

LMDC Opening Plenary Statement for ADP Bonn Session
29 April 2013, Bonn

Nicaragua has the privilege to deliver this opening statement at this plenary on behalf of the Like-Minded Developing Countries on Climate Change (LMDC). We fully endorse and support the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

Thank you very much for convening this second session of the ADP.

The African, Asian, and Latin American and Caribbean developing and least-developed countries of the LMDC have a combined population of 3.5 billion, or around half of the world's population today. Within our borders live more than 1.54 billion people (almost half of our combined population) who survive on incomes that are below the international poverty line of US\$2 a day. Around 900 million more people in our other fellow developing and least-developed countries within the Group of 77 and China also survive on less than \$2 a day. This means that in all developing and least-developed countries, more than two-and-a-half billion people survive on daily incomes that are less than what each cow in many developed countries receives in farm subsidies each day. This is clearly unjust and inequitable.

This highlights the common challenge of poverty eradication and development that developing and least-developed countries, including those of the LMDC, have faced and continue to face from 1992 to the present-day. Like other developing countries, our economies are still developing and so are fragile and vulnerable to the impacts and costs of climate change actions. Hence, as affirmed in the Convention, responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty.

At the same time, even though our countries, like other developing countries and least-developed countries, continue to struggle to eradicate poverty, our populations and economies are also among those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Recent examples are the floods in Argentina, China, Ecuador, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Venezuela; the super-typhoons and flooding in the Philippines; the droughts in Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Mali, Sri Lanka, and Sudan; the extreme rains that affected Algeria, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Nicaragua; droughts and melting glaciers in Argentina, Bolivia, and Ecuador; and massive dust storms hitting Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, among others. These climate change impacts in our countries have killed thousands of people and set back our poverty eradication and sustainable development efforts. These are also the impacts that affect other developing and least-developed countries. In many ways, these impacts make more difficult the situation of small island developing states, least-developed countries, and African countries given the multiple challenges that they already face.

Co-Chairs,

Developing and least-developed countries like ours bear the brunt of the adverse effects of climate change and the measures undertaken in response to it that are not equitable and conducive to sustainable development, even if our countries contributed the least to the problem. Because of this, the Convention requires developed countries to take the lead in addressing climate change. This was reiterated at Cancun when all Parties acknowledged that "the largest share of historical global emissions of greenhouse gases originated in developed countries and that, owing to this historical

responsibility, developed country Parties must take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.”

However, the extent to which Annex 1 Parties have fulfilled their commitments under the Convention has not been adequate, resulting instead in major implementation gaps for the Convention. On the other hand, many developing and least-developed countries, including those of the LMDC, are undertaking and investing heavily, in most cases using mainly their own domestic resources, in domestic climate mitigation and adaptation actions. These actions could have been further enhanced had Annex II parties’ commitments under the Convention to provide financing and technology transfer to developing countries been fulfilled.

The impacts of climate change and response measures on developing and least-developed countries deeply and adversely affect the prospects of billions of poor people in these countries to have better living standards and overcome poverty. This underscores the need for urgent global cooperation and action on climate change expressed in the fulfillment of commitments under the Convention, particularly in the provision of financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity building, for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions by developing countries.

Co-Chairs,

We therefore view the work of the ADP as an opportunity for all Parties to come together to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Convention in the period both before and after 2020. This must build on the work that has already been taking place and ensure that all parts of the package constituting the outcome under the Bali Road Map, including the agreed outcome under the Bali Action Plan and the adoption of the amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol for a 2nd commitment period, will be effectively and fully implemented now, up to and beyond 2020. The urgent task of “implementation” of the decisions already taken under the Convention, in particular those relating to the operationalization of the mechanisms set up to assist the actions of developing countries is a key priority and must receive equal emphasis in the work of the Parties going forward.

In this regard, with respect to the ADP negotiations and the outcome, we wish to stress that both shall be “under the Convention” – that is, the negotiations and the outcome shall be guided by and must be consistent with the principles and provisions of the Convention, especially the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, as stated in Decision 2/CP.18. These principles of the Convention and the provisions and structure that reflect and apply these principles are at the foundation of the work of the ADP. The ADP negotiations must not replace, rewrite, restructure, renegotiate, nor reinterpret the Convention and its principles, provisions, and structure.

Co-Chairs,

We look forward to negotiations in the ADP in workstream 1 for the post-2020 outcome that links to, builds on and is informed by the work of the subsidiary and other relevant bodies such as the LCA and the KP, and adheres to and is coherent with the objective, principles, provisions and structure of the Convention, including its annexes which reflect the historical responsibility of developed countries and the differentiation between developed and developing countries.

The work of the ADP in workstream 1 must address as essential elements of any outcome of its work all of the Convention building blocks of adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building, as well as forest activities, response measures, economic diversification and resilience, loss and damage, and transparency and compliance issues, as substantive issues that need

to be addressed in an operational, effective, and adequate manner. We note that actions to address climate change must be comprehensive and also address sinks and all gases and sectors.

Co-Chairs,

For workstream 2, we look forward to a result in which developed countries build trust, show good faith, and take the lead in addressing climate change by implementing the Doha package and showing enhanced mitigation ambition in the pre-2020 period.

We emphasize that increasing pre-2020 ambition shall primarily be achieved through the implementation of the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the outcome of the Bali Action Plan in a comprehensive manner, covering mitigation, adaptation and finance and technology support.

This can be done through Annex I KP parties immediately ratifying the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for the 2nd commitment period during 2013 and thereafter significantly scaling-up their mitigation ambition by April 2014. Non-KP Annex I parties must also commit to comparable enhanced mitigation ambition in the same timeframe. Annex II parties must also show increased ambition pre-2020 by fully financing mitigation actions in developing countries without seeking to get emission reduction credits from these actions and fully implementing their commitments to provide finance and technology transfer to developing countries under the Convention.

The outcome of the ADP's work under workstream 2 with respect to pre-2020 mitigation ambition particularly of developed countries will shape what will happen in workstream 1 with respect to developing an agreed outcome applicable to all Parties that leads to the urgent, effective, and enhanced post-2020 implementation of the Convention.

Co-Chairs,

Finally, we wish to stress that it is very important to ensure that the entire negotiating process is open, transparent, party-driven, fully participatory and inclusive, and reflects a balanced negotiating approach, pace, intensity, and progress for all issues and their elements in terms of their procedural and substantive treatment and outcome, and appropriate allocation of negotiating time for all issues.

In particular, we stress the need to ensure that there is adequate funding available to increase and enable the effective and adequate participation of all developing countries, including least-developed countries and small island developing states, in the ADP process.

At this session, we look forward to the discussions in the workshops and roundtables that will take place.

We reiterate, Co-Chairs, our countries' willingness and intent to work closely with you and all other Parties in an open, transparent, and constructive manner, in order for us to arrive at an agreed outcome that moves us collectively forward more effectively in implementing the Convention, on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, and achieving the objective of the Convention.

Thank you, Co-Chairs