



**Third Major Economies Meeting
Paris, 17-18 April 2008**

**Address by Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
on behalf of Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am pleased to address you at the third Major Economies Meeting.

We are now well into the two-year negotiating process agreed under the Bali Road Map.

As you know, the first stop-over on this road were the Bangkok Climate Change Talks 2008, which yielded some important results for the next two years.

Bangkok provided clarity for the AWG-LCA and some very encouraging results under the Kyoto Protocol

The Ad Hoc Working Group under the Kyoto Protocol began working on the rulebook for reaching emission reductions.

Here, Parties agreed to the continuation of the market-based mechanisms under the Protocol. Parties also agreed to work on a broad range of issues to improve the mechanisms.

Furthermore, Parties concluded that land-use, land-use change and forestry activities that reduce emissions or increase carbon uptake will be part of the second commitment period. So, the AWG-KP made very good progress in Bangkok.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC agreed on the work programme for the journey ahead.

Given the strong inter-linkages, it was agreed that all elements of the Bali Action Plan, namely a shared vision, enhanced action on mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and finance, would be discussed in an integrated manner at each session.

During 2008, Parties will devote a special effort to some key linkages among these elements by means of in-session workshops.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan in December will be important for stocktaking progress made. We are all aware of the limited amount of time at our disposal.

Poznan will give an important indication of the amount of work mastered and the amount of work that is still outstanding.

In the meantime, sand is steadily slipping through the hour-glass...

Bangkok yielded a good outcome in the sense that Parties agreed that they will discuss all major elements at each meeting and in the sense that there was agreement on titles for workshops. But how do we move the negotiation process forward in a way that concrete results are produced?

Some Parties have indicated the importance of having draft texts for negotiation on the table at Poznan. While this may be a challenge that cannot be met, it is nonetheless important that Parties get an early indication of the texts that will be negotiated for adoption in Copenhagen.

In order to make that possible, it is essential that the process quickly reaches a phase in which it considers concrete proposals for future action on climate change.

All over the world, there are countless think-tanks, academic, research and other institutions that have developed proposals, which probably cover close to all aspects of a future climate change deal. I hope the Parties will find these insights useful to the process.

Gifford Pinchot¹ once said: “The vast possibilities of our future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future.”

Assessing the possibilities and turning them into reality in the future necessitates detail. In order to reach the 2009 deadline, the process needs to quickly become precise on the possible shape that a future climate change agreement could take on and produce detail that can be negotiated. This takes some time and has to happen soon, given the limited amount of time available.

This meeting can make important contributions to this. Your discussions over the next two days address some of the key aspects that need to be tackled:

- *A shared vision and long-term global goal.* Under the UNFCCC, Parties agreed to discuss the “shared vision for long-term cooperative action” in Poznan.
- *Sectoral approaches.* Under the UNFCCC, Parties agreed to discuss cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in order to enhance the implementation of Article 4 (c) of the Convention at the third session.
- *Technological cooperation.* Parties agreed to discuss at the next session, effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and the provision of financial and other incentives for scaling up of the development and transfer of technology to developing countries in order to

¹ Governor of Pennsylvania 1923-27, 1931-35

promote access to affordable environmentally sound technologies. Ways to accelerate the deployment, diffusion and transfer of affordable environmentally sound technologies. At Poznan, Parties will also discuss cooperation on research and development of current, new and innovative technology, including win-win solutions.

- *Finance and measurement.* Under the UNFCCC, investment and financial flows to address climate change will be discussed at the next session.
- *Adaptation, forestry.* Advancing adaptation through finance and technology will be discussed at the next session. The meeting in August/September will discuss policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries will also be discussed at that meeting.

There is thus ample opportunity for your discussions to be useful to the work ahead under the UNFCCC.

Productivity is the result of commitment. In this sense, I wish you a productive meeting. Thank you.

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