It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the first Bureau meeting in 2014.

Let me say at the outset that it was with the unfailing support of Parties and Bureau members and through the leadership of the Chairs of the SBSTA, SBI and the Co-chairs of the ADP that the Polish Presidency was able to deliver the major outcomes of the COP and CMP in Warsaw.

Let me convey my appreciation for the generous efforts and the firm commitment you all have shown during the Conference and which have resulted in the Warsaw outcomes. Let me reaffirm my assessment that Warsaw has set a pathway for governments to work on a draft text of a new universal climate agreement so it is on the table at the next UN Climate change conference in Peru. This is an essential step to reach a final agreement in Paris, in 2015.

We all are aware that Parties need to do their homework now so that their plans are developed before the Paris Conference.

Parties have also resolved to intensify technical work and engage at ministerial level to close the pre-2020 ambition gap.

A major instrument that we are proud of, call the ” Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage” will require our attention this year.

While Warsaw saw concrete announcements of financial contributions by developed country Parties, the efforts needed for an effective operationalization of the GCF require commitment and attention. I was recently at the Board of the GCF meeting and would like to say that all Board Members need to roll up their sleeves together with all parties to make a significant progress this year with the mobilisation of resources for the Fund. I am also proud that our negotiations led to the ‘Warsaw Framework for REDD+” which is the first ever comprehensive package of decisions aimed at stopping deforestation and incentivizing sustainable use of forests, including by people who live in and around them. I do hope that further progress is possible also this year.

Warsaw COP/CMP strengthened the implementation of climate action as a whole. As we start our business this year, our focus is making substantial progress towards the achievement of the 2015 Paris agreement. Related implementation actions must now take our full attention. We must work collectively in 2014 so that the Conference in Lima is successful.

Minister Pulgar-Vidal you have our full support, cooperation and assistance in the year ahead. We are proud to be partners together with you and French Presidency of COP21/CMP11, as declared in our Joint statement from Warsaw.

As President, I will continue to take a keen and hands-on interest in ensuring that progress continues on all fronts, with the support of all of you. Let’s continue working as we have always been – as one team.