

SBSTA OPENING STATEMENT

Chair,

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group: Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and Australia.

Here at the 39th meeting of the SBSTA, we have heard you call to conduct our deliberations as efficiently as possible and optimizing the time for formal and informal negotiations. We look forward to working with you and other parties to conclude agenda items at this session in the time we have available.

MITIGATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Work on mitigation and transparency is an Umbrella Group priority. It is critical to build collective confidence and ambition.

Constructive discussions took place in Bonn to further clarify developed countries' quantified economy-wide reduction targets. We look forward to progress in Warsaw on the equally important work of understanding nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

The Umbrella Group thanks the Secretariat for running workshops on Annex I MRV systems. It encourages Parties to finalise guidelines on review of national communications and biennial reports - these are necessary to ensure the timely review of Biennial Reports to be submitted by January next year.

We also seek agreement on inventory guidelines in order to enable Parties to meet reporting obligations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. SBSTA has an important role to play in ensuring a smooth transition from the first to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol by ensuring that this transition is accompanied by appropriately updated rules and modalities. It is important to finish this here in Warsaw.

REVIEW

The Umbrella Group welcomes the Working Group One's contribution to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, and looks forward to continuing a science based conversation on the 2013-2015 Review here in Warsaw.

REDD+ SUPPORT

We must bed down REDD+ architecture here in Warsaw. We are close, we must finish the job. It's important that we finalize the technical assessment process for reference levels, and MRV in order to pave the way for enhanced implementation of REDD+ activities. This new architecture will need to accommodate each Party's right to determine how they approach implementation and financing for REDD+ activities. We must also look for ways to advance efforts to reduce the drivers of deforestation in developing countries, and acknowledge that Governments, corporations, and civil society each have a role to play in addressing deforestation, improving sustainability and livelihoods, and protecting biodiversity.

MARKETS

While we have identified several areas of common understanding in our work so far this year on various approaches, including markets, to enhance cost-effective mitigation, there is still a way to go. We welcome the opportunity this week to elaborate processes and arrangements to operationalise those elements we have agreement on, and to allow further clarifying discussions where needed.

Information sharing and transparency promote this understanding and so this should be our focus, bearing in mind that our goal is to promote and enhance the cost-effectiveness of mitigation action. If well-

designed, the Framework and the new market-based mechanism will provide important tools for our mitigation toolbox, delivering benefits to all.
LULUCF

We welcome continued discussion on important technical issues around land-use, land-use change, and forestry, as we also look to the important issue of the role the land sector will play under a future global agreement.

Agriculture

And the Umbrella Group welcomes the excellent progress made on agriculture at Bonn. We recognise the spirit of compromise that facilitated the decision, and look forward to commencing substantive discussions under this important agenda item and to reaching a concrete outcome on agriculture here in Warsaw.

Chair,

We look forward to working effectively and efficiently at this session to achieve results and offer our thanks to Poland for hosting us in Warsaw.

Thank you.

Mick George

REDD+ negotiator

Australian Delegation

+61 427781177

Mick.george@climatechange.gov.au