



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change -- Conference of the Parties (COP 16)

OECD Statement in the High Level Session Plenary

**Remarks by Angel Gurría,
Secretary-General
OECD**

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Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Excellencies,

Our signal from Cancun could have the three tones of a major triad of action to make a good, strong sound and to be heard in the outside world:

First, we cannot afford to delay action on climate change; the costs and consequences are simply too high for all of us. Countries need to take ambitious unilateral action, while at the same time working to advance the negotiations.

Second, we can afford the necessary action. A cost-effective approach to reducing emissions could cost just a fraction of a percentage point of GDP per year.

The necessary public and private financing is possible. Our analysis of the Copenhagen Pledges suggests that, if industrialised countries were to achieve their emissions reductions through auctioned tradable permits or carbon taxes, they could raise 1% of GDP, or USD 400 billion, in revenues by 2020. Even a fraction of this could help with the long-term financing goal.

A large part of the financing will need to come from the private sector. Not necessarily new finance, but shifting private investments from “dirty” to “clean”. Companies are already more and more to adopt green strategies, because there is a “business case” to do so.

Third, as important as raising the financing is ensuring that it is tracked in a transparent and consistent manner, and that the money is used effectively. The OECD has been tracking public financing for climate change for about a decade. In 2008, bilateral flows for mitigation are estimated to be USD 8.7 Billion. This tracking system can be an important input to the UNFCCC work to “MRV” climate financing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude: Green and Growth can go together to be a win-win outcome for advanced, emerging and developing countries. We, as International Organisations, will continue providing the substantive evidence on the way forward, but this can not substitute the political will which is necessary for collective action and specific commitments. It is possible to tackle climate change and also have a competitive and growing economy, and the OECD is here to help you achieve this!