

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR PATRICIA ESPINOSA,  
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO, AT THE  
OPENING OF THE COP17/CMP7**

Durban, South Africa

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Your Excellency President Jacob Zuma,

Your Excellency Idriss Déby, President of Chad,

Your Excellency Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane,

Distinguished Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres,

Distinguished members of the Presidium,

Ministers and Heads of Delegations;

Friends all:

First of all, I wish to convey to you, President Zuma and the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention, the fraternal greetings of President Felipe Calderon, who is not able to be with us as he would have liked due to his multiple responsibilities.

I am also pleased to extend to you the greetings of the Mexican people, who welcomed you last year and hold very pleasant memories of your stay in our country.

Seeing you reminds me of the enormous effort we made together in Cancun, one year ago. The results obtained there have been recognized by experts and by the world at large as the recovery of a multilateral process of central importance for humanity.

We all remember that at the beginning of last year's conferences there were serious doubts about the possibility of achieving any relevant results. In the consultations Mexico made throughout the year, we always emphasized that a lack of results would seriously harm not only the international climate regime, but the entire multilateral system.

Hence, true to its diplomatic tradition, Mexico made every effort within its power with the firm conviction that dialogue and cooperation are the only instruments to face global challenges. President Felipe Calderon personally played an active role in promoting the necessary political agreements to move forward on this task.

We know this is a process that involves very complex technical issues, but in which political will is the indispensable decision-making element.

Based on this renewed confidence, in Cancun we were able to accomplish the following:

- The commitment to act, so that global temperature increases are maintained below two degrees Celsius.
- Having a significant number of countries register medium-term mitigation targets, and to continue working to improve transparency.
- Create the Cancun adaptation framework and the Adaptation Committee.
- Foster the development and transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies, through the Technology Mechanism and its networks and regional centers.

- Create a new financing mechanism, the Green Climate Fund, to support efforts made by developing countries.
- A commitment to mobilize up to 100 billion dollars annually as of 2020.
- Recognize and expand the contribution of forests to mitigation.
- Work to prevent the creation of a gap between the first and second periods of the Kyoto Protocol commitments.

Distinguished delegates:

We have taken important steps, but there is certainly more to do. The work we have done this year provides the elements needed for us to take another major step in the gradual construction of a strengthened regime.

Each of our countries can and should contribute to this goal on the basis of each one's responsibilities and capabilities.

As President Calderón said: "Our global challenge is to find a definite solution that harmonizes development with sustainability. The challenge is being able to find and design public policies that effectively reduce climate change while also being economically viable."

In Durban we should have the capacity to build a package of agreements that includes these three areas:

1. The full implementation of the Cancun Agreements, including implementation of the new institutions.

2. Recognize that the financial pillar is fundamental to achieving increasingly ambitious goals. Aside from making the Green Climate Fund operational, we should agree on its capitalization and move forward in discussing long-term sources of financing.
3. Define the future of the Kyoto Protocol, reaffirming the importance of a rules-based system, while recognizing the need to supplement these efforts through binding commitments of all States Parties.

This does not mean that the distinction between developed and developing countries disappears. The future regime should respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the fact that developed countries should take on more responsibilities.

**Let us now start our vision for the future. Let us unite our wills. Let us identify and, more importantly, commit to the actions we will each undertake to reach that goal, and not wait for others to act first. Each of us must take on our own responsibilities.**

Distinguished colleagues:

In two weeks, we must deliver results. There are millions of people, most of them in the poorest and most vulnerable countries, whose future depends on our decisions. We cannot betray the trust they have placed in us.

There is political will and a keen sense of awareness concerning the seriousness of the problem. If that were not so, there would not be so much interest in our discussions, nor would there be almost

20,000 delegates in Durban. We would not be able to explain a lack of agreements or the adoption of marginal agreements, when the seriousness of the problem lies before us.

Many actors outside this process are ready to support our efforts. I have seen, for example, that women are actively seeking solutions and exercising leadership in their communities. Let us help empower them and boost their contributions.

Colleagues and friends:

**Mexico recognizes the challenge and assumes its responsibilities. Our commitment to strengthening the climate regime is not juncture-related. We have a national emissions reduction program, and it is currently undergoing an external evaluation process; we have set ambitious mid-term goals, and periodically report our results. Soon, we hope to have a national climate change law, and we are currently preparing the fifth National Communication.**

**We will continue working to find fair and lasting solutions to climate change.**

This year, as announced by President Felipe Calderon at the end of COP16, we established the Center for Sustainable Development in Mexico, which will be fully operational in 2012. This center is available to the States so that they can achieve the goals we have set in creating the Technology Mechanism, and we offer it as a regional center.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Today, as I conclude my tenure as chair of COP16/CMP6, I wish to express my appreciation to all of you for your trust and support. To the secretariat, and especially Christiana Figueres, who I thank for her tireless effort, commitment and support

**My gratefulness also goes to President Felipe Calderon for his leadership and permanent support. I thank my team for its extraordinary efforts throughout this process.** This is a professional and personal experience I will treasure the rest of my life.

It is an honor for me to transfer this important responsibility to the capable hands of Minister Mashabane and her team. I invite all of you to join me in providing them our full support, just as you all supported me during my Presidency, so these Durban conferences can meet the high demands of our peoples.

Thank you very much.