Our discussions today will provide valuable input to the negotiations under the Durban Platform as our negotiators are working on the elements of a draft negotiating text and as we all are working at home to determine our national contributions to present them well before COP 21.

Both aspects are important: This is your last opportunity to provide political guidance to the negotiations before a text is on the table that will serve as a point of reference. It is also your chance to provide political guidance on the kind of the information to be provided with the nationally determined contributions. It is my ambition that by the time I welcome you in Lima in December this year, we will be close to an agreement on the information to be presented as part of the national contributions.

The meeting today is also very timely to give an initial political reaction to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as reflected in the recently released reports of the two working groups focusing on adaptation and mitigation.

In this context it is important to take stock of action under way now, in the pre-2020 period, to see whether pledges made are being turned into reality and whether additional pledges are forthcoming.

We also need to look at the longer term and discuss how science can help us define the long-term aggregate level of ambition.

Distinguished delegates, let me draw your attention to the questions which have been provided in the Information Note:
1. What political actions are being taken and what further actions will be needed to ensure full implementation of pledges made and the unlocking of untapped mitigation potential in the period up to 2020?

2. What political implications of the IPCC findings do ministers see for the recommended level of ambition on mitigation and adaptation and on finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing countries?

3. What political steps are Ministers initiating in order to arrive at ambitious nationally determined contributions? How can international cooperation help to enable and accelerate domestic efforts?

4. How does this impact the shape and content of the 2015 agreement? What should be its key features?

The concern about the significant gap between the aggregate effect of Parties’ mitigation pledges and aggregate emission pathways consistent with providing a likely chance of keeping global temperature increase below 2oC or 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels, drives the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform.

Parties have been encouraged to play their role in enhancing pre-2020 ambition by either taking on a quantified economy-wide emission reduction target or a nationally appropriate mitigation action. Those that have already done so are encouraged to consider strengthening their current actions.

The recently released Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change clearly illustrates the need for urgency and action. It will be interesting to hear from Ministers today about the efforts that are being undertaken to answer these calls.

In Warsaw, all Parties were invited to initiate domestic preparations for your intended nationally determined contributions, which should be communicated well in advance of Paris next year.

In the lead up to Lima, the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform will work on elements of a draft negotiating text.