



Berlin, 13. – 15. July 2014

Petersberg
Petersberger Climate Dialogue V
Klimadialog V

Addressing the urgency –
stepping up our contributions

Co-chairs' conclusions

Berlin, 15th July 2014

On 14-15 July 2014, about 35 Ministers and their representatives, the Co-Chairs of the ADP, as well as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, met in Berlin at the invitation of the governments of Peru and Germany. In an informal setting Ministers discussed how to accelerate progress in the UN climate negotiations and how to enhance climate action in their respective countries. Chancellor Merkel called on Ministers to take immediate and bold action and stressed that all countries need to act. President Humala underlined in his speech Peru's commitment to national climate action and to securing a successful outcome to COP20 in Lima. The main messages from the ministerial discussions are summarized below in a non-exhaustive manner.

Broadening the consensus on the 2015 climate agreement

Ministers acknowledged the need to accelerate work in 2014 on developing clear and concise elements of a draft negotiating text. The useful work so far had led to an increasing consensus that a number of elements needed to be balanced out in the final outcome, specifically: a clear signal that states intend to keep temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius or even 1.5 degrees Celsius by taking ambitious, equitable mitigation action and, as some suggested, by setting goals to decarbonize their economies in the long-term; improvement of resilience through national and collective actions on adaptation and loss and damage that strengthen existing institutional arrangements; reinforcement of the means of implementation (specifically finance, technology and capacity building) for promoting low-carbon and climate resilient development; and the provision of sufficient transparency to ensure both collective and individual ambition is sufficient, fair and appropriate. There was a broad understanding that the issues that would especially require political attention would most likely include the legal form of the agreement, differentiation, means of implementation and ambition.

Preparing the ground for national contributions and commitments

Ministers reinforced the importance of the Warsaw decisions, in particular that all states should prepare intended nationally determined contributions and submit these well before Paris and, by those states ready to do so, by the end of the first quarter of 2015. It was acknowledged that this timetable represented a challenge for many states. There was nonetheless collective understanding that, for a successful outcome in Paris, it was important that major economies should meet this deadline.

Ministers emphasized the importance of the need to communicate contributions internationally in a transparent, clear and understandable manner. It was therefore essential that states agree at COP 20 in Lima the information that will be required to submit with their contributions. This was

necessary to promote mutual understanding and trust, to ensure comparability of effort and to allow actions to be aggregated.

It was underlined that there was a need for contributions in aggregate to meet the overall ambition of maintaining temperature increase below 2°C. In order to ensure this happens, some Ministers acknowledged that a process for collectively considering intended nationally determined contributions was necessary. There was consensus that this process should be facilitative rather than punitive.

It was widely accepted that mitigation should be the principal part of every state's contribution. It was recognized however that efforts in the area of adaptation and means of implementation should also be reflected in the context of the 2015 agreement. It was also acknowledged that states will aim at reflecting the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the type and scope of their contributions.

Mobilising more ambitious action before 2020

Many Ministers once again emphasized the positive effects of implementing progressive climate policy, both for mitigation and adaptation, including through the impacts on economic growth, employment and competitiveness. Insights into work on the upcoming "New Climate Economy" report, presented by the Chairman of the "Global Commission on the Economy and Climate" and former President Felipe Calderón helped strengthen this evidence. It was acknowledged however that the gap was growing between intended actions and those required to meet the long-term climate goal of limiting global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius.

Ministers considered how this gap might be closed. Several speakers recalled the importance of fulfilling the existing obligations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Ministers also undertook to improve international cooperation in a number of areas such as fossil fuel subsidies, forestry, HFC and carbon pricing. The need for enhanced financial support was emphasized by many speakers.

Ministers also underlined the importance of political support at the highest level for mobilizing more climate ambition. In this regard, they saw an important role for the summit of leaders which the UN Secretary General will host in New York on 23 September. Ministers expressed the hope that this would help mobilise further cross-border climate initiatives that could be launched by COP 20 in Lima.

Considering possible deliverables for COP 20 in Lima

Ministers highlighted the importance of making tangible progress by and at COP 20 in Lima. Lima must fulfil the task of laying the political, substantive and procedural foundations for success in Paris. With a view to the agreement in Paris, Ministers identified two key deliverables for Lima, namely development of balanced, clear and coherent elements of a text for the 2015 agreement and a decision on the up-front information that needs to accompany presentation of national contributions so that they are clear, transparent and understandable. Ministers also acknowledged the importance for Lima of determining how contributions can be collectively considered after their communication to ensure they reflect a sufficient level of ambition.

Ministers further acknowledged that Lima also has an important role in making specific progress on concrete initiatives to step-up pre-2020 climate ambition and capture this progress in a decision. It should also continue the work of previous COP meetings in furthering implementation of existing decisions, particularly in the areas of finance, adaptation, loss and damage, REDD+, technology and capacity-building.

There was also a wide call for a substantive initial resource mobilization of the Green Climate Fund. The announcement of Germany's envisaged contribution as well as the announcement by others were acknowledged by many ministers.

Ministers also recognized the important political role of COP 20 in Lima for generating high level political momentum. Ministers should ensure in preparation for Lima and in communication of its outcomes that the gravity of urgent action on tackling climate change and the positive impacts of progressive climate action are clearly and consistently represented.