



**6<sup>th</sup> Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change  
Tokyo, 14-15 February 2008**

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

The timing of this meeting is excellent. We all need to get organised quickly to make the best use of the time available in 2008. Preparations are underway for the first negotiating session this year for the Kyoto AWG and the first session of the new AWG on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) to take place in Bangkok 31 March to 4 April.

The Bali Roadmap decisions did not only launch a comprehensive negotiating process under the Convention. It is much more than that. It involves:

- a decision on deforestation and forest management
- a decision on technology
- the Adaptation Fund and
- the review of the financial mechanism, which is much broader than just looking at the Global Environmental Facility.

These need to be taken forward with the Bali Action Plan, or 1/CP.13, because they are interrelated.

Now we stand at the beginning of 2008, the dawn of a very busy two years and a huge challenge. Looking at the planning for this period of time, one might even argue that there are less than two years left to craft a stronger climate change regime because according to the rules of the Convention, it needs to be submitted 6 months before COP 15 in Copenhagen.

This is a small window of opportunity to craft solutions to a huge global problem. Focusing on the science, these solutions need to:

- stop the increase of global emissions within the next 10 - 15 years;
- dramatically cut back emissions by mid-century at the latest;
- and do so in a way that is economically viable world-wide.

A Japanese proverb says that “vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.” So we have a challenge ahead to turn the Bali outcome into real action.

The Bangkok meeting of the AWG-LCA needs to map out how this daunting task will be taken on.

- It needs to speedily establish a clear work programme and then quickly get down to business given the little time available.

- My personal sense is a way to start could be by making progress on technology and finance. The meeting needs to identify issues where work must to be done and in what order this should happen.
- It needs to open the door for input from the private sector and other actors e.g. the secretariat of the UN.

The first phase of the future negotiations needs to ensure that the delicate balance between the need for inclusive action and the imperative of eradicating poverty and boosting economic growth in developing countries is maintained throughout the process.

It is clear that industrialised countries need to continue to take the lead in reducing emissions and they need to find out which additional actions they can take in this regard. But climate change abatement can only be successful if developing countries act as well.

In Bali, both industrialised and developing countries resolved to do more. It is therefore crucial that:

1. developing countries begin identifying what mitigation action they are willing to take, what they need to increase the effectiveness of their efforts at mitigating and to further develop solid adaptation strategies;
2. mechanisms are developed to support and enable action by developing countries with technology and finance, while helping them embark on green economic growth;
3. ways forward are identified that lead to economically sound green investment opportunities that go far beyond a pure development assistance approach and subsidisation.

A global, low-carbon economic development plan, that makes climate-friendly economic growth globally viable, including in developing countries, is needed.

For that, we need to build on the carbon market. Finance and technology are the link between developing country engagement and industrialised country action.

Under a high-demand scenario, the clean development mechanism (CDM) could stimulate investments of 100 billion USD annually in developing countries.

However, the CDM cannot be the only tool. Carbon market investments tend to follow foreign direct investments, meaning that they predominantly occur in large developing countries.

So where does this leave countries that attract only limited foreign direct investment? Where does this leave countries like Angola with a 24% economic growth rate, or Uruguay with a 7% growth rate - all with increasing demands for energy to sustain such growth?

A successful climate change regime needs to ensure that all countries are tied into global green economic growth and that no country is side-lined from it.

A future climate change regime needs to have a financial architecture that allows all developing countries to fully partake in green growth, while enabling actions by these countries that are measurable, reportable and verifiable and without jeopardising overriding aims of poverty eradication.

To my mind, for this to succeed, a comprehensive financial architecture is needed, which includes:

- financial arrangements established inside the Convention
- financial tools enabled through the rules under the Convention that create value, e.g. certifying actions by others.
- tools outside the Convention, that are nonetheless linked to it.

We are all aware that the more ambitious industrialised country commitments are, the bigger the financial and technological support will be, the more engagement we can expect from developing countries. And the more developing countries engage, the more ambition can be expected from industrialised countries.

I was very encouraged that in Bali, developing countries gave the all-important signal that they are willing to do more. The first phase of the negotiating process could thus also be used by industrialised countries to make progress with regard to a mid-term emission reduction goals.

One of our hosts, Japan, will as the chair of the G8 and host of the G8 summit, have the challenging opportunity to show leadership in this context.

At the Vienna Climate Change Talks 2007, Parties to the Kyoto Protocol agreed to work based on a range of emission reduction objectives of Annex I Parties of 25-40 per cent below 1990, which is in line with the most stringent IPCC scenario.

Mid-term goals have to be in line with the time-frame that science shows. Furthermore, they have to be reportable through established reporting mechanisms under the UNFCCC. For this, reporting mechanisms may need to be expanded. It is essential that intermediary steps are subject to compliance and monitoring.

Mid-term targets should be reached collectively and by use of market mechanisms. Agreeing on such targets would send a powerful signal to the carbon market and to investors investing in emission reductions.

In this first phase of negotiations, it is important to find out what industrialised countries can do, what developing countries are willing to do, and how these two can be made to run together like well-oiled cogwheels.

So, like the great Native American Indian Sitting Bull said: “let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.”