

UG Opening Statement – ADP 2.8

Co-Chairs,

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group of countries.

First let us welcome you to the chairmanship. We look forward to you guiding our efforts over the coming week to reach a draft negotiating text.

As you have encouraged us to move straight into our work of delivering, by Paris, a new, ambitious, effective and globally applicable climate agreement, we will share briefly our priorities for this session.

1. We are ready, as tasked, to work to deliver a first draft text of the new agreement. It is critical that that this text accurately reflects Parties' proposals. Without this, Parties may find it difficult to accept the text as the basis on which to take our work forward.
2. At the same time, we should take opportunities to streamline the text – removing duplication, deleting provisions that have no support, and where possible improving the structure.
3. We should also distinguish content appropriate for a legal agreement – that is durable and universal – from content more appropriate to decisions – that is more detailed, or needs updating over time.
4. We should steer away from a 'one size fits all' treatment of mitigation, adaptation, support and transparency. Our challenge is to develop provisions for each area in a way that leads to the most effective practical outcomes on the ground.
5. We should give more thought to how the new agreement will interrelate with the Convention and its institutions – ensuring we do not duplicate work that will continue under the Convention post-2020, nor pre-empt how this work will evolve.
6. To support our efforts to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention in Article 2, we must progress work on the rules by which countries will account for mitigation efforts, to maintain the transparency and integrity of the agreement.

7. We are cognisant of the decision Parties reached in Lima where we underscored our commitment to reflect the principle of CBDR-RC in light of different national circumstances in the Paris Agreement. Neither an extreme of retaining the current fixed binary approach, nor an extreme of no differentiation will be acceptable. We need to look at specific approaches that treat very different national circumstances appropriately, and encourage Parties to regularly increase their ambition and improve their transparency.

8. We also look forward to continuing our work on practical ways to build mitigation ambition. It is this action that will provide ballast to a Paris outcome on the new agreement, and to its implementation.

We look forward to working with you and all Parties to make this a productive session.

Thank you.