

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION OF THE AD-HOC
WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION
Delivered by Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bangkok, 30 August 2012

Mr Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Nicaragua, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, and Venezuela.

The above countries fully associate themselves with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Chairman,

We look forward to working with you in this informal session to further our work in the AWG-LCA.

But at the outset, we would like to stress that as we continue our work in the AWG-LCA with the aim of arriving at an agreed outcome, such outcome must reflect all the elements of the Bali Action Plan in which agreements on long-term cooperative action on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building are reached in a coherent and integrated manner. Only such an outcome would enable us to move forward expeditiously on the new process that we have launched under the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform on Enhanced Action.

We should evaluate the remaining work that needs to be done under the Bali Action Plan to determine what we can achieve up to and beyond Doha, and to identify the issues that continue to be outstanding in order for us to deliver on an agreed outcome and conclude our mandate under the Bali Action Plan.

Mr Chairman,

Let me just highlight some key unresolved issues under the AWG-LCA that we feel still need to be addressed with great urgency.

On shared vision, we need to improve and deepen our discussion and understanding of the contextual elements upon which any discussion on the long-term goal for emissions reductions and global peaking of emissions should be based and predicated. These elements include, inter alia, equity; historical responsibility of developed country Parties; ensuring equitable access to sustainable development; clear long-term goals on finance, technology, adaptation, capacity-building; and other relevant economic and social factors such as unilateral measures, intellectual property rights, economic and social consequences of response measures, rights of Mother Earth, and other elements that have been fleshed out in CRP.39.

On Annex I mitigation under paragraph 1(b)(i) of the BAP, while we have had good discussions in the last Bonn session, we stress our concern that the issue of the comparability of mitigation efforts among Annex 1 Parties, increasing the level or

targets and ambition, common accounting rules is being marginalized, and this concern is heightened by what seems to be a clear unwillingness on the part of many Annex 1 Parties to commit to scaled up quantified emission reductions targets that go beyond what they have already pledged pursuant to decision 1/CP.16. We should note that enhancing mitigation ambition pre-2020 is predicated on such ambition being reflected in having Annex 1 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol commit to ambitious targets for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and for Annex 1 Parties that are not Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to make enhanced comparable targets under paragraph 1(b)(i) of the Bali Action Plan.

In relation to cooperative sectoral approaches and sector specific actions, there is a need to continue the work on this issue to fulfill the mandate of the Bali Action Plan to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c) of the Convention, in the field of the development and transfer of technologies in all the relevant sectors. In this respect, there is a need to make progress in the general framework for sectoral approaches and to advance the treatment of international aviation and maritime transport, in order to reach a multilateral understanding on this issue consistent with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular CBDR, in opposition to unilateral solutions that clearly undermine the spirit of international cooperation.

On economic and social consequences of response measures, we must continue discussions in order to give full consideration to what actions are necessary to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures. We have a mandate to reach an agreed outcome from the Bali Action Plan to enhance the full, effective, sustained implementation of the Convention, including in relation to economic and social consequences of response measures. Indeed, CRP. 39 recognizes that response measures are among the unresolved areas in which continued discussions will take place this year. Moreover, the AWG-LCA is the negotiating group to establish political parameters, while the Forum has a specific mandate to implement a work programme, and is not meant for negotiations. In addition, response measures are taken with the objective to combat climate change, and therefore, this relates to the UNFCCC, the fora for climate change- related issues. In this sense, we need to continue addressing in the AWGLCA unilateral response measures that may have consequences on economic and social development of developing countries, as well as social issues such as the just transition of the workforce.

On finance, we note with grave concern that there continues to be no commitment on addressing the funding gap between 2012 and 2020 as well as the MRV of support provided to developing countries. In this context, it is important to initiate a process or agree on the need for rapidly announcing financial contributions to the Green Climate Fund from Annex II Parties. We stress that many issues also remain pending, including strengthening links between the provision of climate finance under the Convention and the NAMAs and adaptation actions of developing countries; drawing up lessons through this inter-governmental process from the experience in the administration of fast-start finance especially for the long-term climate finance; detailing the arrangements between the COP and the GCF; the provision of funding for the implementation of biennial update reports; and funding for National Adaptation Plans. The countries associated with this statement would like to urge you to designate a specific time for discussing lessons from Fast Start Finance.

On adaptation, in line with the Bali Action Plan, we stress that there are several issues of the highest priority to developing countries that still need to be addressed, such as vulnerability assessments, financial needs assessments for adaptation and the support for urgent implementation of adaptation actions. It is crucial to ensure that we continue discussing this issue in the AWG-LCA to pursue means of implementation, which will be very important towards addressing the urgent concerns and immediate needs of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

On technology development and transfer, we have long discussed many issues, and yet, we are still no closer to having agreement on issues whose resolution is crucial if technology transfer is to become a primary factor in enhancing our long-term cooperative action among all Parties to fully implement the Convention. These issues include addressing possible barriers to technology transfer, including IPRs; operationalizing interlinkages between the Technology Mechanism with the UNFCCC's financial mechanism; further clarifying the relationship between the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN); and defining the additional functions of the TEC.

On capacity building, while the establishment of the Durban Forum on Capacity Building has been a welcome development, we would still need to develop effective and operational indicators and evaluation modalities for the purpose of assessing the performance and impacts of capacity building activities supported by developed countries in developing countries in terms of improving the capacity of developing countries to implement the Convention.

On review, we would like to underscore the importance of ensuring that the scope of the review that will take place from 2013 to 2015 explicitly encompasses an assessment of the extent of implementation of the Convention as part and parcel of assessing the adequacy of the 1.5-2C range goal and the overall progress to achieve it. Additionally, given the need to ensure that the results of the review provide a strong political basis for moving forward together after 2015, the review itself must be conducted by Parties through the SBI and SBSTA.

Furthermore, in the context of our work, there must be no space for unilateral actions that tend to damage the confidence among parties and weaken our collective response to climate change. This crucial element needs to be fully reflected in our deliberations.

We will be providing to you, Mr. Chairman, a list of the issues that we believe continue to be outstanding under the mandate of the AWG-LCA arising from the Bali Action Plan and subsequent COP decisions which we would need to conclude at COP18 if we are to terminate the work of the AWG-LCA at that session.

Mr. Chairman,

As the members of our group have stated, either individually or jointly, in the last Bonn session, the work of the AWG-LCA was extended by paragraph 1 of decision

1/CP.17 until an agreed outcome is reached, at which time the AWG-LCA then terminates. From what we have indicated above, much work still remains to be done in the AWG-LCA in the run-up to Doha in order for us all to be able to deliver a comprehensive, integrated, and coherent agreed outcome in accordance with the mandate given to us by the Bali Action Plan and subsequent COP decisions to ensure the sustained and effective implementation of the Convention.

We are deeply concerned at efforts to prejudge the termination of AWG-LCA in Doha without ensuring a successful agreed outcome on ALL elements of the Bali Action Plan mandate. It is our view that such an action would be contrary to the political agreements that we had reached in relation to decision 1/CP.17 to have a balanced and comprehensive package.

Mr. Chairman,

The Parties associated with this statement continues to stand ready to work with you and all of our partners in order for us to be able to deliver our agreed outcome under the Bali Action Plan.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.