

REMARKS BY MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE COP 17/CMP 7 PRESIDENT

to the COP 17/CMP 7 Bureau at its meeting on
Saturday, 25 February 2012 in Bonn, Germany

Durban launched a number of constituted bodies, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Standing Committee, as well as the Green Climate Fund. Consultations on long-term finance will also be of importance.

Durban has also brought clarity on timelines and a multi-year perspective:

- The two AWGs will complete their work this year;
- The new ADP has a four year horizon;
- Much work on implementation, stretching over a number of years has been passed to the subsidiary bodies and the constituted bodies.

I would like to share with you some of my reflections from the two weeks in Durban and also how the South African Presidency envisions the year ahead:

From the Presidency's point of view, the international community made history through the adoption of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. The Durban Package is a reflection of the balance that was struck in a way that ensured that all Parties emerged as winners and that forward movement was secured. It also reflects the fact that we need now to focus our attention on operationalizing existing decisions and implementing them. Without the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), an agreement on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol would not have been possible. Work to complete the outstanding and crucial matters relating to the adoption of the second commitment period in 2012 must be done this year. The work under the AWG-LCA must also be concluded.

To kick off the new year we have to look towards the future. As the COP17/CMP7 President, South Africa carries the responsibility, in close consultation with Qatar as the incoming President, to ensure that the gains made in Durban are not rolled back due to a lack of leadership.

We have also noted an urgent need to guide the implementation of the other elements of the Durban Package in a manner that would ensure that the implementation does not become stuck, which may subsequently lead to the disintegration of the achievements made in Durban.

In this regard, the next six months are critical and with the very limited time available to plan and negotiate the next steps, extra care will have to be taken by all of us. The Presidency intends to play a facilitation role to ensure that the progress made thus far is maintained.

Number one on the list is the need for a credible work plan for the ADP to be done in the first half of 2012. At the same time, a specific work plan on enhancing mitigation ambition must be launched to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap.

Officials for the new Ad Hoc Working Group, namely the chair, vice chair and rapporteur, need to be elected in order for the Working Group to commence with its work without delay. As there will be

only one meeting in the first half of the year, it means that Parties will only have a few days for this important task. In our view it will be necessary that some work should be done before the meeting of the SBs, in order for the sessions in May not to be consumed by the discussion of a work plan only.

The reality is that, unless an extra meeting can be scheduled during this year, the current scheduling will leave only the meeting at the end of the year for substantive work. It is our opinion that this would not constitute a satisfactory start for the year's work.

A clear understanding of the contents of the work plan, as well as the working procedures need to be facilitated to avoid the May sessions to grind the negotiations to a halt. To facilitate the work, the Presidency wishes to hear views on whether an informal meeting on negotiators' and ministerial level before the May sessions might be useful to advance the work and to give ministers the opportunity to provide leadership to negotiators early in the year.

As COP 17/CMP 7 President, we are very much aware of the fact that the decisions taken in Durban constitute a very delicate balance and that we still need to make progress on all the elements in the various decisions in order to have a fair and balanced approach to climate change. In this regard, the Presidency will take a keen interest in overseeing that progress is made on all fronts.

A number of bodies have been established by the COP, for which nominations for vacant positions are awaited from regional groups. Without the proper representation, these bodies cannot function properly.

In the case of the Green Climate Fund, early nominations for Board Members are necessary to ensure that the first meeting takes place by 30 April 2012 as was agreed. Through the Bureau, the Presidency intends to play a facilitation role to ensure that the nomination process is conducted in a speedy and transparent manner to ensure early operationalisation of the bodies. The COP/CMP President has been invited to appoint the two co-chairs for the work programme on long-term finance in 2012. The Presidency intends to do so through informal consultation with Parties.

In all of this we will work in close consultation with the incoming COP 18/CMP 8 President from Qatar and with the Republic of Korea who is hosting the Pre-COP later this year.
