

EYES ON MEXICO

By Paul Jimbo in Bonn, Germany

A fresh round of UN Climate Change talks kicked off yesterday in Bonn, Germany with renewed hopes of a concrete deal at this year's scheduled talks to be held in Mexico's Cancun city.

The negotiations, attended by representatives from 182 governments picked up pieces left by last year's UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP 15) which ended in a disarray.

The talks are designed to pick up on issues that were not resolved in Copenhagen and to pave the way for the full implementation of climate change action across the globe.

Addressing the press in Bonn on the sidelines of the talks, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said, "The Copenhagen meeting may have postponed an outcome for at least a year, but it did not postpone the impacts of climate change.

Adding, "The deadline to agree an effective international response to climate change at Copenhagen was set because governments, when launching negotiations in Bali in 2007, recognized the scientific warning on climate for what it was: a siren call to act now, or face the worst.

The second round of Bonn UN Climate Change Talks in 2010 is designed to pave way for full implementation of climate change action across the globe.

Today(Tuesday 8th), government delegates countries will begin discussing a new negotiating text under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen at the end of 2009, governments extended the mandate of the AWG-LCA as the negotiating group tasked to deliver a long-term global solution to the climate challenge.

Yvo de Boer added, "Climate negotiations will be on track if they keep focused on a common way forward towards a concrete and realistic goal in Cancun". .

He pointed out that there was a growing consensus on what that the goal for Cancún can be - namely, a full, operational architecture to implement effective, collective climate action.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) will also meet in Bonn from Tuesday, in parallel to the AWG-LCA.

The focus of this group is on emissions reduction commitments for the 37 industrialized countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol for the period beyond 2012.

"I encourage governments to now develop greater clarity on the future of the Kyoto Protocol, since this issue cannot be left unattended until Cancún,. Yvo de Boer said.

The ongoing session, he stated, was a first step towards completing work from Copenhagen as they are already half-way down the road to Cancún.

At Copenhagen, the mandate of the negotiating group on long-term cooperation was extended for one year, in view of concluding at Cancún.

More than 120 Heads of State or Governments met in Copenhagen to take climate policy forward.

The conference produced the Copenhagen Accord, which is a clear letter of political intent to constrain carbon and respond to climate change, both in the short- and in the long-term.

The Accord includes a 2 degrees Celsius temperature limit and a provision to review this by 2015.

It also includes short-term finance of USD 30 billion, with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation planning for developing countries up to 2012.

In terms of long-term finance, industrialized countries pledged to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020. Current development assistance is insufficient.

All developed countries have submitted their 2020 targets with various base years. 38 developing countries have communicated information on their mitigation plans, either in economy-wide terms or in specific actions. 127 Countries have associated with the Accord.

Ends.