

## **Reflections on the first part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action**

**Bonn, Germany, 29 April–3 May 2013**

**Note by the Co-Chairs**

*22 May 2013*

### **I. Introduction**

1. On 3 May 2013, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) completed the first part of its second session. We commend Parties for the progress and thank them for their very constructive contributions. During the session, Parties identified practical actions that could be undertaken to bridge the ambition gap and provided details of the main contours and central elements of the 2015 agreement. From Parties interventions, we saw many areas of possible common ground, as well as a desire to build on these when the ADP resumes its second session in Bonn, Germany, in June 2013. The meeting demonstrated that the ADP is on track to achieve the milestones set out at the session in Doha, Qatar, and to fulfil its mandate set out in decision 1/CP.17.

2. In this note, we provide our reflections on the status of the work of the ADP, and identify possible areas where common ground could be further deepened and expanded, as well as areas that may require further discussion with the objective of reaching common ground. This note has been prepared under our own responsibility, and is intended to assist Parties in their preparations for the resumed second session, which will be held from 3 to 14 June 2013 in Bonn, Germany, at the Maritim Hotel.

### **II. Reflections on the first part of the second session of the ADP**

3. At the first part of its second session, the ADP made good progress towards a more focused mode of work. The ADP undertook more specific and detailed work on the main contours and central elements of a 2015 agreement and also on a practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition.

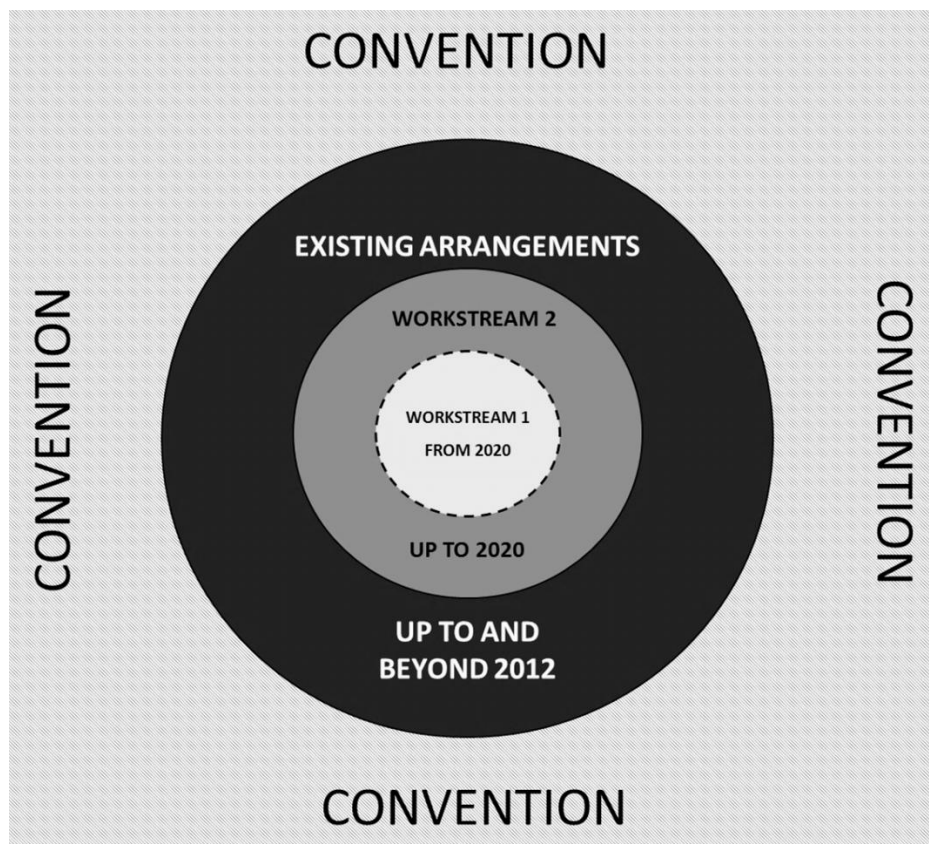
4. We believe that the “big picture” of the work of the ADP is emerging, as demonstrated by the increased clarity regarding the main contours and central elements of the 2015 agreement, and with regard to the approach to increasing ambition.

5. The figure below reflects our understanding of how the work of the ADP relates to the broader efforts to contribute to the objective of the Convention, as well as of the interplay of the different timeframes. It aims to visualize the complementary nature and interconnectedness of the broad components and context which underpin the ADP. It is intended to enhance clarity, trigger further thinking, and assist Parties in their preparations.

6. This figure helps visualize four key notions, namely that:

- (a) The work and results of the ADP are under the Convention;
- (b) The work and results of the ADP will draw upon existing arrangements currently being implemented and are starting to show results;
- (c) Workstream 2 will respond to the need to increase pre-2020 ambition and will inform workstream 1;
- (d) Workstream 1 will respond to the need to clarify post-2020 arrangements.

**Work of the ADP in context**



7. We present our reflections on the status of work of the two workstreams in the sections below.

**A. Workstream 1**

8. With regard to workstream 1, Parties continued to discuss the broad design aspects of the 2015 agreement, further clarifying its contours. Delegates participated in a workshop discussion on the scope, structure, and design of the 2015 agreement, focusing on:

- (a) The design aspects of the 2015 agreement for an ambitious, durable and effective agreement that mobilizes national action;
- (b) How the principles of the Convention will be applied in the 2015 agreement.

9. Parties also engaged in a series of round table discussions to advance and refine issues on adaptation, mitigation, means of implementation (finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building), and transparency of action and support.

10. It is our perception that the discussions revealed possible areas of common ground. We outlined such perceived areas of common ground in the concluding round table meeting, and have included a list of these in annex I to this note. In our view, these areas of common ground enable us to further focus our work.

11. Building on these perceived areas of common ground, we suggest that Parties continue to seek convergence on the main contours and central elements of the 2015 agreement at the session in June 2013 and begin to define those in more detail.

12. In order to ensure fruitful discussions and steady progress, it would be useful to focus our work on topics where differences can be bridged and where common ground can be further enlarged. We therefore suggest that at the session in June, Parties seek to address aspects such as:

(a) The variety of enhanced actions, including commitments and how these could be stimulated and strengthened through international rules to ensure a robust 2015 agreement, and how actions will be supported;

(b) Enhancing adaptation through the 2015 agreement, including ways to strengthen existing institutions, arrangements and support;

(c) Linkages with existing arrangements, including concrete ways on how the 2015 agreement will be linked with existing institutions and how it will build on the technical and methodological foundations of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;

13. As emphasized at the session in April, we stress that enhanced finance, technology and capacity-building support is an essential and integral part of all these discussions and particular attention will be devoted thereto at the session in June.

14. We would also encourage Parties to start considering the core content of the 2015 agreement, as well as the additional functions required for its implementation, including the technical and methodological work that may need to be undertaken after 2015.

## **B. Workstream 2**

15. With regard to workstream 2, Parties worked to build a practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition. In this context, Parties identified and discussed several concrete thematic areas where mitigation potential exists.

16. Parties undertook workshop discussions on:

(a) Low-emission development opportunities;

(b) Opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use.

17. Parties also engaged in a series of round table discussions on:

(a) Ways to catalyse action;

(b) Building on a practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition.

18. It is our perception that the discussions revealed possible areas of common ground. We outlined such perceived areas of common ground in the concluding round table meeting, and have included a list of these in annex II to this note. Similarly to workstream 1, these areas of common ground enable us to further focus our work.

19. It is important to build on the progress achieved during the first part of the second session of the ADP, and to bring more structure to our efforts to identify and explore in 2013 options for a range of actions that can close the pre-2020 ambition gap. To this end, workstream 2 should provide specific results-oriented options for the ADP to realize untapped mitigation potential prior to 2020 and to enhance the ambition of actions and initiatives.

20. At the resumed session in June, Parties will be provided with the first version of the technical paper by the secretariat compiling information on the mitigation benefits of the actions, initiatives and options to enhance mitigation ambition identified in the submissions. Parties may wish to draw upon and suggest improvements to the first version of the technical paper as they continue to engage in identifying specific actions and further activities that the UNFCCC could undertake in order to continue to build momentum towards the 2015 agreement and to contribute to delivering increased pre-2020 ambition.

21. In their submissions, Parties provided views on the topics for further discussion under workstream 2. We suggest that Parties provide their views in the next round of submissions focusing on the areas that are not sufficiently covered in the technical paper on the mitigation benefits of actions, initiatives and options.

22. In terms of concrete areas, we suggest focusing on the thematic areas with high mitigation potential identified in the submissions, with particular focus on the following aspects:

(a) What are the key components of a practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition;

(b) Energy transformation (including scaling up renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency and the consideration of carbon capture and storage);

(c) Shifting investment patterns (attracting climate-friendly investments and enhancing means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building)).

23. A practical and results-oriented approach to increasing pre-2020 ambition could be advanced through identifying concrete outcomes on:

(a) Catalysing action at the national level, including through new and/or enhanced pledges, and addressing barriers;

(b) Enhanced finance, technology, and capacity-building enablement and support;

(c) Recognizing and strengthening international cooperative initiatives, including through enhanced interaction and visibility, the sharing of best practices, and stakeholder engagement;

(d) Building momentum and enhancing political engagement, including through the delivery of policy-relevant outputs, information-sharing and the systematization of technical knowledge.

## **C. General considerations**

24. In accordance with the requirement of decision 1/CP.17 to be informed by, inter alia, Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the outcomes of the 2013-2015 review, and the work of the subsidiary bodies, the ADP was informed by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on work relevant to the ADP at the session in April. We felt that this information was well received. In our view, it would be useful to hold similar briefings in the future on the relevant work of other bodies under the Convention.

25. On 21 May 2013, we issued summaries of the round tables held during the first part of the second session of the ADP, and the facilitators of the workshop discussions issued summary reports on their workshops. We have also made available a summary of the Co-Chairs' special event for observer organizations.<sup>1</sup>

26. In terms of next steps, we suggest continuing our work at round-table discussions and workshops. We are taking steps to maintain balance and to enhance focus. Our concrete suggestions will be reflected in an information note containing suggestions for the organization of the work for the second part of the second session of the ADP, which we will make available soon.

27. Our tenure as Co-Chairs will expire at the end of the June session, and we will hand over our responsibilities to the new Co-Chairs. We will do our utmost in the June session to enable the new Co-Chairs to rapidly begin their work on solid foundations laid already in order to achieve the results desired at the sessions of the Conference of the Parties in Durban and in Doha, and encourage Parties to join us in that effort.

---

<sup>1</sup> The summaries are available at <<http://unfccc.int/7387>>.

Annex I

Perceived areas of common ground on workstream 1

1. The principles of the Convention will apply and need no reinterpretation or further elaboration in the 2015 agreement;
2. Adaptation is a common challenge and an integral part of the 2015 agreement;
3. Adaptation and mitigation are interlinked and priority action is required for both;
4. Enhanced mitigation and adaptation action will continue to be enabled by finance, technology, and capacity-building;
5. All Parties contribute and cooperate, taking into account their national circumstances and guided by the principles of the Convention, to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention;
6. The effective implementation of existing obligations will underpin the 2015 agreement;
7. The 2015 agreement should enable participation by all Parties and ensure environmental effectiveness through:
  - (a) Both enhanced national action and enhanced international cooperative action;
  - (b) A variety of nationally determined enhanced actions under international rules and guided by the principles of the Convention;
  - (c) A process for consulting, assessing and adjusting such actions in light of an assessment of the overall effect of enhanced actions;
  - (d) Transparency and accountability for delivery; and
  - (e) Incentives and support.
8. For a durable agreement, a regular science-based review of the overall progress is needed;
9. The 2015 agreement will link with existing arrangements;
10. The 2015 agreement will draw upon existing arrangements on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and transparency of action and support, as appropriate, and strengthen them where needed.

Annex II

Perceived areas of common ground on workstream 2

1. There are three main approaches to increasing the level of ambition:
  - (a) By increasing the ambition of existing pledges;
  - (b) By increasing the number of countries making pledges;
  - (c) By acknowledging and strengthening complementary initiatives undertaken at various levels.
2. Approaches to increase the ambition of existing pledges include:
  - (a) Encouraging the ratification and implementation of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol;
  - (b) Requesting Parties included in Annex I to the Convention that do not have commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to undertake comparable efforts under the Convention;
  - (c) Removing conditionalities on existing pledges;
  - (d) Encouraging market and non-market based approaches.
3. Approaches to increase the number of Parties making pledges include:
  - (a) Requesting developing countries who have not yet submitted nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMA) to do so with the understanding that the NAMAs could be supported by developed countries.
4. There is a need to acknowledge and encourage action on areas where enhanced cooperation is needed, including through cooperative initiatives, such as:
  - (a) Promoting initiatives to address short-lived climate pollutants;
  - (b) Enabling new mitigation technologies through cooperation and partnerships;
  - (c) Harnessing the significant potential of initiatives at different levels of government including at the community and city levels;
  - (d) Strengthening the cooperation on energy efficiency in all sectors, and also promoting renewable energy;
  - (e) Implementing low-emission development strategies.
5. Factors that can enhance and promote action and achieve transformational change include:
  - (a) Creating the right enabling environment;
  - (b) Having access to means of implementation;
  - (c) Making technologies affordable;
  - (d) Recognizing the co-benefits of action.
6. Barriers which prohibit the implementation of climate change policies include:
  - (a) Insufficient financial and technical support;

- (b) High up-front capital cost;
- (c) Insufficient anchoring of climate change strategies in domestic policies;
- (d) Lack of political engagement.