

Umbrella Group Statement

High Level Segment

3 December

Mr President,

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group of countries: Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and Australia.

Mr President

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of Umbrella Group Ministers, to thank His Highness, the Emir of Qatar and the Government and people of Qatar for the welcome we have received this week.

Mr President

Umbrella Group countries stand ready to work with you and all parties to deliver a COP outcome that shows the world we are acting to address climate change.

We note the hard work of our negotiators in the first week of this conference and their efforts to bring us closer together. Now is the time to deliver the COP outcome.

Last time we met, in Durban, we agreed a framework that will take us forward. Durban marked a transition in the way we deal with climate change as an international community. The Durban package reflected a delicate balance of interests and we need to protect that balance here in Doha.

Since Bali we have achieved a great deal under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA). We have created many new institutions and processes that will take forward our work in finance, adaptation, capacity building and technology. Now is the time to resolve those few issues mandated by Durban and to close the LCA. The work will continue and the issues will remain important.

Those of us who are Kyoto Parties agreed in Durban to take forward a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and we have worked hard to finalise that this year.

And we agreed that between now and 2015 we would negotiate a new legal international agreement to apply to all parties, a new agreement that needs to be both effective and fair. We note the good work of the ADP Co-Chairs and the constructive spirit of the ADP discussions so far.

Mr President

The world is changing fast. It is apt that we meet in Qatar, a country in the midst of rapid economic development. This fast economic development is manifest across the globe, from Asia, to the Americas and Africa. And let us be clear, economic development, and the positive impact it has on the wellbeing of people across the world is a very good thing.

As we work hard to delink our economic development from the climate effects of carbon, we need an international regime that reflects our changing world.

In 1990 developed countries made up 55 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions. This share is now around 45 per cent. By 2020 it is expected to be around 35 per cent. The global economy, and our global emissions profile will be very different in 2020 compared to 1990 and our international climate change regime needs to be applied commensurately. We need to reflect the effort of all major emitters if we are to meet the two degree goal.

Mr President

While we look beyond 2020, we all need to raise the ambition of our efforts in the years before 2020 as mandated in Durban. That means working together, both inside and outside the UNFCCC, to amplify the impact of our actions. Ambition is based in domestic action and we need to nurture and enhance that action. Markets could play an important and positive role for many countries.

Mr President

Mitigation is critical because it will reduce the trajectory of our emissions. But Umbrella Group countries recognise that adaptation is critical too, particularly for those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Umbrella Group Ministers also recognise the importance of finance to enable climate action. Three years ago, developed countries committed to provide approaching \$30 billion in new and additional resources in the period 2010 to 2012 to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

As of today, Umbrella Group countries have announced a total of \$24.4 billion in fast start finance. The European Union has recently announced it has provided the equivalent of \$9.2 billion in fast start finance. This means publicly announced fast start finance provided by developed countries now exceeds \$33 billion. Together, we have met and surpassed the fast start commitment. And we assure all parties that we are committed to the continuation of climate finance beyond fast start.

Mr President

The Doha deal is in sight but we have much work to do. The KP negotiations need our urgent attention if they are to conclude by Wednesday to allow time for legal finalisation. Our negotiators in the LCA must redouble efforts to reach an agreed outcome on the LCA's closure, recognising our list of achievements since Bali and the need to move forward to implementation. And, most importantly, we need to send a signal to the world that the Durban Platform negotiations are on track to deliver us a new agreement by 2015.

Mr President

Umbrella Group Ministers are committed to finding common ground and working with you as President to conclude a successful Doha outcome by 6pm on Friday.

Thank you