President's Informal Stocktaking Plenary

Opening and closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec, COP 19/CMP 9 President

18 November 2013,12:15

I welcome you all to this informal gathering. Thank you all for being here today.

The purpose of this informal stock-taking plenary is to ensure full openness and transparency on how our work during the Conference is progressing.

As the second week starts, it is crucial that we all have an overview of how work in the subsidiary bodies concluded and how work under the COP, CMP and the ADP is advancing. I will convene informal stock-taking plenaries on a regular basis this week.

I have called this meeting for 30 minutes in order to allow work to resume in the negotiating groups. Yesterday the Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI briefed me on what their bodies delivered. I mandated them to continue work on technical issues that were close to completion.

Information on status of work in the subsidiary bodies was provided this morning to the Groups and posted on the UNFCCC web-site under negotiations updates. This page will be used for regular updates throughout the week.

The SBSTA and SBI Chairs also informed me of those issues that they believe cannot be resolved at the technical level.

Let me say at the outset a word about work in the COP and the CMP where work is progressing smoothly. There are very important items under discussion directly under the COP and the CMP.

I would like to mention in particular the item on Finance as requiring special attention. The Finance negotiators have been working hard and have made significant progress in the first week. I encourage them to continue the efforts and to focus on the issues that can and need to be concluded here, in Warsaw.

Later today I will be meeting with the facilitators of items launched under the COP and the CMP for them to share the updates on status of work. Based on my discussions with them, I would provide more details on the COP and CMP as the week progresses.

Regarding the SBSTA and the SBI, I would like to request the Chairs under my authority to complete the work on the outstanding technical issues and report back to me by close of business tomorrow.

Ministerial-level representatives from all over the world have arrived this weekend in Warsaw. We should capitalize on their presence here, as Ministers will provide the necessary political resolution to enable several key issues to advance.

As the Chair of SBI reported, there is one issue that cannot be resolved at the technical level, and that is Loss and Damage. While the SBI Chair and the current co-facilitators from the SBI are undertaking some additional technical work on Loss and Damage, I have asked the following two ministers to lend me their support in dealing with this issue.

- Her Excellency Minister Edna Molewa from South Africa, and
- Her Excellency Minister Lena Margareta Ek from Sweden.

Let me thank Ministers Molewa and Ek for accepting to assist me in this important Ministerial outreach. I will work with them and the SBI Chair and the current cofacilitators to ensure a smooth and clear transition that fully respects the principles of inclusiveness and transparency.

I urge you all to give your full support to the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI and Ministers in finding solutions.

I remind you that I plan to conduct another informal stock-taking plenary in the next few days.

I thank you all very much for your support, and your commitment to addressing this global challenge. I look forward to engaging with you all in the days ahead.
