

Umbrella Group - SBSTA 39 – Closing Statement

Chair,

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group: Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and Australia.

As we started our work here in Warsaw, we were urged to conduct our deliberations as efficiently as possible and optimize the time for formal and informal negotiations. We thank Parties for heeding this call, and acknowledge the long hours that have resulted in significant progress, but more work is still needed on some issues.

Methodological Updates

In relation to developing accounting and methodological updates for the second commitment period, the Umbrella Group would like to thank the chair for facilitating continued discussions by referring this to the CMP. The Umbrella Group urges Parties to work with urgency on this critical issue, to ensure an outcome in Warsaw that finalises the work and generates confidence for Parties considering ratification of the second commitment period.

Mitigation and Transparency

Transparency is fundamental to building the trust and confidence that allows Parties to do more. Umbrella Group countries fully intend to submit their Biennial Reports in a timely manner. We look forward to continuing the work program on clarification of developed countries' quantified economy-wide reduction targets in 2014. It is also important to make progress in the SBI work program on further understanding developing countries' nationally appropriate mitigation actions – there is much that is not yet understood about these actions.

We were pleased to see the adoption of domestic MRV guidelines for domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions and hope these will be of assistance to developing countries. We have also made solid progress on developed country MRV.

Review

The Umbrella Group welcomed the opportunity to engage with scientific experts through the 2013-2015 Review, as well as the agreed text from this session with the direction for our further work on this important issue.

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Adaptation

We welcome the new phase of the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. It will provide targeted and valuable research agenda to advance the work of the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

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REDD+

The completion of the REDD+ SBSTA item over this week is the culmination of many years of work and is a significant and outstanding achievement, bringing us a step closer to full implementation of REDD+ activities. We now encourage Parties to continue the work and complete the REDD+ architecture in our discussions in other items over the next few days.

Markets

Umbrella Group was pleased with progress earlier this week on the three agenda items related to the framework for various approaches, non-market-based approaches and the new market mechanism. But is concerned there is a risk we will lose momentum.

We do believe that a robust outcome remains within reach in Warsaw.

To this end we encourage the COP Presidency to facilitate our continued work in the coming week to deliver successful outcomes on these important issues.

Technology

The Technology Mechanism has made solid progress to advance the development and transfer of technologies. In particular we commend the work undertaken on Technology Needs Assessment, Technology Roadmaps and efforts to operationalise the Climate Technology Centre and Network. We look forward to working with all Parties to strengthen the Technology Mechanism as we move forward.

It is the understanding of the Umbrella Group, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and the United States, that the subsidiary body for scientific and technical advice failed to achieve consensus on its consideration of item 7a and that in accordance with rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure, as applied, the SBSTA has not completed its consideration of this matter and it shall be automatically included in the agenda of SBSTA 40 and request that this be recorded in the report of this meeting.

Agriculture

Umbrella Group countries came to this session to build on the excellent progress made on agriculture at SBSTA 38. We are disappointed that Parties were prevented from meeting here in Warsaw as agreed. We stress the importance of adhering to agreed outcomes and hope to avoid similar circumstances in the future. The in-session workshop held here in Warsaw was rich and demonstrated the benefit of now engaging on submissions and the many commonalities across Parties. We should use the sessions at SBSTA 40 to build on areas of commonality.

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We thank Parties for the efforts to achieve what we have this past week, and are committed to complete further work on those issues in the coming days.

Thank you for your service. Wish you the best in your next role.

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