President's informal stocktaking plenary

Opening and closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, COP 18/CMP 8 President

7 December 2012, 13:00

I welcome you to this informal gathering. Our time is today to deliver on our outcomes. My dear friends, we have done much work overnight. This morning I had a meeting with the Ministers who are conducting outreach efforts. They all provided me with very positive feedback. I saw the contours of an emerging balanced package. It is clearly within reach.

I realize that this is due to your hard work overnight to absorb and reflect on the outputs from the various streams of work. I commend you all for your hard work and commitment to moving forward and delivering a balanced package today. I am committed to continue to work with all of you in an open, transparent and fully inclusive manner to reach the final outcomes. I will therefore continue to use these stocktaking plenaries that are open to all Parties as our collective mode of work to take note of progress and agree on how to further move forward.

I appreciate that every Party may not be fully satisfied with the individual outcomes that you are considering, but I would ask that you not see any of these in isolation but rather consider them as part of an overall balanced package that allows Doha to be an effective gateway to increased climate action. I will first hear the reports by consulting Ministers and Chairs and then open the floor to statements from groups.

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As I said earlier, the contours of the package are becoming clear. Congratulations again to Ministers Dreyfus and Gaye and Ambassador Socorro Flores for finding early agreement. And thank you to Minister Oberle for accepting to assist with ministerial outreach for COP agenda item 11 (d) as well. I am encouraged by the work completed by the ministers. I have listened to you all carefully and have heard all of your reports.

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None of the documents are perfect. None of you will be completely satisfied. I ask you if we can use this time to finalize text and move forward with all important components – that is a step forward and allows us to continue building. In order to reach agreement on outstanding issues, it is important that we do not look at issues in isolation. Let's look at it as a package that satisfies everyone. The Ministerial outreach process is working well. The informal plenaries are effective for transparency.

In terms of next steps and guidance I would like to proceed in the following way. First, I invite Aysar to close the AWG-LCA as soon as possible and forward the results of its work as it now stands to the COP. I will then decide on how to take the pending work forward with Ministers and announce it to all Parties.

On the AWG-KP, Finance and loss and damage, I ask the consulting ministers to intensify their work and report their results to me as soon as possible so that I can have a ministerial stocktaking plenary today at 6 pm to see again the whole package. On the ADP, I agree with the Co-Chairs that Ministers need to be engaged. I call on all Ministers present to bring their political weight into the consultations by the Co-Chairs of the ADP. I will also support the Co-chairs myself in their efforts to conclude the ADP and their work on ambition, among others.

Ministers, you came to Doha to provide guidance, but above all to provide leadership. I call upon you all to redouble your efforts. A balanced outcome is within reach. I am committed to openness and transparency. This informal presentation of the work of all streams is proof of that. I have been clear from the start that the solutions to the issues are best found in the Bodies and streams in full consultation with Parties. In this setting you see the full picture. This has been my strategy and I want to see it through to conclusion.

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We have no time left. We must now resolve the few outstanding issues remaining, and close our business this evening. I thank you all very much for your support and I urge all Parties make the final push in delivering for success in Doha. This brings us to the end of our meeting.