

**Keynote address Plenary Session 1: Climate Change in Global Context - exchanging perspectives for Cancun
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- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address you today. I am thankful for the organizers for giving the UNFCCC secretariat the chance to speak with you about the status of the negotiations and expectations so shortly before the meeting in Cancun. So if I may start by expressing my gratitude to the government of Kazakhstan and the organizers, not only for this opportunity, but for organizing such an event, which is timely, but as well an important part of the effort toward an international agreement on addressing climate change.

I have been asked to speak about perspectives for the climate change negotiations coming up in Cancun. I will say a few words as to what is needed at Cancun, and beyond, to address the issue. As well, I will say a bit about where we are now - particularly following last week's discussions in Tianjin. And I will close by speaking to the importance of the international climate change negotiation process for Central Asia.

So it has been ten months since the discussions in Copenhagen, and we now have one and half months until the Cancun round of discussions. You can be certain progress has been made and there is optimism for good outcomes from Cancun - but I will come to that a bit later.

First let me say a few words about the perspective for Cancun in terms of what is needed. Or perhaps to say, what are the issues and elements with which the Parties in the process are concerned. Not to come across to optimistic though, we should admit that there are some challenges to achieving the necessary outcomes that will allow us to move forward in the process and not allow it to slow or stall.

The negotiation process must deal with political realities that at times make significant progress difficult, if not sometimes only allowing for incremental progress at best. Parties have to continue to look for means to reach compromises - to look for the give and take opportunities within the negotiations, and given the variety of views and concerns, on the means and priorities being considered, the negotiation process can be tried and tested at times.

However, one can see that progress has been made since adoption of the Bali Action Plan. And since Copenhagen not only has a significant amount of text come forward, through three further negotiating sessions, but developed countries have given some indication of the levels of ambition they want to seek in reducing emissions, and even more telling, is that more than 40 developing countries have come forward with their planned mitigation actions in the context of the Copenhagen Accord. [2min]

So there has been progress, but this said, Cancun needs to accelerate the progress, accelerate the degree of international cooperative actions to address climate change. This can happen by moving toward a number of specific deliverables in Cancun: Specifically:

1. Formalizing the mitigation pledges put forward by Parties and giving clear directions to the negotiations of the arrangements needed to ensure their realization.
2. Putting in place arrangements for the development of a system for the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of action and support.
3. Establishing an adaptation framework and the required institutional arrangements for its implementation.
4. Establishing a New Fund, put in motion its design and put in place arrangements to ensure oversight over financial flows and the mobilization of long-term finance.
5. Putting in place the infrastructure needed to deliver financial, technological and capacity building support to action on adaptation and mitigation, including a registry for nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) seeking support.
6. Agreeing on a long-term global goal and a process to review progress towards meeting that goal in light of scientific information on climate change impacts, technological advances and fairness.
7. Launch the readiness phase of a mechanism for REDD+ (deforestation and forest degradation).

Making progress on these elements in Cancun could put in motion the necessary institutional developments and the modalities of implementation required - and this could put on track the work for mitigation frameworks and the required long-term financing. Working toward achievement of such deliverables at Cancun is reasonable, Parties do want to make progress in these terms.

So are we on track though? Should we remain optimistic? YES.

Last week's negotiations in Tianjin moved the process ahead, in terms of substance and understanding. Of course in some areas new text emerged or text were improved, and in other areas there were no changes to the existing negotiating text. However, this doesn't mean progress wasn't made, Parties continued to have rather frank discussions and positions were further clarified - which is crucial in the run-up to Cancun, as the give and take I referred to earlier needs to happen. So the discussions last week, and throughout the year, have helped move the negotiations along, not always as fast as some may have liked, but in a way that has put us in a position to allow Cancun to deliver an outcome that accelerates us toward a post Kyoto agreement on climate change.

So given this, the process may be on the verge of being able to agree on a set of decisions in Cancun that will allow us all to start operationalizing the aspects that I referred to earlier, such as:

- o an adaptation framework;
- o a technology mechanism and capacity-building arrangements;
- o a new fund to house long-term climate financing;
- o the launch of a readiness phase for REDD Plus

But as indicated a few minutes ago, views vary on the degree of concern over, or level of interest in, the different aspects, or simply in terms of priorities around the aspects, thus it may not be possible to agree on all the details of these elements; however, there seems to be agreement on the need for these elements to be elaborated to a comparable level of detail.

As you may be aware, and have seen through the negotiating sessions over the last year, advancing on the operational issues is likely to depend on advancing on the clarity of fast start finance and some agreement on the more politically charged issues such as:

- The future of the Kyoto Protocol, specifically how to take commitments forward;
- The formalization of mitigation pledges put forward by Parties in 2010 and the accompanying accountability for their implementation;
- The mobilization of long-term financing and the accompanying accountability of its delivery;
- Response measures; and
- The understanding of fairness that will guide long-term mitigation efforts.

Before concluding, let me also draw attention to why Central Asia is crucial to the process and the outcomes crucial to Central Asia.

Two of the most important issues for the region are clearly linked to the impacts and mitigation of climate change - these are availability of water resources and energy security and development. In terms of mitigation, tackling climate change is a challenge of course, but one that offers opportunities for Central Asian countries if the right international and national policies are pursued, and take into account issues such as those around natural resources just mentioned. Central Asia needs to work toward global agreements that will allow its participation and involvement to take place in a way that helps it to affectively integrate climate change considerations into its major economic, energy and development strategies and policies, while continuing to move forward in national legislation and

regulatory frameworks that could help to anchor the opportunities addressing the climate change issue can provide.

For example, although Central Asian countries have been slower than other Parties to the process to take up the opportunities for mitigation and development offered by the Kyoto Protocol project-based mechanisms, we are now seeing growing interest and the identification of significant opportunities for mitigation in Central Asia. What comes after the Kyoto Protocol, for example, new mechanisms being discussed in addition to CDM and JI, could offer significant mitigation opportunities given that the potential exist. The discussions on NAMAs underway in the process, and to be discussed here, are another opportunity that could significantly advance climate change mitigation efforts for some countries of Central Asia. Finally, let us not forget adaptation is also necessary. Central Asia has to work with the international process and partners as well to ensure its adaptation needs are adequately addressed.

Let me stop at that and just say I look forward to the discussions over the next two days. And again thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

Thank you.
