
Ministerial EIG Statement

Mr. President, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group, the EIG, which is composed of Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

The EIG is a group that unites countries with different backgrounds, spanning several continents. The EIG has traditionally been a group that seeks to build bridges between differing positions. At the same time, we want to ensure the environmental integrity of all our common and global efforts.

Mr. President,

Global warming is a real threat and recent reports confirm the urgency to strengthen action. The impacts on our populations across the globe have further increased. Ecosystems on all continents and the seas show changes of a worrying extent.

Climate change does not single out specific regions or individual countries:

- We are all affected by climate change.

The belief in the necessity of mitigation is shared by all of us. Without determined efforts we cannot limit the global rise of temperatures to less than 2, or even 1.5 degrees. We must all embark on a low-carbon development path. If we act now, we can pursue this pathway in an economically feasible manner.

Mr. President,

The window of opportunity to ensure such an emission path is closing. If we delay, we could theoretically still reach our goal to limit the temperature rise. But this will soon be at costs, both economic and social, that we can no longer muster. And this is true for all countries, even the wealthiest among us.

- We must all act to combat climate change.

Adaptation to climate change is ongoing. Countries, including the EIG member countries, are doing so today, with rising costs. However, we know there are limits to

adaptation at any location: rising sea levels, ongoing desertification, changes in the precipitation patterns and other effects of climate change may go as far as to force populations not just to alter their life style, but to move away from their homes. We know this is already happening today.

- We are all forced to adapt.

We are forced to do so even more in the future. At the same time we know that we need to expand our support for countries most affected by climate change.

Mr. President,

- We are all affected by climate change.
- We are all forced to adapt to climate change.
- We must all act to combat climate change.

What does this mean for our work here in Doha and in the immediate future?

- First, the EIG is working hard towards the adoption of the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. We must do so here in Doha.

At the same time, the EIG wants to ensure both environmental integrity and a high ambition level by eliminating hot air and limiting the carry-over from the first into the second commitment period.

- Second, the EIG wants to concentrate on the implementation of the Bali Action Plan. We have set the ground for its implementation with the decisions taken in Cancun and Durban.

What we need now – and this to secure their comprehensive implementation – are additional decisions regarding the clarification of pledges, finance, markets and REDD+.

- Third, we have to capture progress towards the post-2020 regime. This regime will have to be effective to achieve the objective of the Convention. All Parties will need to commit to action. All Parties will need to do so in line with the principles of the Convention, acknowledging that we need to go as far as we can.
- And forth but not last, we have to agree on a concrete process that helps us to increase the ambitions of each of us already before 2020.

Mr. President,

Women are playing a key role in our fight against climate change. The EIG is therefore very pleased that we will approve, here in Doha, a decision to enhance gender balance in the UNFCCC-processes.

Mr. President,

The EIG countries are ready to stay at the forefront of the action. We are ready to do so with you and with all of the international community, be they Parties, local governments, international organisations, civil society or the business community. Time is not on our side. We owe it to our children and to future generations to act, and to do so both swiftly and globally.

Thank you, Mr. President.