



High-level Ministerial Round Table on Increased Ambition of Kyoto Protocol Commitments

Thursday, 5 June 2014, Bonn, Germany

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS BY THE CO-CHAIRS¹

The high-level ministerial round table was mandated through decision 1/CMP.8 (the Doha Amendment), which requested each Party included in Annex I taking on commitments in the second commitment period to submit information on its intention to increase the ambition of its commitment, including progress made towards achieving its quantified emission limitation and reduction commitment, the most recently updated projections for greenhouse gas emissions until the end of the second commitment period, and the potential for increasing ambition.

The ministerial round table was convened on 5 June 2014 in Bonn, Germany, and co-chaired by the President of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec (Poland), and the CMP 10 President Designate, H.E. Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Peru), who welcomed ministers and senior officials. H.E. Ms. Schwarzeluehr-Sutter (Germany), Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Environment Ministry, offered welcoming remarks. Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, also addressed the round table. Forty Parties represented at ministerial or senior official level took the floor during the round table, including on behalf of three negotiating groups. Statements were also delivered on behalf of six observer constituencies.

At the end of the full-day round table, H.E. Mr. Korolec and H.E. Mr. Pulgar-Vidal presented the following concluding summary.

Summary conclusions

Parties to the Kyoto Protocol with commitments inscribed in Annex B that made statements confirmed that they remain firmly committed to their reduction targets under the second commitment period and have been implementing measures to achieve the necessary reductions.

They also indicated that they are broadly on track to reduce their emissions in line with their commitments. A significant number of Parties reported that current emissions are below or in some cases well below targeted reductions for the first commitment period, indicating an overachievement beyond commitments made.

Several Parties explained that the emission reductions already achieved constitute successful decoupling of emissions from economic growth. It has been possible to reduce emissions while economies continued to grow.

Some Parties reported that their projected emissions for 2020 are lower than required, which would imply an overachievement beyond the target.

We have also heard that an increase in ambition in the second commitment period would be possible in the context of comparable reductions taken by other Parties.

There was a clear call for Annex I Parties to continue or enhance their leadership in fighting climate change. Those who have not joined, or withdrew from, the Kyoto Protocol were called upon to present ambitious emission reduction pledges.

We have heard from some Parties that the emissions covered by commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, even if at a high level of ambition, constitute a small percentage of global discharge of greenhouse gases and these alone cannot effectively counteract climate change.

We have also learned that the fight against climate change can be substantially enhanced by engaging relevant non-governmental actors – including cities, business, youth and farmers.

Many Non-Annex I Parties expressed their disappointment that Parties with commitments in Annex B have not indicated their intention to raise their level of ambition in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

¹ Issued on behalf of the President of CMP 9 and the President-designate of CMP 10.

We have also heard their concerns on the future of the clean development mechanism (CDM) and the risk that support for mitigation action in developing countries will not continue.

All Parties that made statements highlighted their efforts to support the attainment of the Convention's ultimate objective and listed actions taken nationally towards achieving this aim. Some of them stressed the economic and social benefits of undertaking action against climate change.

Such experience and the lessons learned can help to increase global mitigation. Most notably, it has become clear that emissions responsible for climate change can be cut while economic growth continues.

The value of the legal framework of the Kyoto Protocol is that it provides necessary certainty and clear accountability. This framework also embraces market mechanisms which can help to increase the level of ambition by increasing the cost-effectiveness of reduction measures. Further work will be needed to build on this experience to see how mechanisms can be designed for a new global agreement to provide the right and fair incentives for high ambition.

All Parties agreed that the ratification of the Doha Amendment is needed most urgently to ensure the entry into force of the Amendment.²

² Ratification by at least 144 Parties is required for entry into force of the Doha Amendment.