

**Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention
(AWG-LCA)**

**Fourteenth session, part four – Second Plenary Meeting of the AWG-LCA
(8th Plenary meeting of the fourteenth session)**

Durban, Monday, 5 December 2011

Introductory remarks by the Chair, Mr. Daniel A. Reifsnyder

Distinguished delegates,

I welcome you all to this eighth plenary meeting of the AWG-LCA, which is the second LCA plenary at this fourth part of our fourteenth session.

The work in the 14 informal groups under our contact group throughout the first week here in Durban has been constructive. You have made considerable progress in the many areas we have on our agenda.

I hope you had the opportunity to reflect over the weekend on the work that we have done so far, what still needs to be done and how best to proceed to achieve a balanced, comprehensive and robust outcome for presentation to the COP.

On Saturday I issued and introduced the amalgamation document, contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37 and Addendum 1, intended to bring the different texts together and provide an overview of our work in the AWG-LCA as of Saturday morning.

In the meantime work continued very constructively throughout Saturday in the various groups.

This plenary today is meant to provide a brief opportunity to exchange views on the way forward as we continue efforts to complete our work and provide the AWG-LCA outcome to the COP.

Having reflected on the texts myself for a substantial part of Sunday, I believe that the issues before us may fall into three broad categories:

- (1) Those that can be completed within the informal groups between today and tomorrow;
- (2) Those that may be resolved here in Durban, perhaps through consultations at a higher level; and
- (3) Those which may not be susceptible to agreement in Durban but on which Parties believe we must continue to work hereafter.

While I would like to think that all of the issues before us fall into the first of my two categories, I suspect that some may fall into the third category – and I believe it important for us to begin to consider how to address them.

As I reflected on this matter on Sunday, two options occurred to me:

- Under the first, we could simply set aside issues where there is no agreement – this is what Parties did in Cancun, for example with respect to item 1(b)(4) under the Bali Action Plan;
- Under the second option, we could agree explicitly here in Durban to continue discussing particular matters next year;

There may also be a third option – we could agree here in Durban on an agenda for next year embracing work on all issues where Parties believe work should continue; in effect, this is what Parties did in Bangkok when they adopted this year's AWG-LCA agenda – an agenda that included for example item 1(b)(4).

I hesitate to suggest this third option, however – not only because we may not have time for it at this session but also because it could require deciding where such work should take place – in the AWG-LCA or in some other body, whether existing or new – an issue that some have said is not yet ripe for consideration and which, in any event, will not be taken up in the AWG-LCA but rather by the COP Presidency in the continuing Indaba.

I mention such a possible third option now only to call your attention to the need we will have next year to develop and agree on an agenda, and if past is prologue, this will neither be a trivial exercise nor a short one, and it could absorb considerable resources as well.

As I noted on Saturday, I believe there will be a need to produce by Wednesday morning this week an update of our Saturday amalgamation that will contain the texts emerging from our informal groups.

This Wednesday update may also need to suggest how Parties may wish to address any issues that remain outstanding.

With these few brief observations, I would like now to open the floor to Parties for you to exchange views on how to focus our work and on the best way to complete it to reach an agreed outcome in this body this week. As noted earlier, our most important task now is not to criticize the shortcomings of the intermediate amalgamation document but to fix them in our continued negotiations in the informal groups.

Summarizing remarks

I thank you very much for your interventions and ideas.

I am confident that we can finalize most of the work here within the next days.

Where issues cannot be completed, there will be a need to move beyond presenting multiple options and a need to outline clear political choices that may need to be made.

As you know, I have been working closely with the South African Presidency, which is ready to assist us as necessary in difficult areas.

At the same time, the Presidency has urged us to resolve as many of our issues as possible here among us so that the Presidency can continue its efforts to find balance across all the elements of the Durban outcome.

Colleagues, we are in the final stages now of our work. The COP will hold an informal plenary on Tuesday evening where I will be asked to report. Your work will determine what I will be able to say, and I hope to say we have resolved all or nearly all of the issues before us.

Thank you very much.