

## **Reflections on the Doha session and the year ahead**

### **Note by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action**

*18 February 2013*

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The ADP successfully completed the second part of its first session in Doha. We commend Parties for the progress made in 2012: they advanced their substantive work towards bridging the ambition gap and delivering a new agreement by 2015 through roundtables under both workstreams. In Doha, the COP adopted decision 2/CP.18,<sup>1</sup> which sent a clear signal that the ADP is working effectively and is on track to successfully deliver results, while the ADP itself adopted conclusions<sup>2</sup> that planned its work for 2013, with major reference points until 2015.

2. In this note, we provide our reflections on the general status of the work of the ADP after Doha, with a view to the year ahead. We identify some upcoming challenges and key areas that may require further in-depth discussion in 2013. This note has been prepared under our own responsibility, without prejudice to future negotiations, and is intended to assist Parties in their preparations for the next session of the ADP, which will be held from 29 April to 3 May 2013 in Bonn, Germany, at the World Conference Center Bonn.<sup>3</sup>

3. At a later stage, we will make available an information note containing suggestions for the organization of the work for the next session of the ADP. Furthermore, in accordance with paragraphs 28 and 30 of the conclusions of the ADP adopted in Doha,<sup>4</sup> we will set out focused questions for the roundtables and workshops to be held at that session, taking into account submissions from Parties.<sup>5</sup>

#### **II. The Doha session**

4. The task ahead, as reflected in the conclusions of the ADP adopted in Doha, is to move to a more focused mode of work during 2013. It is now critical that the ADP progress from its broad, conceptual and scoping discussions on to more specific and

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<sup>1</sup> Available at  
<[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cop\\_advanc\\_durban.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha_nov_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cop_advanc_durban.pdf)>.  
“Advancing the Durban Platform” will be reflected in the COP report as decision 2/CP.18.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraphs 17–33.

<sup>3</sup> See <[http://unfccc.int/files/parties\\_and\\_observers/application/pdf/inf\\_note\\_second\\_adp\\_session.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/application/pdf/inf_note_second_adp_session.pdf)>.

<sup>4</sup> As footnote 2 above.

<sup>5</sup> See <[http://unfccc.int/files/parties\\_and\\_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notif\\_submission\\_of\\_views\\_20130110.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notif_submission_of_views_20130110.pdf)>.

detailed work on the core elements of the 2015 agreement and a practical and results-orientated approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition.

5. On 7 February 2013, we issued our summaries of the roundtables held in Doha, as well as a summary of our special event for observer organizations.<sup>6</sup> The report on the second part of the first session of the ADP<sup>7</sup> was also made available on that date.

6. With regard to workstream 1, addressing matters related to decision 1/CP.17, paragraphs 2–6 (the 2015 agreement), Parties continued to outline their visions and aspirations for the ADP, to discuss key characteristics and features of the new agreement and to identify issues for further discussion in the coming year. As reflected in our summary, Parties held three roundtable meetings, focused on:

- How the principles of the Convention will be applied in the new agreement (paras. 6–14);
- How national circumstances and changes thereof should be taken into account (paras. 15–22);
- How the new agreement will be “applicable to all” in practice, including approaches to defining differentiated commitments (paras. 23–27);
- Ways to incentivize full and ambitious participation and ensure effective implementation and compliance arrangements (paras. 28–31).

7. On the basis of those discussions, as well as the conclusions adopted by the ADP in Doha, in 2013 Parties will seek to further focus and advance their substantive discussions on the above-listed issues and address aspects such as:

- The application of the principles of the Convention;
- Building on the experiences and lessons learned from other processes under the Convention and from other multilateral processes, as appropriate;
- The scope, structure and design of the 2015 agreement;
- Ways of defining and reflecting enhanced action.

8. With regard to workstream 2, addressing matters related to decision 1/CP.17, paragraphs 7 and 8 (pre-2020 ambition), Parties continued to discuss and identify options for increasing the level of ambition prior to 2020. As reflected in our summary, three roundtable meetings were convened in Doha, focused on:

- How international and national actions that are additional and are therefore supplementary to the pledges made by Parties can be strengthened, encouraged and supported by the Convention (paras. 4–21);
- The role of the means of implementation in increasing ambition (paras. 22–27);

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<sup>6</sup> ADP.2012.8.InformalSummary. See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/adp1/eng/8infsum.pdf>>.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/ADP/2012/3.

- How to catalyse actions and initiatives with the largest mitigation potential (paras. 28–31);
  - Specific proposals on how to advance the work on increasing pre-2020 ambition (para. 32).
9. On the basis of those discussions, as well as the conclusions adopted by the ADP in Doha, in 2013 Parties will seek to further focus and advance their substantive discussions on the above-listed issues and in proposing actions, initiatives and options address aspects such as:
- Mitigation and adaptation benefits, including resilience to the impacts of climate change;
  - Barriers and ways to overcome them, and incentives for action;
  - Finance, technology and capacity-building to support implementation.
10. We look forward to receiving, by 1 March 2013, submissions from Parties and accredited observer organizations on the above-mentioned issues, which will serve as the basis for discussions at the upcoming second session of the ADP in Bonn.

### **III. The ADP in 2013: the year ahead**

11. The Doha conference marked the successful conclusion of the planning phase of the ADP, in accordance with decision 1/CP.17. In 2012, Parties reached agreement on an agenda that initiated two workstreams, launched their substantive discussions through roundtables and workshops and took initial steps to engage with stakeholders. In addition, as Co-Chairs, we have sought to increase our intersessional engagement with Parties through the use of informal notes on both substantive and process-related matters and the increased use of the web page of the ADP as a communication tool. We hope that Parties have found these steps valuable in their preparations for the sessions.
12. The Doha conference also set the stage for an important new phase for the ADP in the year ahead by adopting a concrete plan for meetings, workshops and roundtables to be held in 2013. The Doha decision to Advance the Durban Platform also specifies that elements of a negotiating text are to be made available no later than the end of 2014, so that a draft negotiating text is available before May 2015. Notably, in Doha, Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon announced that he would convene world leaders in 2014 to mobilize the political will to help ensure that the 2015 deadline is met.
13. To bring this plan to fruition, Parties need to continue building momentum within the ADP process in 2013 and to take their work to the next level of maturity. Moreover, it will be important for the ADP to establish a more structured approach to the organization of its work.
14. Regarding workstream 1, we see the need for more focused work on specific areas, such as on the scope, structure and design of the 2015 agreement, which could

further define how the principles of the Convention will be applied, help define a spectrum of commitments and bring greater precision to the options available for ensuring that the agreement will be applicable to all and enable the highest possible ambition from all Parties. Important substantive areas, such as adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance, should be further discussed, with a view to understanding how the 2015 agreement will relate to and have an impact on the existing processes, institutions and mechanisms under the Convention. To that end, it is our intention to invite the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI and other appropriate bodies under the Convention to brief the ADP on relevant work being undertaken by them. In addition, experiences and lessons learned from other processes will constitute valuable inputs to the deliberations of the ADP.

15. Concerning workstream 2, we see the need for more practical and results-oriented discussions on concrete areas of action for increasing ambition, specific actions and best practices at the national level, and specific cooperative initiatives at the international level which can help to bridge the ambition gap, as well as ways to strengthen such actions and initiatives. A focused discussion on how finance, technology and capacity-building can be strengthened to enable greater ambition will be needed, as well as a discussion on increasing ambition in the light of the successful completion and the results of the work of the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA in Doha. Such discussion can help Parties to identify and explore options for a range of actions that can close the pre-2020 ambition gap, and to identify further activities for its plan of work in 2014 ensuring the highest possible mitigation effort under the Convention. The above-suggested briefings by the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI and other appropriate bodies under the Convention on the relevant work being undertaken by those bodies may prove useful in this regard.

16. We have started to develop our thoughts on how to maximize the usefulness of the roundtables and workshops to be held during the April and June sessions of the ADP. We are considering how we can start to: cultivate and harvest common ground among Parties; enable Parties to explore with each other, in an iterative fashion, their ideas and positions; focus on identifying and bridging important areas of difference; and build on our discussions so as to have significantly advanced the ADP process by the end of the June session, when we will hand over to the successor Co-Chairs of the ADP.

17. Since there will be a change in the Co-Chairs of the ADP after the June session, and given the proximity of the April and June sessions, we see value in viewing the April and June sessions of the ADP as a continuum. For that reason, we propose to suspend the second session of the ADP at the closing plenary on 3 May 2013 and to resume the second part of the second session of the ADP when we reconvene in June.

18. In our view, it will be important to return to the question of the potential role of contact groups and informal consultations during the April session. We are of the view that the ADP now needs to establish a structure that can help to facilitate efficient and effective decision-making, while remaining flexible and responding to the evolving needs of the ADP process. We will outline in our information note on the April

session, which we will issue at least two weeks prior to the session, our suggestions for the organization of the work and will aim to seek consensus among Parties on this matter during the pre-sessional consultations.

19. Furthermore, building on the success of the special event for observer organizations held in Doha, we intend to hold an event to engage with observer organizations at both the April and June sessions of the ADP.

20. We look forward to studying the submissions you provide on 1 March and to your guidance on the most effective approaches to advancing the work of the ADP in 2013.

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