

Disappointment expressed at informal stocktake at Doha climate talks

Doha, 4 December (Meena Raman and Chee Yoke Ling) – As the second week of the climate talks begin, and ministers begin to arrive, deep divisions remain in key areas of the unprecedented seven tracks of negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

Given the wide divergences, many of the issues especially under the Ad hoc Working Groups under the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC are expected to be forwarded to ministers for further political guidance.

The President of the Conference of Parties (COP), Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, convened an informal stocktake on 3 December evening on the status of work of the negotiations. In his opening remarks, he said the 37th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies closed on Saturday. Although many items were resolved, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies had informed him that there are still some issues that need further work and several of these were forwarded for consideration and finalisation under the Conference of Parties and the COP acting as Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP).

Al-Attiyah urged Parties to look for common ground and solve issues under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) by Thursday (6 December). He also said that some texts from the three Ad Hoc Working Groups (of the Kyoto Protocol, the Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, and the Durban Platform) required further work and that he planned for ministerial outreach this week.

Developing countries expressed strong concerns that developed countries are still not willing to commit to more ambitious greenhouse gases emission reductions or to even have decisions adopted on adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building,

all of which are crucial for an effective and meaningful conclusion of the Bali Roadmap (the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan).

Reports were made by the Chairs of the SBSTA, SBI, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP).

SBSTA

The SBSTA Chair, Richard Muyungi (Tanzania) said that issues forwarded to the COP for further guidance include development and transfer of technology, and methodological issues under Protocol Articles 5, 7 and 8. A report will be made to the Presidency on Tuesday (4 December).

[Two SBSTA issues will be further considered next year: (1) On issues related to agriculture, the SBSTA Chair had ruled that there was no consensus amongst Parties to refer this matter to the COP for further consideration at the next 38th SBSTA session. (2) On the implications of the establishment of new hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22 (HCFC-22) facilities seeking to obtain certified emission reductions for the destruction of hydrofluorocarbon-23 (HFC-23), SBSTA agreed to continue its discussions on this agenda item at its 39th session.

On emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport, the SBSTA took note of the information received from and progress reported by the secretariats of the ICAO and the IMO on their ongoing work on addressing emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport, and noted the views expressed by Parties on this information. SBSTA invited the secretariats of ICAO and IMO to continue to report, at future sessions of the SBSTA, on relevant work on this issue.]

SBI

The SBI Chair, Thomaz Chruszczow (Poland) said Parties were able to successfully close many items for the COP and CMP to adopt. Some issues might need more attention and there is need to make political choices, including national adaptation plans and finalization of implementation of MRV for non-Annex I Parties related to international consultation and analysis. He also said that items for political consideration include loss and damage, and issues related to technology. Discussions will continue in the hope that there will be clarity if ministerial involvement may be needed.

(Discussions continued late into the night, with some continuing till the next morning.)

AWG-KP

The AWG-KP Chair Madeleine Diouf (Senegal) said that in the first week Parties made some progress and a CRP 2 was issued late Saturday evening (1 December), and there was a stocktaking by the Contact Group (on 3 December morning). She expressed firm intention to complete the work of the AWG-KP on Wednesday (5 December). Parties will continue to resolve as much as they can, and it is clear that some issues will need ministers' intervention. She presented an outline of the work over last week. In her assessment, views remain divergent on the length of the second commitment period, quantified emission limitation reduction objectives (QELROs) and ambition level. This issue is critical for an agreed outcome.

On legal continuity from 1 January 2013, the options are fewer and clearer, and convergence may be possible. On operational continuity for Annex 1 Parties in the second commitment period, there are proposals on the table and there is need for time to negotiate. On eligibility to access the flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol for Annex 1 Parties not in the second commitment period, views remain divergent. On the issue of the surplus AAUs (Assigned Amount Units Allowed), proposals are on the table, and this issue is complex and sensitive.

Diouf will issue a revised text on Wednesday (5 December) to reflect on the progress, stressing final delivery in Doha. This text will be a clean text with options for ministers, and she added that the issue on access to flexible mechanisms by Parties who will not take on the second commitment period and the extension of the share of proceeds to other mechanisms need ministerial guidance. Raising the level of ambition may require ministers intervention, she added further.

AWG-LCA

The AWG-LCA Chair Aysar Tayeb presented the status on the different elements and said that at the stocktake he suggested a change of mode of work that looks at all elements and try to see how to make progress for an agreed outcome. Informal consultations were supported by all Parties. He said that he prepared a document on the status of work that included various texts from working groups representing text for negotiations and there were divergent views on the agreed outcome expected. Some parts of the document remain blank. (See accompanying article on this).

He said there is need to identify areas which can help with further work and start drafting text and through further exploration, identify areas where higher political engagement from ministers may be needed.

ADP

The ADP Co-Chair Harald Dovland (Norway) reported that the co-chairs held informal consultations focused on the outcome of work at this session. They have produced an informal note for the consideration of Parties that contains elements of work for the ADP outcome. This seeks to reflect areas of common ground in 2012 for a basis of work in 2013 and beyond. After further consultations and on the basis of rich feedback, they will now make a revision of the note for further consideration on 4 December.

The COP President then said that in response to request for an early outreach to ministers, he has invited 2 ministers – Luiz Figueiredo Machado (Brazil) and Bård Vegar Solhjell (Norway) to hold an informal ministerial outreach process to assist the AWG-KP Chair on discussions related to access to the Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms for Parties not taking commitments under the second commitment period and extending the share of proceeds to the other flexibility mechanisms. He also said that other issues could require further involvement by ministers and he will inform Parties on this later.

Algeria for the **G77 and China** supported the President's approach, stating that any document must take into account concerns of the Group, stressing on adaptation, finance and technology transfer which are crucial for this group.

Nauru for **AOSIS** said that the group's ministers had met to assess the status of negotiations and it was a sobering assessment. Across all tracks they do not see urgency or ambition. The KP Parties have not shown progress, there is no environmental or legal integrity. The LCA text is disappointing with major gaps. The ADP workplan does not include

pre-2020 mitigation ambition which was agreed in Durban and is missing from the co-chairs text. It said that AOSIS will be introducing its own text on 4 December on how to reduce emissions. Finance was missing from Durban and cannot be missing in Doha, stressed AOSIS, and success in Doha needs an ambitious outcome. Doha cannot be the first COP where members will leave with less than what we came with. Nauru also called for the process to be open, transparent and inclusive and hoped that it will not be a take it or leave it text. All Parties must have ownership, it said.

India for the **Like Minded Developing Countries** said the group came to Doha with great expectation, looking for a balanced comprehensive outcome to ensure that the COP in Doha is a success but progress has been a disappointment. On KP here must be a ratifiable and legally binding second commitment period, and a need for an ambitious outcome. A meaningful conclusion of the LCA is one of the main components of the Durban package and we did not extend the LCA (in Durban) to close it without substance. It stressed that adaptation, capacity building, finance and technology transfer are crucial.

Egypt for the **Arab Group** called for a fair deal that has everyone's ownership, stressing that there is no contradiction between ambition and equity, and that equity is the gateway to ambition. It expressed consternation that people call for ambition but it did not see this in the LCA or KP.

Venezuela stressed there are no more excuses for those who have been evading actions and they need to take them now. It said that at the beginning of the second week Parties are heading to a mitigation and market agreement that will enrich developed countries. There is nothing for environmental integrity. The LCA text has nothing on finance, adaptation and technology transfer – text (from the previous Chair's overview paper) has been deleted and there are blank pages. On the other hand, said Venezuela, there are two consultations in less than 24 hours on the market mechanisms.

Referring to the KP, it was concerned that some countries do not respect what we have agreed and decisions made, and added that if some countries do not respect the law, it is difficult for others to respect decisions at the COP. It did not support access to flexibility mechanisms for non-second commitment period Parties saying that this violates the principles of the KP.

Bolivia was concerned that the informal notes produced by facilitators do not consider submissions from some Parties and highlighted the lack of progress to raise the level of mitigation ambition.

Nicaragua wanted to see an ambitious second commitment period and to see the AWG-LCA fulfil completely its mandate under the Bali Action Plan. It is illusory to think that what cannot be agreed in the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA will be able to be agreed in the ADP. On the contrary, it will negatively predispose the ADP negotiation. The only thing that is guaranteed by this approach is the loss of critical time at a decisive juncture in the history of the climate of our planet.

Given that the International Energy Agency has warned that the 1.5 or 2 degree is practically lost and that only the current conversion to natural gas will lead us to a 3.5 degree scenario by 2035, as well as the advice from the World Bank that we are on track for a 4 degree centigrade world with catastrophic consequences for our species, especially for poor countries, it is incongruent and indeed irresponsible to have a lost decade for climate finance.

Nicaragua said that many of us have yet to receive new, additional, and sufficient Initial Fast Start financing and quite obviously none of us have yet to receive Green Climate Fund financing, while the GEF facility is being reduced by US\$590 million, 13.8% of the fund, and there is no road map to lend credibility to the US\$100 thousand million per year beginning in 2020, that we were told in Durban is a goal and not a commitment. There is no new, additional, and sufficient financing foreseen for the period 2013-2019.

Australia for the **Umbrella Group** stressed the issues on eligibility continuation of the KP flexible mechanisms, called for focus in the AWG-LCA, and a Doha outcome that signals that ADP is on track.

The **EU** said it came to deliver on the KP and that it is important to develop a text that is ripe for political decision making. It expects a strong signal that the ADP is on track for a legally binding agreement and to raise the level of ambition. On LCA, it said that the facilitators' texts is not ripe yet and that it is important to work on compromises, and where this is not possible they must deliver clear options for ministers.

The COP President concluded by saying that he intends to complete the work forwarded by the SBs by Tuesday and to close the AWGs on Wednesday.