slow progress made at this session, despite the continued efforts of the Group to engage fully and constructively, and in good faith, in substantive negotiations leading to an equitable, fair, just and ambitious outcome in Copenhagen, in accordance with Bali Action Plan. We would like to confirm our understanding that the work done in Barcelona will be carried as it stands to the eighth session of the AWGLCA.

The Group 77 and China remains firm on its position on the two parallel tracks of negotiations in this process without exporting vital parts of one, the Kyoto Protocol, into the other, the Convention, weakening the principles and obligations of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and in the process, denying historical responsibilities.

The Group 77 and China sees an outcome that should include a strong agreement on ambitious reduction targets by developed countries that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol and on the delivery of means of implementation. The group sees an effective financial mechanism under the authority of the Conference of the Parties to implement commitments related to the provision of financial resources; an effective mechanism for development and transfer of technology; and an institutional arrangement to deliver finance for the implementation of adaptation actions.

We see so far very little engagement on the part of our negotiating partners to move forward. Instead, we find very active engagement outside this process, undermining the negotiations, and dampening expectations for the outcome in Copenhagen.