



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY H.E AMB. DR. JOHN W. ASHE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE UNFCCC COP14/CMP4 (Poznan, Poland, 11 December 2008)

Mr. President of the COP
Executive Secretary
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salutations.

Mr. President,

We are one year and 4 meetings from our Bali meeting. In Bali we "resolved to enhance implementation of the Convention" and to that end "we decided to launch a comprehensive process, to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision at our fifteenth session".

The Bali decision and the Action Plan were reached against the backdrop of, inter alia:

- (1) the Fourth IPCC Report which, undoubtedly contributed to its winning the Nobel Prize, but put beyond doubt the fact of serious climate change, perhaps beyond reversal and the role of human beings in accelerating the change;
- (2) the fact the Greenhouse Gas emissions of Annex I Parties continued to increase after 2000, when under the Convention they should have peaked and begin to fall; and
- (3) Annex I Parties have not delivered on their commitment to enhance the transfer of technology and to increase financing to developing countries, to meet the full cost of adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and facilitate their mitigation actions.

Mr. President,

There was an atmosphere of great urgency. In Bali, our decision therefore gave a two year work plan, but required a mid-point review of progress. We are at the end of that review. Is it therefore appropriate to ask what has the report on the past year one tells us? Where are we in the process? Are we likely, on the present trajectory, to have within the next year, the comprehensive report envisaged in the Bali Decision and Bali Action Plan?

Developing countries, encouraged by the high level statements by some Annex 1 countries especially since the third meeting in Accra, came to Poznan expecting that commitments would be placed on the table to unilaterally cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and to go above that if all Annex I Parties made similar commitments. We are yet to hear that clear statement from this group.

In the areas under the work programme of the Subsidiary Bodies and Working Groups, the Group of 77 and China had expected here in Poznan, at a minimum we will have to:

- i. actions and decisions to make the Adaptation Fund established under the Convention operational
- ii. the least developed country fund operational
- iii. the mandate of the consultative group of experts to be renewed so that the Group can resume its functions
- iv. the Annex I parties to begin to negotiate their emission reductions for the post 2012 commitment period.
- v. developed countries to provide initial responses to the G77 and China submissions, especially the submissions on financial mechanism and technology transfer which were circulated since the Accra meeting; and more broadly
- vi. a sense of commitment to negotiate in good faith and in an open transparent manner.

Mr. President, none of these expectations has been met.

Mr. President,

In the assessment of the Group we are unlikely to achieve the Bali objective in the absence of a radical change in approach and mindset and serious effort at confidence building. To that end we need, at a minimum to:

- (1) start the discussion on how Annex I Parties intend to begin to reduce their emissions now and the targets they intend to commit to for 2012 to 2020 and beyond. The current approach of Annex I Parties to demand as precondition for action on their long outstanding commitment, binding action by others borders on the immoral and is counterproductive;
- (2) begin the process of negotiations on the mechanisms and approaches for the effective provision of adequate financing and the transfer of low GHG technologies to developing countries;
- (3) begin to discuss cooperative approaches to research and development which could scale up and facilitate the availability of technologies which would allow sustainable development at the level required for countries to meet other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and
- (4) see a focus on the core issues, in a balanced manner, as demanded by the Bali Action Plan.

Mr. President,

The G-77 and China is committed, and reaffirm its commitment to the type of outcome envisaged in the Bali decision and Bali Action Plan. To that end the Group has submitted concrete and detailed proposals on critical elements such as a financial mechanism and a technology mechanism as well as our views on mitigation and shared vision.

Mr. President,

The Group remains committed to a decision at COP 15.