Further Clarification of the Co-Chairs on the ADP mode of work of the June session

We would like to convey to all Parties our deep gratitude for their trust and confidence as well as their continued support. We look forward very much to your cooperation and support to assist us to meet the unprecedented challenge ahead of us and to deliver by the end of this session a more concise and manageable negotiating text as well as the elements of a draft accompanying decision.

During the 15 pre-sessional consultative meetings held with Parties, which included the participation of more than 430 delegates, we noted that there is an overwhelming desire to use efficiently the little time available to us and avoid discussing procedural issues. We noted a broad agreement on the method of work suggested in the scenario note that was issued deliberately 24 days in advance of our meeting. However, there have also been legitimate questions raised on the method of work, as well as requests for better clarity on the suggested mode of work.

We have highly appreciated the very useful comments and wise advise received during our pre-sessional consultative meetings. In response to these requests and to the comments received, we are issuing the following clarifications, which we hope will provide better clarity on the method of work and will allow us to move quickly to address the business at hand during this crucial meeting:

First: the Geneva Negotiating Text as circulated to ALL Parties in the six UN languages on 19th March will remain on the table until the adoption in Paris of the final outcome; nothing is agreed until it is formally agreed at the last ADP meeting;

Second: the streamlining of the Geneva Negotiating Text shall be undertaken without prejudice to the final structure of the Paris outcome;

Third: the streamlining of the Geneva Negotiating Text shall be undertaken without prejudice to the legal form of the Paris outcome. We have taken note of the interest of a number of Parties to address the issue of legal form of the Paris outcome and we would like to hear your views on how best to consider this issue;

Fourth: the streamlining of the Geneva Negotiating Text shall be undertaken bearing in mind that the six elements of the Durban mandate as well as the various sections of the Geneva Negotiating Text are inter-related and any advance in streamlining the text of one section will be without prejudice to the pace of the progress in other sections contained in the Geneva Negotiating Text as some paragraphs are more conducive to streamlining than others;

Fifth: the streamlining of the Geneva Negotiating Text shall be undertaken bearing in mind that the ADP mandate pertains to both Workstream I and Workstream II

Sixth: the streamlining of the Geneva Negotiating Text shall be undertaken bearing in mind that all issues related to a given subject will be addressed within the section in which it appears, without prejudice to the placement of this text within the final structure of the Paris outcome;

Seventh: the team of facilitators that will assist the Parties in the first reading of the Geneva Negotiating Text will aim to eliminate duplication and repetition, and will propose possible consolidation options for the text. Their mandate is to carry out this work under the direct authority and guidance of the Co-Chairs. To this end, meetings between the facilitators and the Co-Chairs will take place every day in the morning and afternoon;

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Eighth: the facilitators will only report, and suggest for inclusion in the working document, the results of the textual agreement reached by Parties or short notes suggesting the way forward;

Ninth: We are extremely grateful to the facilitators for agreeing to share the load and work with co-facilitators to be more responsive to Parties' requests for appropriate geographic and gender balance. The list of co-facilitators has been posted on the web and is available to you;

Tenth: to accommodate as best we can the concerns of Parties to have adequate time for consultation in their groups, we have adjusted the times for discussion in facilitated groups as reflected in the latest updated schedule of work now posted on the ADP website;

Eleventh: As stated in the scenario note, the INDC event is not a mandated event. It is a side event and the necessary corrections have been made by the secretariat on the ADP website .

What will be the expected outcome at the end of our first week?

Based on the excellent work done by the secretariat and your individual and collective contribution, we hope that at the end of the first week – which as currently planned will include both first and second readings of the Geneva Negotiating Text – we shall be able to identify a number of streamlined paragraphs, as well as duplicative and repetitive text. Changes to the text as agreed by the negotiating groups will be recorded in a working document to reflect the specific paragraph(s) of the Geneva Negotiating Text to which they pertain. The Parties may also wish to identify in the Geneva Negotiating Text potential paragraphs for inclusion in an accompanying COP decision or multiple COP decisions.

What will be the method of work during the second week of our session?

Based on the progress to be achieved at the end of the first and second reading of the Geneva Negotiating Text; we hope very much that we shall be ready to move during the second week into a single drafting committee.

What will be the expected outcome on 11 June?

By continuing here in Bonn with the "Geneva spirit," we are certain that you can work together collectively to have by the end of this session two main and inter-interrelated products:

First: A revised, streamlined, concise, readable and understandable negotiating text to ensure that the positions of Parties as contained in the Geneva Negotiating Text are clearly presented in a manner that allows you, the Parties, to make the choices and enter into substantive negotiation during the next ADP meeting;

Second: A more elaborated draft COP 21 decision which will accompany the Paris Climate Agreement.

We sincerely hope that these points respond to the request for additional clarification on the method of work raised by a number of Parties during the pre-sessional consultations. We look very much forward to working with all of you in a constructive manner for the success of this crucial ADP session.