

REMARKS BY ABDULLAH BIN HAMAD AL-ATTIYA COP 18/CMP 8 PRESIDENT

to the COP 18/CMP 8 Bureau at its meeting on
Tuesday, 12 March 2013 in Bonn, Germany

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the first Bureau meeting in 2013. I would also like to welcome all new Bureau members. Claudia and Gary are joining us via phone. Claudia let me take this opportunity to express our deep sympathy for the recent passing away of President Chavez.

Colleagues, it is indeed a pleasure to see you all after Doha.

It was with the unfailing support of Parties and Bureau members and through the leadership especially of the Chairs of the SBSTA, SBI, AWG-KP, AWG-LCA and the ADP that the Qatari Presidency was able to deliver the historic outcomes of the COP and CMP in Doha. Today's meeting gives me the pleasant opportunity to convey my appreciation for the generous efforts and the firm commitment you all have shown during the conference, which contributed to the successful Doha outcomes.

Ms. Madeleine Diouf Saar, the Chair of the AWG-KP and Mr. Aysar Tayeb, the Chair of the AWG-LCA, your leadership allowed the two negotiating bodies to deliver on their mandates in Doha. The Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI and the Co-Chairs of the ADP, many thanks for your hard work. You have a lot of work ahead of you and I look forward to cooperating with you this year and supporting you all along the way.

Four months have passed since the day we adopted the historic Doha Climate Gateway, and many more important implementation decisions needed to address climate change. Doha delivered because of the will of the Parties to send a strong message that the climate change regime is strong and forward looking. We launched a Climate Gateway to the future.

I would like to share with you some of my reflections from the two weeks in Doha and also how the Qatari Presidency envisions the year ahead. Reaching consensus on decisions was not an easy task. But we did it. Doha has opened up a new gateway to stronger ambition and to greater action, which is why we called the package the Doha Climate Gateway. Now governments must move quickly through the Doha Climate Gateway to push forward with the solutions to climate change at the national and international levels.

The ratification process of the Doha Amendment is underway. Work will need to move ahead in areas such as: finance, adaptation, technology, the review and gender. The task ahead requires working collectively within the process established under the Convention. This is a Party-driven process. You all kept emphasizing this in Doha. It is your responsibility to secure the implementation of the decisions. We all need to do our part and ensure that the process is more effective and timely in its deliverables.

As you may recall, the COP requested the President to appoint co-chairs for the work program on Long-Term Finance and the work program on REDD-plus. I have consulted with you and with your support, it gives me great pleasure to announce that I have appointed Mr. Naderev Saño from the Philippines and Mr. Mark Storey from Sweden for the work program on Long-Term Finance.

It is with great pleasure that I appoint Mr. Agus P. Sari from Indonesia and Ms. Christina Voigt from Norway for the work program on REDD-Plus. I wish them all success in moving these important issues forward in the coming year. The Presidency will take a keen interest in overseeing that progress is made on all fronts. We also, as Presidency, carry the responsibility, in close consultation with Poland as the incoming Presidency, to ensure that the achievements made in Doha are not curtailed due to lack of guidance.

I would like to conclude by saying that what was accomplished in Doha was your success and the results of our collective work. More work needs to be done; however, as we all embark on this journey for fulfilling what we agreed to do in 2015, which we will discuss in more detail today.