



Opening of the Bangkok Climate Change Talks 2008
Statement on 31 March 2008
Yvo de Boer
Executive Secretary,
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank the Kingdom of Thailand, represented by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Dr. Sahas Bunditkul for hosting the Bangkok Climate Change Talks 2008 and for providing the platform for this important step in your work. I would like to extend through him our gratitude to the National Organizing Committee for all their work in the past few weeks.

I also sincerely thank the Government of Denmark for its generous contribution to fund the meeting, including the participation of developing country representatives.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to extend my thanks to the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Ms. Noeleen Heyzer and our colleagues at UNESCAP, UNCC and UNIS for their excellent support in assisting with the organizing of the meeting.

The road has taken us from Bali to Bangkok, our first stop-over in the process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. The Bali outcome created huge public expectations for strengthened international action on climate change by 2009.

We now stand at the dawn of a very busy one and a half years in the climate change process and we need to respond to those expectations. For one, the decisions of the Bali Road Map as a whole need to be advanced, and, in conjunction with that, negotiations on future work in both the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP need to conclude with an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

Challenging as this may seem, it is also an opportunity to take cooperation to a new level. Great improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds. Given the limited time available, unprecedented cooperation will be needed to put success within our reach and to make that improvement real.

As a second key step towards success, the huge task before us needs to be broken down into manageable, bite-sized chunks. I hope you will agree on the how, the what and the when. To this end, we have received over 30 high quality submissions from Parties on their views regarding the work programme of the AWG-LCA and nine submissions on their views on the means to achieve mitigation objectives in reference to Kyoto Protocol.

The AWG-LCA needs to make a good beginning to make a good ending

Over the next five days, this first meeting of the AWG-LCA needs to clearly map out how to structure its work. According to the Bali Road Map, the AWG-LCA needs to establish a clear work programme in a coherent and integrated manner. This requires careful thinking to effectively address all issues in a balanced way.

The effectiveness of the AWG-LCA's work programme might be further augmented, if this meeting were to:

- identify the issues that need further clarification;
- identify topics that require additional workshops;
- identify what input and support you need from your secretariat;
- identify clearly how the process can be informed by outputs from relevant intergovernmental processes as well as insights from the business and research communities and civil society.

With the clarity and direction that a good work programme gives, my hope is that the AWG-LCA will speedily get down to business given the limited time available.

The AWG-KP needs to continue its good work

This new phase of work will advance work on the rulebook so as to ensure agreement on the "analysis of means and on ways to enhance sustainable development" at the AWG-KP session in August this year.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, we all know that according to the IPCC's scientific findings, the solutions that we come up with in the context of advancing the Bali Road Map need to:

- significantly increase the extent of adaptation to reduce vulnerability;
- 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.

The progress of negotiations over the next 6 months are critical to the ultimate success and finalization of an agreement. The discussion and tone set during the coming days is an important step on the road to Copenhagen.

As always, the secretariat remains willing, at all times, to assist and support Parties, as you embark on this challenging road. To do this efficiently and effectively, we have put in place a special team to support negotiations under the Bali Road Map. These negotiations come with a pricetag. A document that outlines the financial implications is available.

In closing, my hope for this process is that, in coming together, we can share together, work together, and ultimately, succeed together!

Thank you
