

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED
ACTION 2-4**

OPENING PLENARY

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA

BONN, 10 MARCH 2014

Co-chairs

Thank you for giving me the floor. South Africa associates itself with the statements made by Sudan on behalf of the Africa Group, as well as by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

As we embark on our work during this week, it is important to remember that the mandate of the ADP recognises that fulfilling the ultimate objective of the Convention requires the strengthening of the multilateral, rules-based regime under the Convention. This further requires that the 2015 agreement must be science based, and therefore ambitious and fair.

Therefore, to build the post-2020 regime under the UNFCCC, we urgently need to agree on a programme that will deliver on the mandate of the Durban Platform and ensure that the decisions are taken in Lima that we agreed to in Warsaw.

In our view, we need to focus on three things here in Bonn:

- (1) Agreeing on the information that Parties must present when putting forward their intended commitments. This focus is necessary as we agreed in Warsaw that this work must be finalised by Lima;
- (2) Elaborating the elements of the 2015 agreement; and
- (3) Progress under Workstream II.

These are two separate albeit related processes that must lead us to an agreement on our overall aspirational goals that we need to achieve through the 2015 agreement (e.g. keeping temperature rises well below two degrees) and achieving climate resilience (through an adaptation goal that takes overall mitigation ambition into account and delivers adequate support). These goals should cover all elements including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building.

At Warsaw it was decided that a critical part of the 2015 agreement – the formulation of Parties contributions – will be nationally determined based on information to be determined well before the agreement itself is ready. Yet the Warsaw decision is silent on what is meant by “national contributions”, or “information” and there is equally little guidance on the process to arrive at a decision on these. Our meeting here in Bonn should provide clarity on these issues, particularly on the process to follow towards the 2015 agreement.

Our fundamental point of departure is that the information that Parties must submit with their intended nationally determined contributions must be the subject of negotiations. We cannot allow a free-for all scenario where Parties do whatever they like as this will neither be multilateral and rules-based, nor will it lead to an outcome that is ambitious and equitable.

If Parties are allowed to put forward their contributions in a policy vacuum before we have a common understanding on the rules/criteria and process of determining how these contributions collectively will help us reach our aspirational goals, the 2015 agreement will take us backwards and harm our multilateral regime.

So, to summarise, in 2014 the following is required:

- Agreement on at least a minimum level of information that Parties must provide. This should be agreed in Lima (i.e part of the COP decision).
- We must clarify what is meant by “contributions”. For South Africa, contributions by Parties must also include adaptation, finance and technology, and therefore information on these aspects must be identified.
- There must be clarity on the process of communicating the intended contributions.
- In addition to agreeing on what information needs to be presented with Parties intended nationally determined contributions, we must also agree on a process and procedure to assess *ex ante* contributions based on the agreed information.

And we need a process that can help us achieve this.

All of this will inform the discussion on the elements of the 2015 agreement which aims to strengthen the multilateral rules based system, as agreed in Durban.

We are therefore faced with a timing and sequencing issue that is important to understand if we are to succeed in building a truly multilateral rules based system, rather than a wholly bottom up system with commitments that are only domestically determined.

Finally, Co-chairs

Trust in this process is essential. This trust can only be maintained if there are assurances through the process that inputs by Parties are heard by all.

Thank you.