

## **REMARKS BY MARCIN KOROLEC COP 19/CMP 9 PRESIDENT**

at the Initial meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts  
Tuesday, 25 March 2014 in Bonn, Germany

Thank you Madame Executive Secretary, Christiana. Let me first of all warmly welcome all of you, members of the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, and observers from Parties and organizations, to the initial meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Warsaw International Mechanism has a crucial role to play in our efforts to address in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

As someone intimately involved in the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, through initiating a large number of high-level consultations in the lead-up to the Warsaw Climate Change Conference as well as during the Conference, including the final plenary, I am strongly interested in the successful implementation of the Mechanism.

For that to happen, I urge you to develop, in accordance with your mandate, an effective and viable two-year workplan which should lead to effective COP outcomes in Lima at the end of this year, where the COP will finalize the governance structure of the Executive Committee, and to successful initial deliberations of the Executive Committee in 2015 after it is formally constituted.

And secondly, I am very pleased to note that the interim Executive Committee, collectively, possesses a wide range of technical expertise related to adaptation, finance and technology in general, as well as support modalities for assessment, reporting, planning and implementation.

I am convinced that you, the 10 experts of the interim Executive Committee, will be able to bring in your expertise, wisdom and experiences from the various constituted bodies under the Convention. And, I am confident that you, as members of the interim Executive Committee, will contribute to the development of the draft workplan in your technical expert capacity rather than bringing the political perspective into these deliberations.

The mechanism which we, the Parties, established in COP 19 bears the name 'Warsaw'. There is no doubt that everyone present here remember how difficult was this task to reach the consensus and that such consensus was available only thanks to the good will expressed by Parties and hard work of negotiators and experts. But making Warsaw International Mechanism influential will not happen in one night, from one COP to the next. So let us continue the work on this important issue with the same cooperative and constructive approach.

To this end, I hope that you all found the interactive event held this morning useful as a 'warm-up' discussion in anticipation for the formal work of the interim Executive Committee.

We have very limited time for this particular meeting and the sooner you can start discussing the substantive issues, the better. You have a huge task in front of you and we are very much aware that all of us will need to make a special effort to comply with our mandate.

With the amount of expertise and experiences in this Committee, drawn from all five constituted bodies, I am hopeful and confident that you will be successful in concluding your proposal to the COP in Lima in the next four days.

Let me conclude my opening remarks by reiterating that the COP Presidency is fully committed to supporting your work here in Bonn and to providing the open and transparent environment for this work I wish you a very successful meeting.

Welcome again and thank you very much.