

ADP co-chairs propose draft text on ‘intended nationally determined contributions’

Bonn, 6 June (Meena Raman) – The Co-chairs of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), issued a draft text for decision on the “communication of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) of Parties in the context of the 2015 agreement”.

The draft text by the Co-chairs was made available to Parties after the contact group was convened for the first time, morning of June 5, at the Bonn climate talks. Many Parties were caught by complete surprise and were seen making a bee-line to the documents centre to get hold of the document.

The ADP contact group was convened by its Co-chairs, Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and Artur Runge-Metzger (EU), and met briefly for about an hour, as Parties were told by the Co-chairs to head to another hall where a ministerial roundtable on the Kyoto Protocol commitments was about to begin. The Co-chairs just briefed Parties and did not open the floor for comments or reactions.

When the contact group met, Runge-Metzger informed Parties that dedicated meetings will be held on the 2015 agreement, the INDCs, and the pre-2020 ambition. He said that there would be a stocktaking meeting sometime next week. He then invited Kumarsingh to inform Parties on how the Co-chairs saw the pre-2020 ambition unfolding.

Prior to speaking about the INDCs, Kumarsingh first briefed Parties on the pre-2020 ambition (see below for more details).

In reference to the INDCs, he said that they have to be communicated well in advance by the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties (in Paris in 2015). Referring to the information on

the INDCs, he said there was a wealth of material in the submissions of Parties as well as from the rich discussions held previously. The discussions, he said, revealed much thoughts and ideas on what the information should contain, how they should be structured and communicated.

To aid Parties in the negotiations, Kumarsingh said the Co-chairs had a draft decision on INDCs and “this draft is our offering to provide the basic starting point in the contact group”.

He said the document will be made available after the meeting and the Co-chairs did not expect reactions now and will give Parties sufficient time next week to discuss the draft as well as the scope of the INDCs and process related matters.

He then gave an overview of the proposed decision. Kumarsingh explained that the decision recalled the context and mandate of the decision and speaks to the general objectives of the information, without prejudice to the legal nature of the INDCs. It presents proposals on the specific content of the information. It also proposes communication of the INDCs and possible requests to the UNFCCC secretariat on how the information should be made available and also calls for support to developing countries for the preparation of their INDCs.

On what is to be done on the INDCs, Kumarsingh said that the information communicated by Parties will have to be considered at some stage and this aspect required further clarification. The proposed decision has a request for the consideration of the INDCs. He reiterated that the issue of the INDCs will be considered in the second week (of the current Bonn session).

On the pre-2020 ambition, he reminded Parties about a forum to be held on “experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities” and two technical expert meetings (TEMs) on “urban environment” and “land use”. He said formal negotiations are conducted in the contact group. In the context of the pre-2020 ambition, he said Parties need to look at the progress on the TEMs and to see how to take the work plan forward. He said further that Parties may want to raise “wider issues” on the pre-2020 ambition as well.

On the outcome for COP 20 in Lima (end of the year), Kumarsingh said the Co-chairs will give Parties some “homework” in addressing those issues and outlined the following: in recognising progress on the pre-2020 ambition, one question was on how the COP will be informed about progress from the TEMs and how this is recognised and given higher visibility; what action the COP should take in relation to the institutions in the UNFCCC and what support they can provide from the policy menus; and what activities would be carried out under the work plan for enhancing mitigation ambition to scale up action in 2015.

He also asked if the TEMs should be continued next year and if they have value. Kumarsingh also said that the mandate of the ADP expires in Paris next year; thus the work under workstream 2 will also end. He said Parties may want to consider this on what the COP will have to do in Lima. He then went on to talk about the INDCs as mentioned above.

On the 2015 agreement, Runge-Metzger said that the Co-chairs foresaw the need to work on all

the elements. He said there is need to “go element by element” and to go deeper in the elaboration. He stressed the need for more clarity on the matters that had convergence and those that were divergent. He said that from the clarity of ideas, a draft negotiating text can be built. He added that certain things could be synthesised and there was need to distinguish central choices that can be made, and to identify politically significant options.

Referring to the Co-chairs’ reflections note, which had a ‘landscape of issues identified by Parties’, Runge-Metzger said that the material may help as a tool and Parties need not shy away from the hard issues.

He also referred to a diagram on the process steps relating to the communicating of the INDCs. He referred to an *ex ante* process for considering the INDCs in light of ambition, equity and fairness; adjustments made to the contributions; and the notion of the formalisation or finalisation of the contributions. He said the INDCs have to be captured and reflected somewhere and this needed a collective discussion. He added that a number of Parties had referred to a review that will feed into new or additional contributions.

Runge-Metzger later informed Parties that the contact group will meet again on 7 June and will start with the element of adaptation. The meeting ended with no opportunity for reactions.