

**Statement to the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly  
27 October 2008**

**Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

It is a pleasure for me to address the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its 63rd Session.

The progress report you have before you provides an overview of the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2007 held in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007. It includes the outcome of thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 13) and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 3).

The Conference in Bali was characterized by a clear desire of Parties to make progress and a good sense of common ownership of the outcome. The conference also attracted about 15000 participants, a testimony to an ever-increasing public interest in climate change.

***The outcome of COP 13 and CMP 3 was a political breakthrough***

The conference in Bali achieved a breakthrough by agreeing to the Bali Road Map as a decisive response from the world's governments to new scientific evidence.

The Bali Road Map consists of a number of forward-looking decisions that represent various tracks essential to reach a climate-secure future. This includes ongoing work related to adaptation, technology transfer and financing of climate change action. It also include negotiations on future action to be completed by the end of 2009 for adoption at the Climate change conference in Copenhagen.

***The negotiations have made progress during 2008***

The two negotiating bodies have held three negotiation sessions so far and will be holding another session in December at the climate change conference in Poznan, Poland. So far, Parties have made progress by gathering ideas and proposals, as well as clarifying their positions on many issues.

Proposals include ways to boost adaptation, to generate additional financial resources, to advance technology transfer, as well as the types of institutions needed to deliver on both adaptation and mitigation.

At the last negotiating session, held in Accra, Ghana, in August, Parties requested the Chair of the AWG-LCA to compile proposals and ideas into as single document to be presented in Poznan. This could serve as the basis for a first version of a negotiating text .

This is encouraging, yet is critical that Parties move into the next stage of negotiations at and after Poznan. There is an enormous amount of work that needs to be covered if Copenhagen 2009 is to work well and be truly ambitious.

***To my mind, there are at least three political essentials that have to be met for an ambitious deal to be agreed in Copenhagen.***

The three political essentials needed to unleash concerted climate change action are:

1. Clarity on the nature of commitments
2. Clarity on how to mobilize the necessary financial resources for adaptation and mitigation and
3. Clarity on the institutional arrangements needed to deliver on both adaptation and mitigation.

The nature of the commitments and how to reach them are particularly important political elements for a number of reasons:

- Industrialized countries need to continue to take the lead. Without ambitious targets by all industrialised countries, developing countries will not see why they should advance mitigation;
- and without meaningful engagement of developing countries, not all industrialised countries are willing to show ambition.

As per the Bali Action Plan, developing countries need measurable, reportable and verifiable support to engage meaningfully.

This leads to the second political essential, which relates to agreeing on how the financial resources to unlock this situation will be mobilised.

There is a clear need for a clever financial architecture that will generate significant financial and technological support for both adaptation and mitigation. Such a financial architecture needs to make developed countries' commitments and developing countries' actions run together like well-oiled cogwheels by spurring measurable, reportable and verifiable support for measurable, reportable and verifiable developing country actions.

The third political essential, the institutional framework to deliver financial, technological and capacity building support for mitigation and adaptation, is equally important.

Agreement is needed on the type of institutional setting needed to make sure that all the cogwheels turn together and deliver what they need to deliver.

***The UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan will take place in 6 weeks time***

Given the limited time available between now and the Conference in Copenhagen next year, it is critical that the Climate Change Conference in Poznan delivers concrete results. It would be unwise to defer all decisions to Copenhagen.

Poznan is the half-way mark between Bali and Copenhagen and represents the first opportunity for Ministers to meet since Bali. At Poznan, Ministers will focus on arriving at a shared vision for long-term cooperative action.

To advance negotiations towards Copenhagen, it is essential that Ministers give a strong political signal to move towards a clear outline of a shared long-term vision of how actions could generate solutions that work together in the long-term. Crucially, this needs to include both the financial architecture and the types of mechanisms needed to generate additional financial resources.

Such a signal from Ministers will translate into significant progress and positive political guidance for the process. Additionally, it will decisively advance negotiations. The legal form of this should be determined in 2009.

Next to the shared vision for long-term cooperative action, Poznan will also seek progress on on-going work. This includes work on adaptation, technology, capacity-building, and improving the geographical coverage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

### *In closing*

Climate change is a sustainable development issue, as it is closely linked to economic development, finance, energy and agriculture. It is essential that it is addressed in that context.

The current financial crisis is not a justification for delaying action on climate change. Clean industry and investment have proven that they offer secure and long-term profits and returns. Clean economic growth has the potential to create millions of new jobs. As a result, the financial turmoil may actually be seen as an opportunity to deal in a fundamental manner with some of the closely related issues and address both the financial and climate change crisis together.

In closing, I would like to encourage you in taking this work forward in the General Assembly to continue to support the efforts to implement the Bali Road Map and help make the necessary links to the other important issues on your agenda in order to ensure an integrated and effective global response.

- - - - -