

**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA ON BEHALF OF BASIC
COP20 OPENING PLENARY
LIMA, PERU
1 DECEMBER 2014**

South Africa has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China). We associate ourselves with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

We would like to congratulate His Excellency, Minister Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, on his election as President of the Lima Climate Change Conference.

Mr President, under your leadership we feel assured of a transparent and inclusive process. The BASIC countries pledge from the outset our support to the Presidency to work toward a successful outcome from COP20 and ensure a Lima legacy that will ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC. We commend Peru for the fruitful and constructive preparatory consultations that they have initiated so far.

Lima is a critical step towards Paris. We reiterate our support for a strengthened multilateral agreement under the Convention in Paris that is rules-based; that maintains the integrity of the science; and that is based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities (CBDR&RC), with developed countries taking the lead.

On adaptation, we stress the importance of situating our discussions on adaptation at the center of the enhanced implementation of the Convention. Adaptation needs are driven by the extent of adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation therefore remains an issue which requires a global response and is as important as mitigation. While developing countries should be supported in their adaptation actions, investments in adaptation by developing countries themselves should be recognised as a contribution to the global effort to address climate change.

In relation to Loss and Damage, we wish to reiterate the importance of making progress on the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and

Damage. We believe that the enhanced implementation of the Convention will not be complete without a fully operational mechanism on loss and damage.

Mr. Chairman, the BASIC countries would like to reiterate the need to also advance the discussions on long-term finance and MRV of support. Finance is key to building trust in this process. We underscore the urgent need to provide scaled-up, adequate, sustainable, predictable, new and additional support, mainly from public sources, to developing countries to allow their full participation in the global effort to hold the increase of the global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, as well as to address their adaptation needs.

We expect Lima to launch a process to assess progress in achieving the commitment to mobilise jointly, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, the goal of providing US\$100 billion per year by 2020 from developed countries to developing countries.

We welcome the pledges made during the initial resource mobilisation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and underscore the importance of a timely realisation of these pledges and urge developed countries to scale up these pledges as further progress is made by the GCF Board.

Mr President, moving to the CMP of the Kyoto Protocol:

CMP10 signals that we are two years into the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and it is in our view worthwhile to reflect on the meaning of this for the multilateral climate process going forward. The KP is perhaps the most successful aspect of the multilateral climate process under the UNFCCC thus far: a legally-binding, rules-based system that embodies the principle of CBDR&RC. The second commitment period was finally achieved through the Doha Amendment to the Protocol, along with other important decisions aimed at ensuring the environmental integrity of the KP.

However, we wish to note our concerns in the following three areas:

Firstly, some Annex I countries have chosen to meet their 2020 targets outside the Kyoto framework. We would urge these countries to show their commitment to the principles of the Convention by signing up to the second commitment period. We

congratulate those Annex I Parties which remain committed to the KP, and are participating fully in the second commitment period.

Secondly, we are concerned that the very complex processes which have followed the agreements in Durban and Doha to finalise the rules for the second commitment period have not yet been concluded, and it seems that some Annex I Parties seek to renegotiate their emission reduction targets through this process, while others seek to reverse some of the agreements reached when the Doha Amendment was adopted. We would appeal to those countries in particular to respect the multilateral process.

Thirdly, we must register our disappointment that the High-Level Ministerial Roundtable in June this year did not deliver the expected increase in the ambition of KP commitments for the second commitment period. On the basis that commitments by Annex I Parties to 2020 fell significantly short of what is required by science, a fact that has been reconfirmed in the recently-released IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, Parties agreed to a process and a mechanism to allow Annex I parties participating in the second commitment period to increase their ambition in 2014. We note with concern that it seems that no developed country Party has expressed their intention to increase their commitment in the June roundtable discussion, and we urge them to honour this commitment they made in Doha. We also propose that this becomes a regular process, as the climate crisis becomes more acute. We support the proposal by the G77 and China to set up a contact group under the CMP to come up with a draft decision for adoption in Lima to ensure that a real increase in the ambition of Annex I Parties will happen well in advance of the next session of the CMP.

We also urge Parties to make additional efforts towards the ratification of the Doha Amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the BASIC countries underscore the importance of consensus based decisions under the UNFCCC and reaffirm our commitments to preserve the negotiation process that is open, transparent, inclusive and Party-driven, noting that all Parties should implement the existing decisions achieved in the previous COPs.

Finally, we look forward to fruitful engagements by all Parties and pledge our constructive participation in this session. We look forward to working with you and all Parties to ensure a successful conference.

Thank you.