

Scenario note on the eighth part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

Note by the Co-Chairs

29 January 2015

I. Introduction

1. At the seventh part of its second session, held in Lima, Peru, on 2–13 December 2014, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) elected us as its new Co-Chairs. We are humbled to be entrusted with co-chairing the ADP in its final year and we look forward to working with all Parties, the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) as well as the incoming President, and observer organizations toward the adoption of a new and meaningful climate change agreement at COP 21 in Paris, France.

2. We, the Co-Chairs, would like to take this opportunity to convey to the Parties our deep gratitude for the trust and confidence bestowed on us, and the distinct honour and privilege we have to be steering the work of the ADP in its final phase. However, our mandate cannot be achieved without the full cooperation of all the Parties. To this end, in seeking the support and cooperation of Parties, we stress that we will be guided always by the following principles: openness, transparency, inclusiveness and fairness. An open-door policy before, during, and after the sessions will guide our work, and we will abide by a “no surprises” policy.

3. It is in this spirit that the present scenario note has been prepared and circulated to all Parties in advance of the eighth part of the second session of the ADP to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 13 February 2015.

4. Through this note, we would like to share with Parties our preliminary ideas and proposals for the Geneva session, including the mode of work and its expected outcomes. We look forward to discussing these ideas in Geneva during pre-session consultations with groups of Parties, as well as with any interested Party.

5. It is our firm commitment to continue to use the open channel of communication with Parties in order to seek their views and feedback on the work of the ADP. Before, during, and after the session and throughout the year, we invite all Parties to share with us their ideas, proposals, and concerns regarding how to achieve the success of the ADP mandate for a new and meaningful climate agreement to be adopted in Paris. To this end, we encourage Parties to visit the “Co-Chairs’ corner”,¹ to find the latest information on our ongoing and upcoming activities and to contact us through the e-mail address <CADP@unfccc.int>, as deemed appropriate.

II. Objective for the Geneva session

6. In Lima, Parties worked purposefully to adopt the Lima Call for Climate Action contained in decision 1/CP.20, including its annex ‘Elements for a draft negotiating text’. The adoption of decision 1/CP.20 provided guidance on fundamental issues being addressed by the ADP process and acknowledged the progress made in Lima in elaborating the elements for a draft negotiating text as contained in the annex to the decision. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the same decision, Parties requested the ADP to intensify its work, with a view to making available a negotiating text for a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties before May 2015.

7. As the Geneva session is the only negotiating session planned before May 2015, its objective is to deliver this negotiating text on 13 February. The unedited version of the negotiating text will be posted on the UNFCCC website following the closure of the meeting. After editing and translation to the five other official United Nations languages, the negotiating text referred to in decision 1/CP.20, paragraph 6, will be communicated by the secretariat to all Parties as requested in paragraph 7 of the same decision, and in accordance with provisions of the Convention and the applied rules of procedure.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8619>>.

8. Pursuant to decision 1/CP.20, paragraph 20, the session in Geneva will also provide the ADP with an opportunity to continue its efforts to facilitate pre-2020 climate action.

9. We are confident that Parties will engage in constructive negotiations in Geneva in order to respond to the mandates of the ADP with the commitment and determination which has characterized their work thus far. We expect Parties to come fully prepared for a negotiating session and to engage interactively and constructively with their partners, during the meetings based on textual proposals to streamline the text so as to fulfil the agreed objective of the session.

III. Organization of the work

10. The Geneva session is a negotiating session. It is also a resumed session. As such, the opening plenary of the ADP will be short and will start at 10 a.m. sharp on 8 February. It will allow, if needed, short interventions on behalf of groups of Parties. In view of the limited time available, delegations are requested to keep their oral interventions as brief as possible and within the three minutes allocated to them. Parties are invited to provide the secretariat with a more detailed version of their interventions to be made available on the UNFCCC website. The short opening plenary, expected to last no more than one hour, will be followed by the first meeting of the contact group on agenda item 3, "Implementation of all the elements of decision 1/CP.17", established at the fourth part of the session.²

11. The contact group on item 3 will continue to work in accordance with the agreed agenda of the ADP³ and established UNFCCC practice. The contact group will also work in accordance with the core principles guiding the work of the ADP, namely that the process will continue to be Party-driven and build on inputs from Parties, and that any outputs of the process will reflect inputs from Parties.

12. The contact group will focus its work on converting the elements for a draft negotiating text contained in the annex to decision 1/CP.20 into a more streamlined, concise, manageable and negotiable text. To this end, the contact group will be tasked to streamline language and eliminate redundancies and duplications, better present alternatives and divergences, and clarify, to the extent possible, proposals and concepts. The contact group will also be tasked with identifying elements of the annex to decision 1/CP.20 that are of a durable nature and need to be enshrined in the agreement, and aspects that are more suitable to be included in a decision, taking into account, among other things, their flexibility, allowing for further development and adjustments over time through subsequent decisions. To this end, we plan for the work of the ADP to continue daily until 8 p.m., except on 13 February when it will end earlier.

13. As the content of the preamble section will reflect the body of the negotiating text, the work of the contact group will start with decision 1/CP.20, annex, section C (General/Objective), paragraph 1, and will continue in numerical order with section D (Mitigation) being undertaken on the afternoon of 8 February, to be followed by section E (Adaptation and loss and damage) in the morning of 9 February, and section G (Finance) in the afternoon of 9 February. Further information on the preliminary schedule of meetings will be provided through the UNFCCC website and announced during the preceding meeting, as per usual practice.⁴

14. To make full use of the time available in the session in Geneva, we intend, after consultation, to ask a limited number of interested delegates for assistance in facilitating specific follow-up work, as needed, and to report back to the contact group within a short period of time. These focused groups will be temporary and the selection of facilitators will take into account regional as well as gender balance.

15. The result of the work in Geneva will be a streamlined negotiating text, with bracketed alternatives and options, and will include aspects extracted from the annex to decision 1/CP.20 for a possible COP draft decision that will accompany the agreement. We will request the secretariat to make the text available as the negotiating text, after the session, and to communicate it to Parties in accordance with decision 1/CP.20, paragraph 7.

16. In accordance with its mandates in relation to pre-2020 climate action, the ADP will continue to consider how to progress its work further, including how the technical examination process could be further advanced, as

² FCCC/ADP/2014/1, paragraph 19.

³ FCCC/ADP/2013/2, paragraphs 8 and 9.

⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/8619>>.

referred to in paragraph 8 above. We have made arrangements for a dedicated meeting on this issue to be held on 10 February.⁵

17. Mindful of the invitation to all Parties to communicate their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) well in advance of COP 21 (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so), arrangements have been made for a new briefing on support for domestic preparations for INDCs, which is planned to take place on 11 February.⁶

18. In order for the ADP to make the best use of the very limited time allocated to its meetings and in order to achieve the expected results, the Co-Chairs intend to start and to end the meetings on time. Parties are invited to take note of this organizational rule which shall guide the work of ADP during this crucial year.

19. We also intend to continue an active engagement with observers in the ADP process. In Geneva, we will convene a special event with observer organizations.

IV. Closing the Geneva session

20. The contact group will need to finalize its work on 13 February before 5 p.m., to be followed immediately by a short closing plenary. The second session of the ADP will therefore be suspended and will resume in June 2015 in Bonn, Germany, in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies. We do not envisage the need to invite statements at the closing of the session.

V. Beyond the Geneva session

21. Looking beyond the session in Geneva, and in accordance with decision 1/CP.20, we have already requested the secretariat to make provisions for two additional sessions, of five to six days duration each, in the second half of the year. Taking into account the numerous climate-related events taking place in that time period, we have identified late August/beginning of September and mid-October as possible time frames for these sessions. Additional logistical information will be made available by the secretariat through the UNFCCC website.⁷

22. We very much look forward to meeting all of you, and to working with all you during the Geneva session and in our common journey to Paris.

⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/8179>>.

⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/8803>>.

⁷ <<http://unfccc.int/8619>>.