

## **Summary of the ADP Co-Chairs' special event ADP 2, part 3 Warsaw, Poland, 19 November 2013**

### **Note by the Co-Chairs**

*6 February 2014*

## **I. Introduction**

1. Given the successful experience of the special event held in Doha, Qatar, on 1 December 2012 and of those held in Bonn, Germany, in the first part of 2013, the Co-Chairs of ADP, Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Artur Runge-Metzger (European Union), convened a special event with observers at the third part of the second session of the ADP on 19 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland.

2. The purpose of the meeting was to cast a light on the growing interest in the role of non-State actors in climate action and the dynamic impact they are having, and on their numerous collaborative initiatives on the ground, as well as for the ADP to gather clear ideas from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations on the ways non-State actors could catalyse action to enhance pre-2020 ambition effectively and shape the 2015 agreement.

3. The event was facilitated by the focal point of youth NGOs, who briefly explained the objectives of the meeting and the Co-Chairs' expectations before giving them the floor so they can open the meeting.

4. The Co-Chairs provided an update on the status of the negotiations and focused on the need to enhance information on actions with high mitigation potential, including those with adaptation and sustainable development co-benefits, undertaken or being undertaken by public and private entities.

5. In this context, they invited Mr. Halldór Thorgeirsson (secretariat) to take the floor. In his remarks, Mr. Thorgeirsson noted the need to build on initiatives that have already proven successful. He insisted on the secretariat's commitment to supporting catalysing action on climate change, before presenting a new portal<sup>1</sup> on the UNFCCC website aimed at sharing information on collaborative initiatives that contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through cooperative actions taken at various levels (governments, international organizations, civil society, business, etc.). He further remarked that this portal provides an opportunity for observers to promote their efforts and actions.

6. The Co-Chairs then invited the participants to engage in an exchange within this frame, pointing out that a proposed draft decision on ADP agenda item 3<sup>2</sup> had been issued at that point and was being considered by Parties as a possible outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw. Given that one provision of the text encouraged activities by non-State actors, the Co-Chairs were especially interested in reactions on two particular aspects of non-State actor involvement in the process:

(a) How could the 2015 agreement foster enhanced collaboration between non-State actors and governments?

(b) What role can the UNFCCC play in recognizing and strengthening initiatives and actions of non-State actors?

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<sup>1</sup> The portal can be accessed at <<http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/items/7785.php>>.

<sup>2</sup> Implementation of all the elements of decision 1/CP.17.

## II. Discussion

### A. How could the 2015 agreement foster enhanced collaboration between non-State actors and governments?

7. The objective of this discussion was for observers to provide a perspective on how their ideas and initiatives on the ground could support the modelling of the 2015 agreement in partnership with governments and positively influence pre-2020 ambition.

8. The discussion was opened by a participant speaking on behalf of the youth NGO constituency who expressed frustration with the lack of leadership and ambition shown by developed country Parties and called on them to address the issues of loss and damage, the implementation gap and financing. The participant said there was a need to talk about removing barriers such as intellectual property rights from the technology transfer process, and asked about what could be done to put pressure on developed country Parties to lead and be more ambitious.

9. One participant speaking on behalf of the business and industry NGO constituency emphasized the issue of clean energy, technology development and transfer, and in particular the need to support and accelerate the global development of carbon capture and storage (CCS). More precisely, it was suggested that the adoption of a clean energy diverse portfolio by Parties should encompass the issues of CCS, renewable energy and energy efficiency as they are considered complementary, not exclusive, particularly in the context of enhancing mitigation options available to Parties for decarbonizing global energy systems within meaningful time frames. A workshop on energy transformation held in 2013 was recalled and, with it in mind, the ADP Co-Chairs were urged to:

- (a) Consider rekindling the discussion started at that workshop by hosting a new one (or a round table) in 2014;
- (b) Invite a broad range of respected clean energy commentators, both internal and external to the United Nations processes, to engage in the discussion so as to formally convey their views and reflections to Parties;
- (c) Give the same consideration to CCS as to renewable energy and energy efficiency within the ADP discussion.

10. Two of participants from the women and gender NGO constituency expressed a wish to see more collaboration between actors on the ground, in particular around proven existing technologies at the household and community level that could be scaled up, such as solar collectors or energy-efficient stoves. These technologies were described to have a significant potential to address the issues at stake and to contribute to a more sustainable development by reducing both current and future emissions. The Co-Chairs were asked to also turn their attention to these kinds of projects and not to let Parties focus only on big infrastructure and high-risk technologies.

11. One participant from the banking sector within the business and industry NGO constituency recounted recent developments in the field of green investment and emphasized the growth in investors' appetite for green bonds. It was explained that such interest could foster a greater engagement from the corporate side, as companies may wish to ring-fence proceeds, as multilateral development banks do for green activities, which they see as valuable to the markets. Therefore, several of the major global investment banks are now working together to ensure that the process is streamlined through adequate collaboration with the issuers of green bonds and third party stakeholders, with a view to developing a core set of relevant principles as well as a validation process for the use of proceeds and reporting requirements.

12. A participant from an intergovernmental organization intervened to highlight the need for a common understanding of the issues at stake in order to establish effective collaboration and catalyse action. In that light, it was proposed that non-State actors should help with analytical work that would help both governments and the secretariat get information on what is needed and identify options for the way forward.

13. The same participant suggested that non-State actors assist in the gathering of data and information that help monitor the progress made in implementing commitments. The collection of data on bilateral and multilateral climate aid and its availability on the web was given as an example of a good opportunity to assess development assistance and other flows and examine how they are being climate-proofed. The participant added

that this data could facilitate the review of information provided by developed country Parties in their various reports to the secretariat. The same participant presented another initiative, consisting in the coordination of a research collaborative aiming to develop methods to estimate private climate finance mobilized towards the goal of USD 100 billion a year by 2020.

14. A representative of the environmental NGO constituency proposed building a mechanism for a transparency and equity review into the pledge and review process. To that end, it was requested that equity be considered formally in the ADP process and that a technical paper be issued in advance of the June session of the subsidiary bodies on the Convention's core equity indicators and the development of a common set of equity principles. The following list of equity indicators was proposed: adequacy, responsibility, capability, development need, and adaptation need. It was claimed that the reframing of equity using such a variety of indicators would radically improve the negotiating dynamics. It was noted that such work would inevitably lead to an equity review. The participant indicated that the constituency had decided to conduct a rigorous informal civil society equity review. It was added that a consensus position had been reached in the previous six months on establishing equity indicators within the network. There is a plan to conduct an equity review of the pledges as they emerge.

15. A representative of the youth NGO constituency continued the discussion on the concept of equity by arguing that the principle of intergenerational equity needed to both be considered by Parties and recognized in the ADP text, as the concept implies a transition and collaboration between all generations. The participant appealed to Parties to let intergenerational equity build bridges, and to the Co-Chairs to consider this as an opening towards the way forward.

16. A participant speaking on behalf of the trade union NGO constituency noted the need for the 2015 agreement to provide space to address transition and social justice, as well as the need to transform economies. It was argued that moving to a low-carbon society can be done by transforming existing jobs into sustainable ones and investing in the future so as to ensure a solid transition and decent work for all workers. The participant pointed out that it is essential to include sustainable development and equity in the 2015 agreement in order to bring workers, trade unions, civil society and non-State actors closer to the dialogue within the ADP process.

17. In response to the first question posed by the Co-Chairs (see para. 6), a participant from the women and gender NGO constituency added that enhanced collaboration could be achieved through a more participatory process, allowing non-State actors to access negotiations and contribute to the legal agreement. A call was made to Parties to understand that civil society aims to provide significant contribution to the shaping of the 2015 agreement. Several participants echoed that call throughout the event. It was added that the importance of a human rights-based approach needs to be adequately acknowledged and reflected in the text, as was done in Cancun.<sup>3</sup> In the light of the recent catastrophic climatic event in the Philippines and the fact that work to reach a global deal is being undertaken, the participant further appealed for the agreement to maximize the response to climate change while safeguarding and promoting human rights and gender equality.

18. A representative of the local governments and municipal authorities constituency welcomed the draft decision text proposed by the Co-Chair the day before, as it encouraged action from civil society. He noted the high potential for opening up dialogues at the local level on how to move forward more rapidly and indicated that local governments have already implemented a set of actions and activities that were helping reduce their carbon emissions by more than 1 per cent annually, which can be publicized to help push the agenda forward and encourage governments to do more. Building on the proven efficiency of cities in implementing measures to reduce emissions, the participant also suggested that his organization and the secretariat collaborate and facilitate advancing this agenda. He said that he believes that once governments see the local results and learn about the real perception that their citizens and all the major groups that compose them have, they would consider more ambitious goals. This initiative would aim at convincing them that such targets can be reached if States work with sub-national and local governments.

19. A representative of the business and industry NGO constituency stated that business could help provide the required finance and hence mitigation and adaptation action and that it could play such a role provided objectives were properly defined. A strong appeal was made for the agreement to set absolutely clear objectives to allow business to take the required action and deliver.

20. A representative from the youth NGO constituency proposed that projects undertaken on the ground become part of Parties' mitigation and adaptation efforts, thus requiring enhanced collaboration between States

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<sup>3</sup> See decision 1/CP.16.

and non-State actors. To that end and to enhance the exchange of information, a request was made to the secretariat to make its sessions more inclusive. Constructive partnerships between governments and an empowered youth should be fostered beyond the conference platform in order to advance work on climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions.

21. A participant representing the environmental NGO constituency recalled the importance of Article 6 of the Convention, which acknowledges the importance not only of science, knowledge and education, but also of public participation. The participant therefore echoed previous calls for an inclusive process that recognizes non-State actor initiatives. The participant mainly argued that initiatives on the ground are as important as international banking and other technical fixes, and are the main contribution of non-State actors in addressing the climate change challenge.

22. Another participant speaking on behalf of the business and industry NGO constituency highlighted that technology will play an essential part in fighting climate change and reaching a solid deal. The technology mechanism will therefore need support from non-State actors, in particular those who can contribute specialized knowledge. The participant however argued that the issue of technology-related intellectual property rights must be addressed by Parties, as such rights are a prerequisite for business engagement and investment. Collaboration on this issue would catalyse a wider collaboration between all actors involved and would therefore enhance the mechanism.

23. Yet another representative of the business and industry NGO constituency underlined that one of the factors important for the shift to a low-carbon pathway is investor certainty, which could be enhanced by the UNFCCC process adopting a “regressed” carbon budget. Reference was made to the recently issued Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which set a carbon budget for the rest of the century.<sup>4</sup> The participant called for this budget to be taken into account in the upcoming talks.

## **B. What role can the UNFCCC play in recognizing and strengthening initiatives and actions of non-State actors?**

24. The aim of this question was to allow non-State actors to feed additional ideas on the specific support the secretariat could provide to ensure all relevant information is properly made available in the process of shaping the 2015 agreement.

25. A participant from the business and industry NGO constituency asked for the secretariat to support their call for precise objectives to be designed and reflected in the 2015 agreement by ensuring that the language used to describe them could be understood by all and not just by negotiators and lawyers, so as to avoid ambiguities in the translations and for everyone to feel concerned by the issues at stake.

26. Another representative of the environmental NGO constituency intervened and referred to the *Emissions Gap Report 2013* of the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>5</sup> to highlight that Parties are maintaining low pledges and that action is therefore urgently needed. He added that civil society is trying to support governments in increasing their ambition and that the secretariat could help them go a step further by engaging political leaders through high-level meetings on how to increase pre-2020 ambition. The Co-Chairs reassured him that such a meeting was already about to take place at the Warsaw Conference. A high-level ministerial dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was organized two days later, at which a question on pre-2020 ambition was posed.<sup>6</sup> The Co-Chairs also informed participants that future meetings were planned for 2014.

## **III. Closing**

27. Throughout the meeting, the Co-Chairs took note of the wealth of initiatives being undertaken on the ground and of the comments and proposals made by participants in response to the questions they had posed. The Co-Chairs consistently encouraged participants to collaborate with their respective governments, may it be

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<sup>4</sup> The report is available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/#.UtQRwT-J18E>>.

<sup>5</sup> The report can be found at <<http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/emissionsgapreport2013>>.

<sup>6</sup> The question was: “How can ambitious pre-2020 actions provide for a transition phase towards the post-2020 world?”. Further information on the high-level ministerial dialogue is available at <[http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw\\_nov\\_2013/items/7896.php#dialogues](http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/items/7896.php#dialogues)>.

regarding action by cities, educational projects, financial developments in the banking sector, the sharing or analysis of information, etc., so as boost the citizens' confidence and empower the governments to take daring and firm decisions with the 2015 agreement in mind.

28. At the end of the meeting, the facilitator thanked the participants for their active engagement in the meeting and the conversation. He also thanked the Co-Chairs for their constructive collaboration and dialogue with the participants.

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