

President's informal stocktaking plenary

Statement by H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, COP 17/CMP7 President

3 December 2011

Dear Colleagues,

We have reached the half-way mark of the Conferences, we must evaluate where we stand and look to the days ahead. Today's stocktaking will leave us with a clearer picture of what has been achieved so far, and of the work that must be done to complete our credible and balanced package of decisions. We are at the stage of the negotiations where both national positions and the areas of possible understanding are well known to all of us. Our focus must be on building agreements.

First let me say that I would like to thank you for the flexibility you have shown to allow work to begin in earnest from Day one of the Conference. As a result of this flexibility and your commitment to constructive dialogue, work has been launched in the COP and the CMP. On all other items, the facilitators are working hard to advance on the issues.

You would recall that during the first meeting of the COP we agreed to allow the work to progress on the basis of the provisional agenda while I conduct on the adoption of the agenda. Later today we will start with informal consultations on the adoption of the agenda and Ambassador Mxakato-Diseko from my team is undertaking these consultations on my behalf. I am convinced that through these consultations and your flexibility and leadership we would be able to formally adopt the agenda as soon as possible.

I have also committed during Plenary to personally oversee open-ended, inclusive and transparent informal consultations on the COP Agenda Item No 8; Green Climate Fund - Report of the Transitional Committee. In this regard, two informal consultations on the GCF already took place from which a number of concerns have been noted. The informal consultations will continue in a different setting in a representative group to further engage on a technical level.

Several concerns regarding the TC Report were raised however a number of Parties are of the view that they are willing to accept the Report.

The Presidency is also conducting informal consultations on the bigger picture. The focus of the consultations is on cross-cutting issues that have not been fully addressed within the formal negotiating process. We have already held three Indabas in this regard. During these Indabas delegates were invited to respond to questions focusing on actions needed to be taken now and those to be taken in future. A single page of bullets attempting to crystalize areas of convergence was circulated before the third meeting.

In addition, I undertook to engage Parties in informal consultations with reference to the following:

- (i) Agenda Item No 2 (b); Adoption of the rules of procedure, is being facilitated by the Presidency.
- (ii) Agenda Item No 6; Consideration of proposals by Parties for amendments to the Convention under its Articles 15 and 16. In this regard, the following facilitators have agreed to undertake informal consultations to take the process forward:
 - Mr. Stephen de Boer from the Canadian delegation to facilitate on the proposal from Cyprus and the European Union;
 - Ms. Paula Caballero from the Colombian delegation on the proposal from Mexico and Papua New Guinea; and,
 - Ambassador Diaz from the Costa Rican delegation on the proposal from the Russian Federation.

I can report that all of these consultations are progressing well.

On the CMP, work is progressing on all fronts. Co-facilitators have launched their work and are actively engaged in each of the agenda items.

The SBSTA and the SBI will conclude their sessions this afternoon. For this reason, Mr. Richard Muyungi, the SBSTA Chair and Mr. Robert Owen Jones, the SBI Chair are unable to join us as they are in the process of getting ready for their closing plenaries.

The Chairs of the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA are here with us this morning and I would like to take this opportunity to invite them to give us a status report on the work in their respective bodies.

I thank all of you for your support and your positive approach during these plenary sessions. Next week we must sharpen our focus to ensure a credible and balanced outcome for the Durban Conference. I have expressed our full support to the efforts of the Chairs of the four subsidiary bodies and will continue to work with the negotiating groups and the Chairs of the four bodies as we move forward next week. I urge delegates to be creative and flexible in the remaining days. We do not have much time left.

Colleagues this brings us to the end of our informal stocktaking meeting. Before we end this morning's meeting, I would like to reiterate my commitment to continue working in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. I plan to conduct another informal stocktaking plenary early next week.

I thank you all and look forward to our working together in the coming week.