

President's informal stocktaking plenary

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

8 December 2011

Dear Excellencies, Colleagues,

Good morning, I called for this early stock taking meeting given that we have only one more working day to complete all our work. Actually, as of this moment we have less than 40 hours until the closing of the Durban Conference at midnight tomorrow.

Parties have been working really hard to make sure that we leave Durban with an outcome. I commend each one of you for that. My thanks go out to all of you for making that extra collective effort. With your hard work and dedication I believe that we are very close to saving tomorrow today. Just a few hours more of your wisdom, your perseverance, your efforts and your drive are required.

As work is progressing, it is good to listen to the advances that are being made and the results that are being delivered.

Informal consultations on the adoption of the agenda are progressing and I am confident that through your spirit of accommodation, we will be able to formally adopt the agenda as soon as possible. Consultations on the agenda items under the CMP are also moving ahead. Several items have already been resolved. I thank all of you for delivery of success and results.

I am certain that, with continued determination and dedication, we can reach agreement on the outstanding issues on the COP and that within the coming hours. I would encourage delegates to work as intensively as possible, and focus on issues that can be resolved here in Durban.

Dear Colleagues, the Chairs of the four subsidiary bodies are here with us this morning and I would like to take this opportunity to invite them to give us an update on their work. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, on my behalf, have held consultations on the items referred by the SBSTA and the SBI to the COP and the CMP.

I have repeatedly called upon negotiators to make sure that they do their best to find solutions for technical problems so that the Ministers presence can be utilised to deal with the real and very hard political choices that need to be taken to ensure an outcome in Durban.

I have been personally involved in overseeing the open-ended, inclusive and transparent informal consultations on the COP agenda item number 8: Green Climate Fund - Report of the Transitional Committee. The Ambassador at Large has informed me that the group has worked very diligently and that more work can be done. They will therefore continue with their informal discussions.

I can report that consultations on some items under the COP have delivered results while others are still moving ahead. To ensure this is done in an effective, open and transparent manner, I convened open ended Ministerial level Indabas yesterday.

As I had mentioned at the last informal stocktaking meeting on Tuesday, I intend to call upon other fellow Ministers to play a facilitating role in finding resolutions on those areas where Ministers decide that such facilitation would be helpful.

The Ministerial Indaba on Wednesday morning started with deliberations on the basis of the reports received from the chairs of the AWGs. Based on the promising progress made in the AWG KP, Ministers agreed that the group should continue with the work it has been busy with in order to narrow the options that have been identified even more. Ambassador Macey will report back to the Ministers on progress later today.

As far as the AWG LCA is concerned, Mr Dan Reifsnyder presented his report to the Ministerial Indaba by walking the Ministers through the new amalgamated paper that he had tabled on Wednesday. He also presented a number of issues to the Ministers on which political guidance is needed. These issues include shared vision, mitigation for developed and developing countries, sectoral approaches, adaptation committee and review.

A number of Ministers were requested by the Presidency to assist in facilitating the discussion on these issues and to report back to the Indaba by end of business today. I wish to thank:

- **Minister Onkokame Mokaila** from **Botswana** who agreed to facilitate **shared vision**;
- **Minister Tim Groser** from **New Zealand** who will facilitate **Mitigation for developed and developing countries**;
- **Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa** from **Ecuador** on the **Adaptation Committee**;
- **Minister Chris Huhne** from the **United Kingdom** on **reviews**; and
- **Ms Claudia Salerno Caldera** from **Venezuela** on **response measures**.

This list will grow as we progress towards an agreement. I wish to thank them for their support.

These Ministers will use today to consult on these matters and to provide compromise solutions. It is our intention to start the discussion on the construct of the core elements of the Durban outcome and the next steps tonight. We will also then receive feedback from the ministerial facilitators. In order to assist our discussions of this matter, I propose that the technical indaba on the big picture should reconvene to continue its deliberations in order to present a concrete proposal to Ministers for consideration.

I appreciate your willingness to work with us so that we all have a clear and precise view of the steps that we'll be taking together in the final days of this conference.

There is very little time left. I urge you all, your Excellencies, colleagues and distinguished delegates, to be bold in your thinking and creativity to address the imperative of delivering on the global threat of climate change.

Your creativity in finding compromise, finding common ground, and finding solutions must be intensified. We must use the next 24 hours to find agreement. The commitment and dedication you have all shown in the past 10 days and throughout this year exemplifies the spirit that we need to push through and reach an agreement here in Durban.

I will continue to closely monitor the state of our discussions and propose further steps that might be required in order to reach our collective goals.

Colleagues, this brings us to the end of our informal stocktaking meeting. Before we adjourn this morning's meeting, I would like to inform you that I plan to conduct another informal stocktaking plenary depending on status of the negotiation. Please refer to the CCTV monitors for information regularly.

I thank you all very much for your support, your confidence in the South African Presidency, and your commitment to addressing this global challenge.

I urge you to complete the tasks at hand, as we cannot go home empty handed.