

This week, governments have made progress towards deciding the shape of a successful result in Cancún. I guess everyone understands that it's hard to cook a meal without a pot. Governments are much closer now to actually making the pot.

Many governments said here this week that they believe a set of COP decisions which quickly operationalize key elements of the Bali Action Plan would be an achievable outcome in Cancún.

This means countries could agree to take accountable action to manage and deploy finance, boost technology transfer, build skills and capacity and deal with adaptation, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

This would also include a mandate to take the process inexorably forward towards an encompassing agreement with legally binding status ... which would take more time.

In the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, the Chair, Mr John Ashe, produced a draft proposal text today which governments will be able to consider between now and our next session in Tianjin, in October.

That text includes a possible set of draft decisions for Cancún. - including the impacts of agriculture on emissions, carbon markets and mechanisms, greenhouse gases, and the effects on different countries of moving to a low-emissions future.

A key goal in the Kyoto Protocol text is to avoid a gap in industrialized country commitments to cut emissions once the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol expires at the end of 2012.

All of the above should give a much clearer direction to government work in the months ahead of Cancún.

However, governments also have to decide what exactly to cook in the pot. To achieve the desired outcomes at

Cancún., they must radically narrow down the choices now on the table.

Countries have generally this week reinserted established positions into the texts on long-term cooperative action.

This week has given governments a final opportunity to be clear on their individual stances. Tianjin has to be the place where they make clear what their collective stance is going to be.

They need to use the time between now and Tianjin to sort out between themselves how to do that.

That needs to be at all levels - both technical and political - and I urge governments to agree further compromises, including at high-level meetings which are scheduled in Geneva and New York in September.

Whatever governments decide to call the Cancún result, it has to deliver clear and unmistakable progress.

Political promises are on the table for the world to see - to cut and limit the growth in their emissions, and to provide finance for developing country action.

Governments say these promises will be honoured. Their best chance to do that is in Cancún.