

*Remarks made by the President of COP 21,
Minister Laurent Fabius,
at the second meeting of the Comité de Paris
on Tuesday, 8 December,
on the way forward*

The reports of our facilitators highlight some emerging convergences as well as issues that remain to be resolved. They provide useful elements to move to a new phase in the drafting of our agreement.

We now need to move jointly to the preparation of what could be the final text.

To this end, I am planning to issue a cleaner version of the text tomorrow at 1 p.m. This version will use as a basis the ADP document that I received on Saturday and integrate the results of the work of the teams of facilitating Ministers as well as take into account feedback provided by the ADP co-facilitators, as suggested yesterday by our colleague from South-Africa. It will draw on all the elements that will have been conveyed by the facilitators to the Presidency by midnight tonight.

This new version will allow us to take a broad view of the balance we need to find across all elements. I do hope that a significant number of brackets will be removed. A number of political issues will require broader discussions to ensure a coherent result.

I will ensure that this cleaner version of the text, to be provided to you at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow, is indeed based on the ADP text and respects the balance sought by all Parties. It is on this basis that we will collectively negotiate the final version of the text of the agreement and the decision. It will be an important step in the process I hope but of course not yet the final result of the negotiations.

Let me now outline the next steps. I will briefly convene the Comité de Paris tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. to present the new version of the text. It will be circulated to all on this occasion. You will then have time to study it and organize the necessary consultations. Then, I will propose to reconvene the Comité de Paris in the afternoon,

at 5:00 p.m. to gather your initial reactions. After this first exchange, we will immediately organize the necessary consultations, to be held in the evening and until the next day, on pending issues. The objective is to present a final text within the set deadlines for a formal adoption by the COP on Friday 11 December, at 6:00 p.m.

I also wish to inform you that the notification on the open-ended group of legal and linguistic experts has been issued, and I have the pleasure to inform you that the secretariat is in the process of receiving nominations from the regional groups for the eleven representatives who will be ready to get to work once the Comité de Paris will pass the texts on to them for their examination. I would like to recall that I have designated Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia) and Mr Peter Horne (Australia) to jointly chair the work of this group.

I wish to underline that the mandate of the group is technical and under the authority of the Comité de Paris. It is not to renegotiate substantive aspects of the text.