



**Post-COP 21 meeting to discuss the outcomes of Paris and the way forward
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Brussels, 22 March 2016**

**Statement by
Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States for inviting the UNFCCC to join this meeting and discuss the outcomes of Paris and the way forward. Events like this are critical to maintaining momentum.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement has been described as a “landmark” achievement, a “monumental triumph” and “historical moment”. For the first time in history, a COP exceeded the expectations of virtually everyone, myself included. The Paris Agreement truly unites the world in action on climate change – action for sustainable development and economic transformation.

The Paris Agreement is the culmination of years of hard work by so many dedicated people, especially from the nations represented here today. Every country that had a hand in reaching the agreement can be proud to be part of this great accomplishment.

Your countries’ leadership was very evident in Paris, where a high-ambition coalition that crossed traditional negotiation lines helped deliver a strong and durable agreement. This is the spirit of cooperation that enabled success in Paris and which must now take us forward.

The Paris Agreement signals a shift in the multilateral negotiations under the UN Climate Change Convention from a legislative, or law-making, phase to a regulatory phase of implementation and technical negotiations. It is an important psychological shift from “can we all agree?” to “how do we make it work?”

This shift must resonate across all levels of policymaking. At the international level, technical discussions will begin on crucial issues such as transparency, delivery and reporting of financial flows, and building capacity. At the national level, countries must begin concretizing how the national climate change action plans submitted as part of the Paris Agreement will be accomplished.

This year, 2016, is crucial to how we make it work. Fortunately, there are several events in the calendar that are our opportunities to lay the groundwork for success.

First, the U.N. Secretary-General's signing event on April 22nd. This is the first opportunity to build on the trust that enabled agreement in Paris. I hope the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group will be at the head of the signature queue, pens in hand!

Then in May the working sessions of the Convention Subsidiary Bodies and the new APA will see the launch of the technical discussions that are essential to progress. All of the Chairs, the presidencies and the secretariat are committed to working in a coordinated way to deliver coherent outcomes.

In addition to the development of rules, guidelines and modalities on various elements of the Paris outcome, the May sessions will see a number of events highlighting this new implementation agenda.

- The first Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) on adaptation;
- Plus resumed TEMs to deliver on key mitigation opportunities;
- On transparency, we will see the first Facilitative Sharing of Views workshops examining reports from developing countries;
- The secretariat will organize a major event on implementing and supporting the Nationally Determined Contributions;
- The GEF will have an important event on the Capacity for Transparency initiative; and
- And the French Presidency will undertake informal consultations on the issue of vulnerability in Africa.

Taken together, these events, and more, demonstrate how the implementation agenda will be advanced, to help every government accomplish their climate change goals and help to peak global emissions as early as possible.

We in the secretariat are also turning our sights to COP 22 to be held in November in Marrakech. Work with the incoming presidency is well underway. Although it is still early to define “what will Marrakech be”, one can already identify some signals. First and foremost, Marrakech will be about implementation.

That implementation orientation will be with two strategic priorities – action and support, with Africa in focus. And as a foundation for everything, the overarching imperative of ambition. COP 22 will clarify the path forward and give guidance on how to make it all work where it counts the most – in the real world, in the real economy, in communities across the world and in the atmosphere, where the outcomes of Paris will be measured against what science says is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

On the theme of action, Marrakech will see a high level event on this topic to build on and further advance the action agenda, with non-Party actors in the spotlight. Speaking more broadly, the challenge of action in a nationally-based regime is to integrate fully the achievement of NDC objectives and low carbon development into national economic planning and be clear with the private sector and other actors what is expected.

Now is the time to accelerate the transformation to clean energy electricity generation, low-carbon transport, climate-smart land use and low-emission urbanization in your country. And to strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change to which the world is regrettably already committed.

Enhanced support, the second strategic priority, is crucial to achieving the agenda laid out in Paris. This was an essential component of the COP 21 bargain. Support for implementation, support for adaptation, support for transparency.

The commitments and the channels are clear – whether the Green Climate Fund or the GEF, development institutions, bilateral channels or emerging South-South cooperation. The implementation agenda will focus on how to make this happen, and how to measure it. Marrakesh will feature a facilitative dialogue on support as well as a high-level dialogue among ministers on climate finance.

And that brings me to ambition. The bottom line is that if the 1.5 degree temperature goal is to be realized, every country in the world, with industrialized countries in the lead, must raise ambition to levels that meet or exceed 2015 action plans – for the pre-2020 period, and for the next the cycle of action plans. Ambition must be raised now to peak emissions

within a decade and reduce both our long-term costs and our long-term risk exposure. If we know one thing, it is that making it work now holds significant advantage over delaying action.

Raising ambition is the precursor to success in the real economy and atmosphere. Yes, raising ambition will look different for every country. Yes it will take collaboration and cooperation. Yes it will require leading by example and not waiting for others to take the lead. So today, I ask each of you to recognize your role in the grand symphony of action that will amplify the success of Paris moving forward.

I ask you to do everything you can so that your country signs the Paris Agreement on April 22nd and encourage other nations to do the same – we want 197 signatures!

I ask you to drive the dialogue in your countries, among ministries and with the private sector and your development partners, on climate-safe development, on NDCs and on National Adaptation Plans. Integrating these into national planning is the only way to usher in a new era of low-emission, resilient prosperity.

We cannot afford to wait. We cannot rest on our laurels. Paris was a historic moment for us all, but it will slip into the dustbin of history if we do not redouble our efforts now to make Paris a success. As Bill McKibben, of 350.org, has said: “the most compelling thing you can say about Paris is not that it saved the planet, but that it saved the chance of saving the planet.”

This is a great opportunity. We must seize it and shape the future we want for ourselves and for future generations with the same determination that saw success in Paris. We must do this now and we must do this together.

Thank you.

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