

COP/CMP: Many decisions reached, focus grows on 2015 agreement

Lima, 9 Dec (Hilary Chiew*) – The second week of the climate talks is expected to be intense with the focus on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) tasked to develop an agreement by 2015.

The President of the 20th session of the Conference to the Parties (COP 20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 10th session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10) convened a stock-taking plenary on 8 December at 7 pm.

COP President Manuel Pulgar-Vidal said during the first week, we have witnessed strong collective effort towards a successful outcome that we can all call our own which he described as ‘the Lima Spirit’. He said the progress should inspire us to obtain the outcome the world is expecting from us.

The objective of the stocktake, he added, is to ensure full openness where he would inform Parties of the status of work.

He assured Parties that he has been working closely with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies (SBSTA and SBI), the co-chairs of the ADP and facilitators of (agenda items) of the COP and CMP. He will call upon the chairs to update Parties on the status of work for the coming days to ensure effective use of the remaining time leading to a timely closure of the conference.

On COP and CMP issues, Pulgar-Vidal said all agenda items had been launched successfully.

On the Green Climate Fund (GCF), he was glad to report that over the last week, additional pledges were received that brings the amount to US\$ 9.95

billion. He said the first biennial assessment of the climate finance flow as reported by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) represented a milestone for the UNFCCC as it provided the picture of climate finance flow and how it relates to the objective of the Convention. He said Parties continued to engage constructively on several matters related to finance.

He stressed that the two high-level ministerial dialogues taking place this week will further inject energy into our discussion and urged for active participation of ministers.

(After the ministerial high level segment opening in the morning of 9 December, ministers are scheduled to attend the Ministerial Dialogue on Finance in the afternoon of 9 December while the Ministerial Dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will take place in the afternoon of 10 December.)

He also noted that the total number of ratifications to the Doha Amendment (on the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol) now stood at 21 countries and he urged more Parties to ratify quickly.

On the CMP agenda item that is related to the Doha Amendment, Pulgar-Vidal said the informal consultation conducted by himself on the *Report on the high-level ministerial roundtable on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments* saw fruitful exchange of views and Parties are seeking to find common way forward. (See TWN Lima News Update No. 14 for details: *No agreement on “revisit mechanism” contact group to increase Annex I ambition*)

http://twm.my/title2/climate/news/lima01/TWN_update14.pdf

He said Parties can expect results on most COP and CMP agenda items by 10 December.

Pulgar-Vidal also noted that the first part of the multilateral assessment involving 17 countries in Annex I (developed countries) undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) was concluded a while ago (8 December), showing that the principle of openness and transparency were upheld.

However, he also informed that there are a few items of the SBI and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) that were referred to the COP and CMP. He had appointed the chairs of SBI and SBSTA to conduct consultations.

SBSTA chair Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini (Swaziland) said he would characterise progress in SBSTA in three categories: success, challenges and regrets.

For success, he said he is pleased that SBSTA 41 has concluded its work in a timely manner that he had received feedback that SBSTA has helped Parties to focus on issues of importance.

The challenges, he said, were with the consultation on the work programme on the revision of the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national inventory reviews, for developed country Parties; and Implications of the implementation of decisions 2/CMP.7 to 4/CMP.7 and 1/CMP.8 on the previous decisions on methodological issues related to the Kyoto Protocol, including those relating to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol.

On the first item, he said Parties were able to work constructively but the amount of technical work is huge with 20 paragraphs still in brackets. But the group is working hard and aims to complete the work.

On the second item, he said Parties appeared to be willing to agree to a compromised text but some Parties need to consult further before a final agreement and he is hopeful to conclude in the morning (of 9 December).

The challenges also referred to the two joint agenda items with SBI which are the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, and the forum and work programme of the impacts of implementation of response measures.

Dlamini said as SBI's chair Amena Yauvoli (Fiji) was busy with the multilateral assessment, he (Dlamini) conducted the work on his behalf. On loss and damage, he said Parties are committed to conclude the issue and would be meeting one more time to conclude the outstanding issues. For response measures, he said Parties are also committed to conclude and are having discussions among themselves. He noted that the issue remains complex and difficult but is still hopeful that the issue can be concluded.

For all these agenda items, the deadline is noon of 9 December.

As for the regrets, Dlamini said a few agenda items were not able to be concluded here despite many Parties being very devoted to do so and they would be taken up at the next SBSTA session (in 2015).

SBI chair Amena Yauvoli (Fiji) said Parties concluded substantive work on Friday (5 December) and allowed Parties to agree on critical texts that paved the way for enhanced actions.

He said excellent work was achieved in the work on adaptation with the 'adaptation package' focusing on making progress in National Adaptation Plans where a draft decision will be forwarded for adoption of the COP. He said progress was also made on several other issues.

He was delighted to report on the work of the first working group session of the Multilateral Assessment. He said Parties engaged actively and the atmosphere been constructive and positive. Developed countries demonstrated that they are on track to meet their 2020 targets and are ready to implement new measures. He also said the process demonstrated the robustness of the transparency framework and sets the solid foundation for the 2015 agreement.

ADP Co-chair Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) reported that the ADP stocktake on Saturday (6 December) agreed to update the draft decision tabled last week with the proposals that Parties put forward and integrated those proposals

which we tabled this morning, as well as an elements paper (on the 2015 agreement). “Parties have started line-by-line negotiations. Parties have started giving textual paragraphs and we were able to consider the preambular paragraphs. We hope to continue parallel negotiations on the elements text,” he said. The first round of Parties’ reflection on five different sections was still pending (this was done after the stocktake). Kumarsingh added that he and his Co-chair Artur Runge-Metzger hoped Parties will use the time effectively and conclude discussions on the draft decision and the elements paper by the deadline, which is Thursday, 11 December. Pulgar-Vidal also urged Parties to work in a transparent and efficient manner and give priority to the mandate in Lima.

Earlier in the day, Runge-Metzger had told Parties that new documents had been prepared. “Improved elements for a draft negotiating text based on your very focused discussion and the specific textual inputs you have provided on the draft of the 11 November 2014 has been made available. This document attempts to reflect your work. It builds on constructive engagement and provides more clarity. Parties should focus on convergence and that should

lead in the longer-term for a compromise if you have the right courage for that”, he had said. He added that the “improved draft decision” was based on extensive range of inputs which Parties had provided. “The draft decision reflects the core synthesis that addresses all aspects of our mandate.”

“Apart from the texts, there was one theme that was recurring in negotiations on a number of areas in both the documents. That theme is differentiation. There was a call for a crosscutting discussion. We hope your ministers can address this highly sensitive issue on Wednesday, 10 December. We have mentioned this to the COP President in having a political exchange on differentiation,” said Runge-Metzger.

In closing, Pulgar-Vidal urged Parties to continue working in a transparent manner and prioritise the work according to the mandate, adding that the ADP has to close on Thursday by building convergence and seek for a compromised outcome. He said as this is a stocktake, he did not intend to take statement from Parties.

(* With additional input from Indrajit Bose.)