

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

Thursday, 21 November 2013

Intervention by H.E. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council - CANADA

** This intervention was not delivered due to lack of time but should be part of the official proceedings

“A meaningful and effective post-2020 agreement will be an agreement that attracts the participation of all Parties. The agreement must provide scope to accommodate each Party’s unique opportunities and limitations, offering flexibility for countries to undertake the action that is best suited to their own domestic circumstances. At the same time, Parties’ efforts should reflect their evolving realities, responsibilities, and capabilities to address climate change.

In addition, the new agreement must ensure the transparency and accountability of all countries’ actions in order to build mutual confidence in each others actions to address climate change. It is only with adequate knowledge of each others’ actions that Parties will come forward with ambitious commitments.

In order to stand the test of time, the core legal agreement that we reach in 2015 should be limited in scope, with accompanying decisions elaborating much of the detail. A regular consultative process can ensure that this agreement remains adaptable to countries’ changing circumstances.

Discussions under work stream two of the ADP have been useful in elaborating many of the actions and approaches that will allow for enhanced ambition. One element of further reducing the ambition gap is for those who have not yet taken a pledge to do so.

It is also clear to us that, to address the ambition gap, we need to not only deepen our efforts but broaden them as well, including by supporting complementary, flexible, and creative initiatives outside the UNFCCC process.

A good example is the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. A growing number of studies confirm that combining efforts to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants with actions to address carbon dioxide can greatly increase our chances of meeting the 2 degree goal and can result in other near-term co-benefits.

We need to seize these opportunities, whether it is the many initiatives under the CCAC, the phase-down of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol, and other opportunities that may present themselves.

In conclusion, it is important that we come out of Warsaw, not just with a sense of momentum and direction, but also, with a clear path and commitment that when we return to our capitals, we will undertake the work that is necessary for each of us to make a commitment that reflects our national circumstances and that addresses the global need so that “applicable to all” is not just a catch-phrase, but an urgent call to action by all Parties.

Thank you.”