

Information on the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

Note by the Co-Chairs

4 April 2013

I. Introduction

1. At its eighteenth session, held in Doha, Qatar, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted decision 2/CP.18, which welcomed with high appreciation the successful start, as a matter of urgency, of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) and the progress that has been made in 2012. The COP sent a clear signal that the ADP is working effectively and is on track to successfully deliver results and set important milestones for its further work.

2. By the same decision, the COP decided to identify and explore in 2013 options for a range of actions that can close the pre-2020 ambition gap. It further decided that the ADP will consider elements for a draft negotiating text no later than at its session to be held in conjunction with COP 20, with a view to making available a negotiating text before May 2015.¹

3. At the second part of its first session, held in conjunction with COP 18, the ADP adopted conclusions on the planning of work,² which provide for the possibility of holding the second session of the ADP in the first half of 2013.³ This session will be held in Bonn, Germany, at the World Conference Center Bonn from 29 April to 3 May 2013.⁴

4. On 7 February 2013, we issued our summaries of the round tables held in Doha, as well as a summary of our special event for observer organizations.⁵ The report on the second part of the first session of the ADP was also made available on that date.⁶

5. Further, we issued an informal note on 18 February that provided our reflections on the general status of the work of the ADP after Doha, with a view to the year ahead. We identified some upcoming challenges and key areas that may require further in-depth discussion in 2013.⁷

6. Complementing these reflections, we seek to further assist delegates, through the present information note, in preparing for the upcoming session by outlining suggested goals for the

¹ Decision 2/CP.18, paragraphs 5 and 9.

² FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 17–33.

³ FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraph 27.

⁴ On 11 February 2013, Parties and observers were informed that sufficient pledges had been confirmed to enable the second session of the ADP to proceed in April. In addition, a formal notification on arrangements for the session was sent to Parties and observer States on 22 February 2013. See <http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/notifications/items/3153.php>.

⁵ ADP.2012.6.InformalSummary, ADP.2012.7.InformalSummary and ADP.2012.8.InformalSummary, available at <unfccc.int/7055>.

⁶ FCCC/ADP/2012/3.

⁷ ADP.2012.9.InformalNote, available at <unfccc.int/7387>.

session, sharing our ideas and proposals on how to organize the work of the ADP and providing possible focus questions for the workshops and round tables under workstreams 1 and 2. We have endeavoured to draw upon the views submitted by Parties and will make adjustments to the approach to the session in the light of pre-session consultations.

II. Goals for the April session

7. In its conclusions adopted in Doha, the ADP invited Parties and accredited observer organizations to provide information, views and proposals on matters related to the work of the ADP by 1 March 2013.⁸ We are pleased to acknowledge that many submissions have been received, which will help to guide us in planning the work of the session.⁹

8. As decided in Doha, the ADP will need to move to a more focused mode of work during 2013.¹⁰ We hope that, in April, Parties will intensify their engagement with each other and seek to ensure that they take the work of the ADP to the next stage. Parties have agreed to a challenging work plan for 2013 and beyond and will therefore need to make maximum use of each session. A goal for the April session would be for the ADP to build on the broad, conceptual and scoping discussions carried out in 2012, and engage in more specific and detailed work on the core elements of the 2015 agreement and a practical and results-orientated approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition.

III. Organizing the work of the session

9. The ADP will open its second session on Monday, 29 April 2013 with a plenary meeting. We propose to follow the agenda agreed in 2012 and continue conducting the work through the two workstreams initiated by that agenda (workstream 1 on the 2015 agreement and workstream 2 on pre-2020 ambition), dedicating similar time to both.¹¹

10. In the light of the ADP conclusions adopted in Doha, the organization of work at the April session will include workshops and round tables, which will be crucial to advance the work as agreed in Doha. Workshops provide an opportunity for the direct engagement of experts and stakeholders to help Parties to advance their thinking. Round tables provide a forum for interactive conversation among Parties on specific issues that would follow up and complement the workshops, going into the matters being addressed in more depth.

11. For workstream 1 we have made arrangements for a workshop on the scope, structure and design of the 2015 agreement, which would encompass all four aspects of the ADP conclusions.¹² The workshop would be followed by round-table discussions in which Parties would seek to advance and refine issues raised by the workshop with respect to specific subject areas, namely mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation, and transparency of action and support.

⁸ FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 29 and 31.

⁹ The submissions are available at <unfccc.int/7398>.

¹⁰ FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraph 24.

¹¹ FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 28 and 30.

¹² FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraph 29(a-d).

12. For workstream 2 we have made arrangements for two workshops focusing on increasing ambition in two areas: low-emission development opportunities, and opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use. In addition, round-table discussions will be held on catalysing action and on building a practical and results-orientated approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition.

13. As Parties requested in the Doha conclusions, we have provided possible questions to focus and facilitate the workshop and round-table discussions under both workstreams (contained in the annex to this note). We may provide more specific questions prior to and during the session.

14. In the light of the ADP conclusions in Doha to move to a more focused form of work in 2013, we propose the establishment of a contact group, to be co-chaired by us, to address organizational matters and to prepare, as needed, conclusions or draft decisions, or elements thereof. The two workstreams will, of course, continue to be kept distinct and the approach to the work tailored to the specific needs of each workstream. We believe that this would give a more structured approach to the work, which could be initiated during the April session and be built upon in June.

15. Given that the April session consists of only five days and in the light of the proximity of the June meeting of the ADP (3–14 June in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies), we propose to suspend the session on 3 May and resume it in June. We hope that this approach will allow Parties to move straight into more substantive work in June based on the deliberations of the ADP in 2012 as well as those at the April session.

16. The April session will provide an opportunity for the ADP to be informed of relevant work being undertaken by other bodies under the Convention. We have therefore invited the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to brief the ADP in a plenary meeting on the relevant work of those bodies.

17. As stated in Doha, we will continue to actively engage with observers in 2013. For the April session, we intend to convene a special event with observers to seek their views, which will contribute to the substantive discussions under the ADP. We will endeavour to provide for virtual participation so that observers unable to attend in person have the opportunity to participate. We will make available further information on the event in advance of the April session on the UNFCCC website.

18. We are confident that these arrangements will help the ADP to move into the next stage of its work.

Annex – Focused questions for workshops and round tables

I. Focused questions – workstream 1

- How would the agreement be designed to incentivize ambitious national and international action?
- How would the agreement be designed to ensure durability and flexibility to respond to changes in national circumstances and evolving scientific knowledge over time?
- How will the principles of the Convention be applied in the new agreement?
- What is needed from a 2015 agreement to enhance, complement and add value to action on adaptation?
- What is needed from the 2015 agreement in terms of means of implementation in support of mitigation and adaptation action that builds on and adds value to existing bodies and processes?
- What is needed in the 2015 agreement to enhance mitigation action?
- Are new arrangements needed in the 2015 agreement to ensure transparency of action and support and, if so, which?

II. Focused questions – workstream 2

- What further actions can Parties undertake at the national level to increase ambition, what incentives are needed for Parties to undertake these actions and how can international cooperative initiatives contribute to strengthening national action?
- How can the UNFCCC process play a catalytic role in assisting Parties in identifying best practices and success stories of mitigation and adaptation policies, actions and initiatives and in adapting such best practices and success stories according to their own national circumstances and requirements?
- What barriers do developed country Parties face in taking on stronger commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention and how can these be overcome?
- How can enhanced delivery of means of implementation contribute to concrete action at the national level?
- What further steps should the ADP take to advance its work on increasing ambition through the workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition in 2014–2015?