



The Bali Roadmap and the way forward

**GA Thematic Debate
New York, 11 February 2008**

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Today I will focus on the outcome of the Bali Conference and the way forward. So, I will say much more about what we need to do tomorrow rather than what has to be done today. At the outset, I want, however, to emphasize the need for continued action now, given the urgency of the problems faced.

The Bali Roadmap - key outcomes of Bali

There was a breakthrough in Bali: a two-year negotiation process to strengthen the international response to climate change; an agenda for the key issues to be negotiated up to 2009.

A new process on long-term cooperative action under the Convention was set up with negotiations to:

- (a) Define, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable way, nationally appropriate emission limitation commitments for developed countries and mitigation actions for developing countries;
- (b) Determine essential actions to adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change and to promote climate-resilient development; and
- (c) Mobilise the necessary finance and technology cooperation to support these actions in a measurable, reportable and verifiable way.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, Parties established a timetable with detailed steps to be taken to complete negotiations on the new emission reduction targets for industrialized countries by 2009.

Technology transfer has received much attention in Bali, and work on it renewed momentum. Parties agreed to work on a new strategic programme to scale up the level of investment for technology transfer.

Parties launched action on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, to enhance further methodological work.

Bali also saw the launch of the Adaptation Fund and the establishment of the Adaptation Fund Board, so that already this year a first set of adaptation projects might receive funding, but here we have a long way to go.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali was the biggest climate change conference ever. It was characterized by a great desire of Parties to make progress, huge public interest and a good sense of common ownership of the outcome. The world now has a major responsibility to make the Bali Roadmap a success.

The way forward

The real work begins now with an incredibly busy time ahead. The challenge is huge, with less than two years left to craft agreement on stronger international action on climate change that measures up to the imperatives of science. Achieving the goal of the negotiations will require:

- A delicate balance between the political necessity of engaging major emitters and recognizing the economic growth and poverty eradication imperatives of developing countries;
- A way forward that leads to strong investment opportunities rather than giving the impression of subsidization; and
- A global approach that ties together the developed and the developing world.

The first meeting of the new body will be held on 31 March-4 April in Bangkok. This meeting will need to set a detailed work plan for the negotiations, including:

- Identifying the areas that need to be further clarified (what e.g. should be understood by words like: ‘measurable’, ‘verifiable’ and ‘comparable’ in the Bali Action Plan);
- Identifying the issues where work needs to be done and in what order that should happen;
- Identifying the input needed from the UN at large, the business sector and others.

The AWG under the Kyoto Protocol has a very clear work plan, which will focus on the rules for further commitments by Annex I Parties for the period after 2012. Given the short time available, this work has to move ahead without delay.

As part of the initial phase it is important to focus on developing the mechanisms to support and enable action by developing countries; to help these countries go the extra green mile. Finance and technology is a central piece of the Bali Roadmap, because:

- Developing countries need to know what is the tool box for them before committing to action;
- Efforts on climate change technology and finance have to be recognized as a way of creating investment opportunities;

- It is an area for positive debate: Finance and technology can be the glue that connects developed and developing countries.

What we need is a plan that will spur green, low-carbon economic growth worldwide, particularly in developing countries, that will reshape the world's future economy and redirect investment flows into a sustainable future. A comprehensive financial architecture is needed to deliver this. A variety of tools need to be part of this architecture, including:

- Mechanisms established within the framework of the Convention;
- Mechanisms enabled through the rules under the Convention, but outside; and
- Financial tools created independent of the Convention, but linked.

Targeting inputs are needed to ensure that the negotiations deliver what is needed. The Bali Roadmap foresees such input and envisages the UNFCCC to play a catalytic role. When designing the work plan, Parties are expected to open the door to other actors early on. They should be invited to indicate:

- A. What they can deliver on the different building blocks; and
- B. What they need in an agreement to be able to deliver.

UN system-wide action

Climate change is now recognized as an area that requires action in all sectors of the economy. The UN under the leadership of the Secretary-General will continue its efforts to deliver as one. As pointed out by the speakers in this afternoon's panel, this includes making an important contributions in:

- Building the financial architecture needed;
- Integrating climate change into sustainable development ambitions of developing countries, to spur green, low-carbon growth in developing countries;
- Mainstreaming climate change into the development agendas of organisations, like the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP etc.
- Mainstreaming adaptation actions in development planning to address increasing pressures through natural disasters, food scarcity, water scarcity, and human security risks at large;
- Initiating necessary action, including on the required technologies, in sectors like agriculture, energy, industrial development, aviation, maritime transport, etc., which all have specialized UN agencies.

The UNFCCC negotiating process is open to receiving support from other international processes:

- The Bali Action Plan refers to the catalytic role of the Convention in encouraging multilateral bodies as a means to support adaptation and mitigation.

- The decision also calls for the negotiating process to be informed by, among others, outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes.

Which outputs will be asked for, and when, remains to be determined, and is firmly in the hands of Parties, but your discussion here tomorrow can provide guidance to that process.

It is very important that the UN General Assembly leads in this process in expressing its readiness to support the broad action across all sectors that is needed.

Concluding points

A truly effective long-term climate change strategy must be comprehensive. To face the climate change challenge, there is a need for a radical change in the world's economic future. But this clearly involves changes that carry plenty of opportunity.

It is important to bear in mind that the most vulnerable communities in the poorest countries – those who have contributed nothing to climate change – will be worst affected by its impacts.

There is no time left that the world can lose. All efforts now have to focus on getting the negotiations on the climate deal off the ground to be ready by 2009. By the time Parties meet in April, the first three months of the two years available have elapsed. Considering the legal requirement to submit any draft agreement six months before the Copenhagen COP, there is really just a little over one year left to do the work.

I am convinced it can be done, but only if all forces pull together. In your debate tomorrow, you have the opportunity to show the way.