

Climate negotiations next week will be on track if they keep focused on a common way forward towards a concrete and realistic goal in Cancún. There is a growing consensus on what that first goal can be - namely, a full, operational architecture to implement effective, collective climate action.

Copenhagen did not deliver the agreement hoped for...
..... but the mandate of the negotiating group (LCA) tasked to deliver a long-term global solution to the climate challenge was extended.

In Bonn, the LCA Chair, with the agreement of governments, is tabling a new text that integrates parts of the Copenhagen Accord. This session can significantly advance that text.

I also encourage governments now to develop greater clarity on the future of the Kyoto Protocol, since this issue cannot be left unattended until Cancún.

The two-week Bonn session represents a significant part of the remaining negotiating time before Cancún - in fact, about one third. Cancún can deliver if promises of help are kept and if promises to compromise are honoured in the negotiations.

All sides have a role to address three priority issues:

- getting promised money moving to fast-track action
- wrapping up implementation package in good time
- political leadership to answer political questions that remain outstanding.

A priority is for industrialized countries to deploy the USD 30 billion they pledged from now to 2012 in short-term finance to kickstart climate action in developing countries.

Times are harsh, especially in Europe, but USD 10 billion a year for three years from all industrialized countries is not an impossible call. Meeting this promise will establish greater trust between developing and developed nations.

Second, negotiators can complete texts on the architecture of implementation in good time. If developing countries are given the ways and means to act on all aspects of mitigation and adaptation, it will establish firm ground for a bigger ambition.

Third, there are issues with such a direct impact on national policy agendas that higher political guidance is required to find ways forward.

Firstly, Copenhagen set a political intent to keep global temperature rises below 2 degrees Celsius, yet existing industrialized country pledges to cut emissions will not achieve this goal.

Secondly, industrial nations also pledged USD 100 billion a year by 2020 for developing world action. The question is how to raise, deploy and account for this in a transparent way to both providers and users of those finances. Bigger, broader markets and mechanisms would reduce emissions more rapidly in all countries.

Thirdly, as I said, governments also need an open discussion about the future of the Kyoto Protocol.

Fourthly, political guidance is also needed on what final form an international agreement might take - what does the term “legally binding” actually mean in practice?

All these issues need addressing .. but it is also the case that some answers may be clearer only after collective action starts - Cancún can deliver on that.

The fight over the longer term for a safer climate will take generations. Others will judge the final victory, but we can measure up to a successful start this year if we can keep the process focused.