



High-level Ministerial Dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

Friday, 6 June 2014, Bonn, Germany

INFORMATION NOTE¹

Background

Decision 1/CP.19, adopted in Warsaw, Poland, calls upon Parties to intensify their high-level engagement on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action through an in-session high-level ministerial dialogue to be held in conjunction with the fortieth sessions of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies (June 2014). Another high-level ministerial dialogue will be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Lima, Peru.

The process under the Durban Platform on Enhanced Action was initiated in Durban, South Africa, by decision 1/CP.17, which established the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) and tasked it to with developing a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force that would be adopted at COP 21 in Paris, France, and would come into effect and be implemented from 2020. The decision also calls on the process to raise the level of ambition and be informed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

Ministerial engagement is a key aspect of the process leading up to the Paris Conference. The importance of high-level engagement in the implementation of all elements of decision 1/CP.17 was underlined already at COP 18, in Doha, Qatar (by decision 2/CP.18). During the high-level ministerial dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action held on 21 November in Warsaw,² ministers emphasized the urgent need for action by all Parties to increase ambition and for existing commitments and decisions to be fully implemented so that resources needed to scale up action in line with the science can be mobilized.

Objectives

The main objectives of the High-level Ministerial Dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to be held on 6 June 2014 in Bonn, Germany, are to:

- Motivate Parties to implement pledges made, encourage new pledges and unlock untapped mitigation potential for the period up to 2020;
- Exchange views on the political implications of IPCC findings, both for mitigation and adaptation, in particular with regards to the long-term aggregate level of ambition, and for finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing countries;
- Build confidence and momentum behind the process of preparations of fair and ambitious nationally determined contributions by all Parties under the Durban Platform;
- Provide political guidance and support for the work of the ADP, in particular its work on the 2015 agreement, and build political momentum in the process leading to Paris 2015.

Key Issues

The work under the Durban Platform has been driven, inter alia, by the concern about the significant gap between the aggregate effect of Parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C or 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Resolved to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all Parties, the COP has urged Parties that have not done so to take on a quantified economy-wide emission reduction target or undertake nationally appropriate mitigation actions, and it has urged Parties that have done so to consider strengthening their targets or actions. In this context, the COP has also urged developed country Parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable an increase in the mitigation ambition of developing country Parties.³

¹ Issued on behalf of the President of COP 19 and CMP 9.

² See: http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/items/7896.php#dialogues

³ See decision 1/CP.19, paragraphs 3 and 4, for the full version of the COP's resolve.

*Ministers will be invited to provide an update on how they have responded or intend to respond to the call by the COP, and discuss how to raise the level of ambition of pre-2020 action.*⁴

The working group contributions to the AR5, now available, emphasize the need for urgent action and confirm that greenhouse gases emissions continue to rise to unprecedented levels, highlighting the inadequacy of current efforts to reduce emissions. Substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are needed to limit the global temperature increase to below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. Findings from the AR5 working group on mitigation indicate that global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 40 to 70 per cent compared with 2010 levels by 2050 if the 2 °C target is to be met.

The AR5 working group on adaptation highlighted that adaptation and mitigation choices in the near term will affect the risks posed by climate change throughout the twenty-first century. It also referred to limited evidence of a gap between global adaptation needs and the funds available for adaptation, but noted the need for further studies of this and better data.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the political implications of the IPCC findings, in particular the implications for the aggregate long-term mitigation and adaptation efforts, and how they could be reflected in the 2015 agreement.

In Warsaw, the COP invited all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2 and communicate them well in advance of COP 21, if possible by the first quarter of 2015. The ADP will identify in 2014 the information that Parties will provide when putting forward their contributions. The ADP will also develop, before COP 20, in Lima, elements of a draft negotiating text for the 2015 agreement, taking into account its work on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support.

Ministers will be invited to provide political direction to the ADP in the lead-up to Lima and beyond and to exchange perspectives on how they plan to prepare domestically to arrive at ambitious nationally determined contributions.

Guiding questions

The following questions are proposed to assist Parties in their preparations and help to structure the discussion:

First set of issues

What political actions are being taken and what further actions will be needed to ensure full implementation of pledges made and the unlocking of untapped mitigation potential in the period up to 2020? What political implications of the IPCC findings do ministers see for the recommended aggregate level of ambition on mitigation and adaptation and on finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing countries?

Second set of issues

What political steps are ministers initiating in order to arrive at ambitious nationally determined contributions? How can international cooperation help to enable and accelerate domestic efforts? How does this impact the shape and content of the 2015 agreement? What should be its key features?

Logistical information

The ministerial dialogue will be convened on Friday, 6 June, in Plenary I at the Hotel Maritim and will be co-chaired by the COP 19/CMP 9 President, H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec (Poland) and the incoming COP 20/CMP 10 President, H.E. Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Peru).

The agenda for the dialogue is as follows:

10.00 a.m.– 10.15 a.m.	Introduction by the President and the incoming President
10.15 a.m. – 10.25 a.m.	Remarks by the Co-Chairs of the ADP
10.25 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Ministerial interventions and discussion
3.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Continued discussion
4.15 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Wrap-up by the Co-Chairs

⁴ On 5 June, a high-level ministerial round table under the Kyoto Protocol will in a similar fashion consider issues related to emission limitation or reduction commitments under the Protocol.