

Ministerial round table for ambition under Kyoto Protocol in June 2014

Warsaw, 18 Nov (Dale Wen) – On 15 November, the UNFCCC secretariat at a ‘special event’ gave a briefing ‘on arrangements for the June 2014 high-level ministerial round table on ambition under the Kyoto Protocol’ during the Warsaw climate talks.

The secretariat emphasized that the proposed ideas are only initial thoughts. The secretariat proposed the following timeline:

1. January 2014: recall the request to relevant Parties to provide submissions;
2. March: official notification on Subsidiary Body sessions, requesting ministers to register for the ministerial round table;
3. 30 April: deadline for submissions;
4. Mid-May: the secretariat to compile the submissions, and issue a MISC document;
5. June 4-15: the high-level ministerial round table to be part of the Bonn session of the subsidiary bodies;
6. October: the secretariat to issue report of the round table
7. December: the report to be considered in Lima, Peru (at COP 20).

As per decision 1/CMP.8 (paragraphs 9-11), the submissions are to be provided by those Parties who have undertaken commitments under the Kyoto Protocol’s second commitment period.

The submissions should contain the intention of each party to increase the ambition of its commitment, including the following three elements:

- Progress made towards achieving its

quantified emission limitation and reduction commitment;

- The most recently updated projection of greenhouse gas emissions under the second commitment period; and
- The potential to increase ambition.

The high-level ministerial round table should happen in the early part of the SB sessions. It will be a whole day event, open to all Parties and observers, and will be webcasted. The meeting will happen in a large plenary room, to make enough room for everyone who wants to attend. The roundtable will start with a presentation of the submissions, followed by an open discussion. The secretariat welcomed Parties’ input regarding what format will be useful.

Regarding the financial implications for the roundtable, the secretariat said that this is under assessment. The initial implication is that funding is limited because most of the budget has to come from the existing June session budget. It may need to raise more money for the roundtable.

Fiji, representing G77 and China, thanked the secretariat for arranging the briefing as the Group had requested for this. It said the briefing is informative and it takes note that it is preliminary in nature.

Marshall Islands for AOSIS said that the ministerial round table is extremely important for **AOSIS**, given the timeline of the second commitment period, to have the opportunity to reflect on the level of ambition and the ability of Parties to go beyond the inadequate commitments they have made so far. This is central for AOSIS. It expects that the information from the Parties

will be very detailed. Given the rationale of the meeting, it would like to see a strong focus on the potential to increase ambition. It had some concerns that the open plenary format might not allow the type of interactive exchanges to allow Parties to get to the bottom of questions they may have regarding the progress towards meeting commitments, and the potential to move beyond them. It might be worth to have further thinking and have informal consultations with the Parties regarding the format. There should be a balance in

terms of a very focused ministerial discussion, as well as a discussion in a very open format. As the roundtable ministers' registration is open to all Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, AOSIS inquired whether the financial implication depends on the level of interest by the ministers.

The **European Union** said that the secretariat proposal is setting a robust way forward. It especially values the transparency and hopes Parties will have a focused discussion in the setting.