

Governments have the responsibility this year to take the next essential step in the battle against climate change.

In Cancún, the job of governments is to turn the politically possible into the politically irreversible.

Here in Bonn they need to make further negotiating progress. They need to keep the momentum going. It won't do to leave everything to the last two weeks in Cancun.

Governments can build on progress in five key areas.

***First, they need to resolve what to do with their public pledges to cut emissions.***

All industrialized countries have made public pledges to cut emissions by 2020 ... and 38 developing countries have submitted plans to limit their emissions growth.

This needs to be captured in internationally agreed form.

More stringent actions to reduce emissions cannot be much longer postponed and industrial nations must lead.

In Bonn, governments negotiating under the Kyoto Protocol will be looking into how to transform emission reduction pledges into actual quantified emission reduction targets.

The Chair of the negotiating group under the KP will consult this week with governments on how to elevate the current text into a negotiating text, which would be a key step in facilitating the process of turning pledges into targets.

***Second, governments seem on track to agree to a comprehensive set of ways and means to allow developing countries to take climate action.***

This includes adapting to climate change, limiting emissions growth; providing adequate finance; boosting the use of clean technology; promoting sustainable forestry; and building up the skills and capacity to do all this.

***Third, industrialized nations can turn their pledges of funding into reality.***

Last year, they promised USD 30 billion in fast-track finance for developing country adaptation and mitigation efforts through 2012.

Developing nations see the allocation of this money as a critical signal that industrialized nations are committed to progress in the broader negotiations.

Industrialized countries further pledged to raise USD 100 billion a year, by 2020.

Governments need to achieve clarity on how institutional arrangements, particularly financial arrangements, lock into other issues. For example, how could institutional arrangements for financing be linked most effectively to an operational technology mechanism or action on adaptation?

***Fourth, countries want to see that what they agree with each other is measured, reported and verified in a transparent and accountable way.***

It's called MRV in the negotiations and it simply means that countries want to be confident that what they see is what they get.

Progress here will be a gauge that countries are moving towards common ground.

***Fifth, and finally, governments agree that pledges need to be captured in a binding manner but they need to decide how to do it.***

Binding agreements can be on an international level, a national level, or based on compliance rules. They could involve a mix of all three, and governments are considering them all.

Governments need to deliver this combination of accountability and binding action so that civil society and business can be confident that clean, green strategies will be rewarded globally, as well as locally.