



Berlin, 6. – 7. Mai 2013

## Co-chairs' conclusions

Berlin, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

On 6-7 May 2013, 35 Ministers and their representatives, the Co-Chairs of the ADP, as well as a high-level representative of the UNFCCC Secretariat, met in Berlin at the invitation of the governments of Poland and Germany. In an informal setting Ministers discussed how to make 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. The main messages from the discussion are summarized below in a non-exhaustive manner.

### *Rising to the challenge of climate change*

The Ministers highlighted multiple economic opportunities associated with a transition towards a low greenhouse gas emitting and green economy such as job creation, health benefits and innovation. They emphasized the importance of the transformational nature of actions taken and highlighted that change must take place not only with respect to the production but also to the consumption patterns.

At the same time, Ministers noted with great concern that the action currently planned is not enough to limit temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius. In order to do that, all countries must inspire and enable urgently more climate action, collectively and individually, with developed countries taking the lead. Several Ministers pointed to the summit in 2014, announced by the UN Secretary-General, as an important milestone in this regard. The Ministers noted that pre2020 mitigation ambition is inextricably linked with the shape of the 2015 agreement.

Ministers stressed that adaptation is of utmost importance and that balance should be maintained between adaptation and mitigation. Ministers acknowledged ongoing activities on adaptation and mitigation in many countries. Many Ministers also noted that poverty eradication and ensuring a decent life standard is an overriding priority in the context of climate action.

Ministers recognized that international cooperative initiatives, such as on short-lived climate pollutants, energy efficiency, renewable energy, REDD+, mitigation and MRV and F-gases have significant mitigation potential and can consequently contribute to the closure of the mitigation gap. These initiatives could be better recognized within the UN process, as they could be an important complement to existing 2020 pledges. At the same time the Ministers emphasized the central role of the UNFCCC process in the way forward.

Ministers stressed that without engagement from the general public and their acceptance for practical solutions proposed, the impetus behind more climate action will be lost and successful implementation will fail. They noticed that there are many ways to directly engage constituencies. Awareness raising on action undertaken around the globe is key. Proactive communication with the public is therefore essential.

The Ministers presented actions taken in their respective countries and recognized that provision of means of implementation intensifies developing countries' concrete mitigation actions. This needs to be complemented by financial assistance for adaptation in particular in the most vulnerable and least developed countries.

The Ministers recognized the key role of other stakeholders in the process, in particular highlighting the potential that stems from engagement of the cities, business, industry and civil society.

#### *Incentivizing action by the private sector*

Ministers emphasized that long-term, stable and reliable policy signals are essential to drive investments. It was stressed that many private sector actors are ready to take steps and would do so more expeditiously provided that the governments ensure long term certainty for investment.

They recognized that in addition to government action, private sector involvement – in climate financing as well as in the implementation of climate action – is key for the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Ministers agreed that while there is no standard recipe, public policies can and should play a central role in stimulating private sector engagement. This is applicable to the majority of countries. It is also fundamental in establishing a favourable policy environment for climate-related investments that are complemented by price-related incentives.

#### *Designing an ambitious, fair and effective 2015 climate agreement*

With regards to the 2015 agreement, Ministers were clear that a design based on the lowest common denominator will not be sufficient. On the contrary, they stressed that the new agreement should contain strong incentives for bold action and innovative ways of generating a race to the top in delivering climate action.

Ministers also discussed how to reflect and decide about the variety of commitments in the new agreement in a fair way and pointed out that this should be done in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into account the dynamic nature of the climate challenge and of responsibilities, capabilities and national circumstances. Ministers concurred that those Parties with the greatest responsibilities and capabilities were expected to take on the most ambitious mitigation commitments.

A great number of Ministers stressed the importance of providing transparency on the implementation of actions. Some Ministers put forward the position that all Parties should have legally binding mitigation commitments in the new agreement. Many Ministers underlined that commitments, in a first step, should be nationally determined and that subsequently their consistency should be checked against the goal of keeping temperature increase below 2°C.

#### *Making COP19 in Warsaw an important milestone in reaching our long-term goals*

Ministers also discussed the role of the UN climate conference in Warsaw that takes place in November 2013. They noted that negotiations on a new agreement are intended to reach a conclusion in 2015, but proposed that elements and functions of the agreement should be clarified by early 2014 and that the draft text of the agreement should be ready by March 2015.

Warsaw was confirmed to be an important milestone on the way to 2015. It is in Warsaw that Parties will lay foundation that would support both, structure and functions of the global agreement. Ministers concluded that COP 19 should deliver in areas of confidence building, and implementation of decisions taken up to date. It should further advance definition of the functions, the structure and nature of the

2015 deal, which is fair, ambitious, comprehensive and transparent in its application. COP 19 needs to build a better understanding of how mitigation actions can be accelerated and increased in the course of 2014 and how support can be mobilized towards implementation of existing commitments.

Ministers also emphasized that COP19 is a unique opportunity to showcase many initiatives that are already underway around the world on adaptation and mitigation. It is also the time to involve cities, industry and business community in order to increase effectiveness of climate action. That involvement should result in establishing a forum for participation of all stakeholders in fighting climate change. Ministers invited the incoming COP Presidency to consider in an innovative way how COP 19 might be used for this purpose. Ministers concluded that their personal engagement was also necessary at all stages to deliver the expected results and that it would be crucial to focus discussions on a manageable number of key issues.