Resumed second session of the

Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action Closing plenary

Statement on behalf of South Africa 13 June 2013

Thank you, Co-Chairs.

South Africa supports the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made by Swaziland on behalf of the Africa Group.

First of all, may I extend the South African delegation's sincere appreciation for your capable leadership and especially the good spirited manner in which you have facilitated discussions under this working group.

We have also taken note of all the ideas Parties have shared during the last two weeks on their vision for the 2015 agreement and the ways in which we can enhance the levels of ambition on all aspects of our actions to address the climate change challenge.

As we stated during one of our interventions in the roundtables earlier in this resumed session, we believe that the discussions thus far are somewhat lacking in balance. We therefore proposed a different perspective and suggested that a different framing of the discussion on the future agreement is needed.

Co-Chairs

If we are to have any chance of averting a global climatic catastrophe, we are required to take urgent and immediate action. The only way to achieve this, is by ensuring a fair and equitable sharing of effort in our collective pursuit to combat climate change which will also provide for equitable access to sustainable development. To this end, it is necessary that the international community commit themselves, in a legally binding instrument, to a common global goal of keeping the increase in average global temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius. We should do that in the 2015 agreement.

In this regard, we do not believe that a system of wholly domestically determined actions will be appropriate if we are working towards meeting the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Co-Chairs

In our view, the 2015 agreement should contain common global commitments on adaptation, as well as the means of implementation to enable developing countries to contribute their fair share to the common effort and to enable them to become climate resilient societies.

The 2015 agreement furthermore will need a set of rules that will ensure a fair and equitable formulation of individual commitments to be implemented by Parties. These individual commitments should be linked to existing institutions and mechanisms and access to support.

The 2015 agreement should therefore build on the multilateral, rules-based approach which we believe is the only way to mobilise the levels of participation and ambition necessary for effective and equitable action.

The ADP should remain true to its mandate, which is focused on enhanced action in an ambitious and binding manner. It should therefore focus on closing the gaps in the current system.

Co-chairs

I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm South Africa's commitment to this process. In this regard, we wish the new co-chairs all the best as they help us to take this important process forward.

We expect that the outcome in Warsaw would be a significant milestone to ensure that adoption of the agreement in 2015 in Paris will be possible. We cannot afford to slow our pace, particularly in light of what science tells us about the urgency of the challenge we face.

Thank you.