

Transcript of the speech delivered by H.E. Mr Aziz Mekouar
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Thank you very much your Excellency

Thank you very much for inviting me to this ACP meeting. I first would like to thank you very much for being here and as I was telling my friend from the UNFCCC, I am on the listening mode, nonetheless, because I have just started, and I think that the wise way is to listen to what everybody would like to see come out from COP22.

I have been already talking to many of my colleagues - I went to Turkey, I went to Washington, I was in Paris at the OECD meeting, in Tokyo we had a meeting, an informal meeting organised by Brazil and Japan with the chief negotiators of the main groups and [...] hearing and talking to these colleagues, some of them talked about the COP22, that it should be a COP for solutions. And I think that the COP22 should be a COP for action. So let's call COP 22 a COP for solutions and actions.

The Paris Agreement was a remarkable turning point for climate actions, sending clear signals far and wide that leaders and governments, businesses and civil society have been calling for and setting in motion tremendous momentum toward a low gas emission and a climate resilient world. But we all know that Paris was just a start. 2016 is the year to continue to build on that momentum. This year is about action and implementation and we want COP22 to be the action COP. Though the COP itself and the process leading up to it, need to demonstrate our collective commitment to the action, for all of us to get to realize the ambition of Paris and the Paris agreement. We have some challenges ahead and also real opportunities that we should seize together. What are the key tasks ahead of us and how we would get there?

I will identify 4 key areas for us to address.

First, leaders will come to New York on April 22 to sign the Agreement so that we have an important opportunity to begin making progress on ratification of the Agreement. As you know for entering into force, ratification will need to reflect both of wide range of parties and a large proportion of global emissions. Early entry into force of the Agreement will send a positive signal of our continuing commitment to implementation and action.

I would like to congratulate Fiji for its inspiring decision to ratify the Agreement - the first country to do so. We also want to share our deepest concern and sympathy with Fiji as it deals with the catastrophic aftermath of Cyclone Winston, the largest cyclone in the history of the

Southern hemisphere. Clearly Fiji in this sense [knows] all too well the absolute necessity of the Paris Agreement and strong climate action. Fiji can serve as our moral guide [...] in the coming months.

The [UN] Secretary General has asked leaders to share their plans for ratification at the signature ceremony in New York and I will make a request that all of you speak with your leaders and urge their early action on ratification.

Second, we will need to make substantial progress this year to actually carry out the Paris Agreement. We have a strong framework in place, one that is universal, durable, dynamic, and fair, and now can get to work on putting in place the critical details so that the framework fulfils its purpose of facilitating and catalysing action.

Before COP22 we can make that progress by identifying clear options and the road map for consolidating the rules base regime, especially on transparency and the mechanism to raise ambition. We will need to begin backing and clarifying key issues, such as how to integrate common approach for transparency, with flexibility for developing countries that need it. We also need to make progress on defining how the process and facilitative dialogue of taking stock to 2018 will take place. This is also a moment to achieve greater clarity on some key finances issues, including the road map to 100 billion dollars. This should be developed in dialogue with developing country parties, namely the African continent, the Small Islands and all the rest of the developing countries and there is a particular need for clarity on the adaptations for finance, [...] does not deliver quantitative adaptations finance targets. But the need to significantly increase the adaptation finance was emphasised in the outcome, and a quantified adaptation finance goal could be considered this year.

We also have an opportunity to put into place the enabling condition for effective climate action. Capacity-building is a prerequisite to enable the realisation of the journey that we have all embarked on together in Paris. And I cannot stress more that capacity-building is a very important part of what we are doing. We know that many of us do not have yet the capabilities to participate to their fullest. To ensure the Paris Agreement is a fair agreement, we must invest in early capacity building actions to build foundation for ambition.

The Paris Agreement has elevated this issue but it needs to be supported by concrete commitments to increase support for capacity building in developing countries and help them to build the domestic conditions for action, including finance readiness and developing bankable project through effective and robust MRV systems (measurement, reporting and verification) and with governance and institutional frameworks. At COP22, on capacity building, parties will agree on the terms of reference for the Paris Committee on the Capacity Building so it can start work as soon as possible. Progress can also be made on the establishment of the capacity building initiative for transparency which will be funded by the GEF and we should welcome any complementary initiative supporting the Paris Agreement objectives.

Given the growing and the increasing devastating impact of climate change, we also need to demonstrate our commitment addressing the issue of loss and damage that was a key part of Paris outcome. The review of the VARSA international mechanism for loss and damage will be completed by COP22.

Third, we will need to continue to increase pre-2020 action, including beginning effective and ambitious implementation of INDCs. These actions should be taken in the context of long term goals of both mitigation and adaptation that we adopted in Paris. What we need are climate bifocals, so that we keep in sight those are the long terms objectives we have, including keeping temperature rise well below 2 degrees centigrade and pursuing effort to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees, are the urgent actions we need to take now. We should focus on raising ambition and ensuring implementation pre-2020 period, through progress on the many important initiatives launched or reinforced in Paris. The three high level ministerial dialogues scheduled for COP22 will be a key moment to do this.

Our focus should include the major initiatives involving parties, including Mission Innovation, the International Solar Alliance and the African Renewable Energy initiative and of course other initiatives. And it must highlight the many initiatives by non-state actors including businesses, cities and other sub-national governments. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda will continue to be a critically important platform to motivate and galvanise action. A new stream of technical expert meetings including new efforts around adaptation will be expected during 2016.

COP22 can help shape how the results of the meetings can be implemented and inform other bodies, including on finances as well as future processes such as the facilitative dialogue in 2018. And we want COP22 to be a moment to highlight the actions that many countries are already taking, including ones who implement their INDCs. Morocco is proud of the concentrated solid power plant, the world's largest, that we have just launched. We hope others will join us in letting the world know about the actions that are underway way with tremendous benefit not only for climate change but also for our economies and societies.

For us, this is the year for the opportunity to continue building political momentum internationally. This begins most importantly, with the signature ceremony in April and there are many key moments after that. This includes the 2016 Climate Actions Summit in Washington in May, the Clean Energy ministerial in June, the G7 and G20, and critical decision points in the Montreal Protocol of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

In sum, 2016 is the year for us to continue our forward progress to pick up our shovels and begin to work on making the transformational ambition of the Paris Agreement a reality. I will be very happy to listen to your comments and also your ideas about what we should be doing in Marrakech and what the outcome of Marrakech should be. As I said I am in listening mode; this is very important for us and we have to come out from Marrakech with a very strong action plan with concrete and tangible outcomes.

Thank you