



**Ministerial Segment of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme  
Pohnpei, Micronesia, 12 September 2008**

**Address by Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Honourable Presidents, honourable Heads of State and Government  
Honourable Ministers  
Distinguished guests

I thank you for the opportunity to address you on climate change.

It was the honourable President of Palau, Mr. Remengesau, who recently said: **"We are the window of what will eventually be happening to the rest of the world."**

Indeed, as the nations **living on the front line of climate change**, I do not need to dwell on impacts such as **sea-level rise, coral bleaching, salt water intrusion or shrinking fresh water supplies**. You are experiencing them every day and **the need for significantly scaled-up adaptation is glaringly obvious**.

You have taken **a range of very good climate change initiatives**. This includes **mitigation activities in the current energy mix, the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project, regional climate change science activities and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action 2006-2015**.

Encouraging and important as these initiatives certainly are, it is clear to everyone that **there is only so much you can do on your own**. Climate change is a **global problem, in need of a global solution, to reduce the cost of mitigation and to secure funding for adaptation**.

The two-year negotiating process under **the Bali Road Map** is offering Governments around the world a **window of opportunity to craft an economically viable solution to a huge problem**. And a solution that **responds to the adaptation challenge** in an appropriate way.

*The agreed outcome in Copenhagen 2009 needs to be ambitious on all fronts of climate change abatement.*

**In terms of mitigation**, a quick look at anticipated energy investments illustrates this window of opportunity. According to the IEA, **global energy demand will grow by 55% by**

**2030.** In the period up to 2030, the energy supply infrastructure world-wide will require a **total investment of \$22 trillion, with about half of that in developing countries.**

If we do **not manage to green these investments**, to direct them into climate-friendly technologies, **emissions will go up by 50%, instead of down by 50%, as science tells us they should.**

**We all know that mitigation efforts over the next two to three decades will determine to a large extent the long-term global mean temperature increase and the corresponding climate change impacts that can be avoided.**

As part of the **Bali Road Map**, all countries agreed to **stronger action on mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance.**

- o With respect to stronger **mitigation**, **developed countries would do this through quantified targets.**
- o Developing countries would contribute through **measurable, reportable and verifiable mitigation actions** in the context of sustainable development and **supported by measurable, reportable and verifiable financial and technological support.**

The negotiating process needs to **ring in a global green economic revolution.** It needs to **put policies in place** that introduce **real economic opportunity to mitigation measures.** The **carbon market** is an indication that this can be done successfully.

**In terms of adaptation**, the window of opportunity lies in **creating funding mechanisms that would boost the swift implementation of adaptation activities**, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

Copenhagen 2009 needs to include **ways of generating new, additional, predictable and sufficient funding for adaptation.**

We all know that the most **vulnerable countries cannot afford a situation of piecemeal, reactive funding or funding that has been diverted from ODA.** The situation is simply too serious.

So, to make real progress, we need to **develop a clever financial architecture that will generate significant financial and technological support for both adaptation and mitigation**, especially for **developing countries.**

**The Adaptation Fund** under the Kyoto Protocol, funded by a two per cent levy on Clean Development Mechanism projects, is a promising step in that direction. **The higher the level of ambition of industrialised countries, the higher the amount of funds likely to be generated in this way.**

However, **adaptation costs are likely to run at billions of dollars annually.** So, the question is: **how could a funding mechanism through the carbon market be expanded?** And: **are there other types of mechanisms that could be established within the Convention to generate solid adaptation funding?**

It is **very likely that adaptation will need funding from different sources**. Another option would be **mechanisms enabled through the rules of the Convention**.

An interesting example in this respect is the idea of **auctioning emission rights** to use the money to support adaptation activities in developing countries. Likewise, the **EU has proposed auctioning off emissions permits** for aviation and using the funds for the same purpose.

There may also be **mechanisms outside the Convention that are nonetheless linked to it**.

*The UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Poznan in December is just around the corner.*

One of the issues to be taken up by **Ministers at Poznan will be the shared vision for long-term cooperation**.

Poznan will also see a **first version of a negotiating text on the table, based on ideas by governments on what has been negotiated in 2008**. While this translates into good progress, **there are numerous key issues that have not nearly progressed to such a stage**.

**Poznan represents the half-way mark** for the Bali Road Map negotiations. So, **for the political process, the clock is ticking**.

As per the Bali Road Map, **Copenhagen 2009 will be a long-term response to climate change**. At the same time, as you know all too well, **climate change impacts are already affecting livelihoods and lives**, and this is very likely to increase.

*Seneca said: "It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that things are difficult."*

**Poznan and the coming year represent your last chance to be more vocal about your needs and to table the cooperative solutions to the problem that you see**. Being amongst the first nations on the front line of climate change, in the knowledge that impacts will increase, **you are well positioned to push for ambitious long-term solutions**.

The process needs **creative and bold ideas that match up to the challenge** and lead to an **effective, efficient and equitable agreed outcome in 2009**. And so, **looking to Seneca: I ask you to dare!**

**You have done so in the past**. One of the reasons why the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol were moved forward so effectively is because the **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) came to the negotiations with a solid, well elaborated text proposal for the Protocol**. This is the type of contribution that the process needs.

The fact that I have the honour of addressing so many Heads of State and Government at this meeting **is a sign not only of the increasing magnitude of the problem, but also of the political commitment - at the highest level - to finding viable solutions.**

My hope is that **this high-level political commitment will act as an example to be followed by leaders across the globe** to give the negotiating process the political momentum it needs to conclude ambitiously.

To sum up, this negotiating process represents **a unique opportunity to ensure that the interests of Small Island Developing States - both in terms of economic development and adaptation - are safeguarded in a Copenhagen outcome.**

Opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises and should not be missed.

Thank you

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