

Discurso de apertura de la COP-18
26 de Noviembre, 2012

Venezuela is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alba countries (Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela)

Last June our heads of state and government ratified the principles that are cornerstone to our multilateral environmental agreement at the Rio+20 summit. The major challenges of sustainable development and poverty eradication are achieving the right to development by promoting a life in harmony with nature, as part of a holistic approach towards sustainable development, enabling the regeneration, restoration and adaptation of ecosystems. Also, there has been a recognition that *poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and promoting sustainable ones, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of the economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.*

Mr. President

In Bali, 2007, we agreed to discuss how to enhance the convention in order to open up the dialogue with the only party that was not a party to the KP. In Cancun, 2010, we further compromised by accepting to do more and take nationally appropriate mitigation actions by all parties. In Durban, late last year, we further compromised in order to engage all parties in our collective efforts to fight global warming by agreeing to open negotiations leading to a new protocol while safeguarding the enormous effort made during these 20 years in multilateral negotiations. This Durban package must not be unraveled given the enormous compromises made by developing countries. there is now a need to live up to the expectations created; that is to present the quantified emissions reductions for the second commitment period of the KP parties. But we must not forget the commitment of non-Kyoto Protocol developed country parties to make comparable efforts to reduce emissions. Both need to reflect due ambition in line with convention principles. If these basic conditions are not met, it is unreasonable and unfair to ask for even more flexibility.. The end does not justify the mean, we must not loose sight of our ultimate objective as

markets are not the solution to achieve ambitious emission reductions, we need real ambitious commitments by developed countries to achieve domestic emission reductions.

The Kyoto protocol devised carbon markets which allowed for flexible compliance by developed country parties. But this implies that a target exists, a commitment to reduce emissions. It is not reasonable to expect access to these markets if no commitments are forthcoming, let alone create new ones outside the multilateral rule-based system. This would simply destroy the credibility of the system, and setback all efforts to reduce emissions reductions.

The goal of the climate change convention is to effectively respond to the climate crisis with drastic reductions of greenhouse gases to avoid a catastrophe that appears certain if emissions continue on an upward trajectory. It is urgently required that in the coming months, in the context of the UN Conference on Climate Change, to be held in Qatar, and the subsequent and related events, that rigorous and meaningful decisions are taken.

There is only one planet, one global commons, one Mother Earth and we have agreed to step up our collective efforts. Only with a real and responsible commitment of all the parties, under the principle of CBDR, and a high level of ambition, particular on mitigation, with developed countries taking the lead in step with historical responsibility we can give the world a solution to the climate crisis. Developing countries continue to do their part through all means available to them, but more could be done through the facilitation of appropriate technology, capacity building and financing. Developed countries have to be more ambitious, not less.

I thank you Mr president