

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Fourteenth session

Poznan, 1–12 December 2008

Agenda item 8

High-level segment

**Report on the informal ministerial round table on a shared vision for
long-term cooperative action**

Summary by the chair

I. Introduction

1. The President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fourteenth session invited ministers and other heads of delegation to participate in a round table on a shared vision for long-term cooperative action. The round table was held on 11 December 2008.
2. A background paper¹ was prepared with the objective of facilitating an optimal outcome of this round table, the first ministerial debate on a shared vision for long-term cooperative action. The issues proposed for discussion were organized into three clusters: long-term cooperative action on mitigation, towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention; preparing ourselves for unavoidable climate change, building resilience and implementing adaptation plans; and the architecture that will deliver on finance, technology and capacity-building and on the reporting of actions and support for such actions.
3. At the opening, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. BAN Ki-moon was invited to address the participants.

II. Shared vision for long-term cooperative action

4. Participants at the round table recognized the urgent need to address climate change. They stressed their commitment to a shared vision for long-term cooperative action to guide the global effort, in which the international community acts with unity of purpose to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention in all its dimensions, combating climate change through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. The climate challenge demands that all nations work hand in hand to enable sustainable development and enhance cooperative action on mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance and capacity-building.
5. The right to development – to sustainable development – also presents an opportunity to transform the global economy, decoupling economic growth from emissions growth, strengthening climate resilience, diversifying economies and reducing vulnerability. Participants at the round table expressed the need for international solidarity in embarking on a low emissions path that safeguards the developmental aspirations and survival of the most vulnerable countries and people. Action needs to be taken to ensure that countries lacking sufficient capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change have access to opportunities to acquire this capacity in a timely manner.

¹ FCCC/CP/2008/6.

6. All speakers recognized the need to pay more attention to adaptation needs, especially in responding to the impacts of climate change already occurring and in preparing for future impacts, in particular in the most vulnerable countries. They stressed the need to develop national adaptation strategies, build institutional capacities, create insurance facilities and/or arrangements and provide new and additional financial support for adaptation actions.

7. Participants at the round table presented a shared vision on long-term cooperative action that includes and goes beyond a long-term goal for emission reductions, to encompass how Parties intend to work together. This shared vision includes action on mitigation and adaptation as well as the provision of the means of implementation to make this action possible. The level of ambition should be guided by sound science. Developed countries must show leadership both in mitigation commitments or actions, including through a mid-term target for emission reductions, and in supporting developing countries to proactively undertake nationally appropriate mitigation actions. The provisions and principles of the Convention provide the foundation on which the shared vision is built.

8. All Parties expressed readiness to contribute to this global effort of moving towards a low-carbon society, in the context of their national circumstances and capabilities. The technical and financial support from developed countries would define the extent of this effort. Actions and support must be monitored, reported and verified in order to increase international transparency and accountability. Participants noted that national communications, nationally appropriate mitigation commitments and actions, and national adaptation programmes of action should be strengthened further, as they are important tools that governments could use when making decisions on climate policy matters.

9. To this end, deeper cuts in emissions from developed countries and deviation from business as usual emission projections in developing countries would generate the opportunity for a green technology revolution. It was suggested that further incentives are needed to ensure effective deployment of climate-friendly technologies and for joint development of new technologies. Participants stressed that actions on technology need to be guided by countries' needs. The private sector will be an important partner in that effort, including through its role in expanding the carbon market.

10. Enhanced financial support was identified as a central component of a shared vision. Financial resources are meant to be invested in people, human capacity and technologies. An international financial architecture should be based on three core principles: equity, effectiveness and efficiency. It was noted that enhanced action on the provision of finance demands predictable, new and additional funding, and that the most vulnerable countries require simplified and prioritized access.

11. Many participants stressed the need for coherent and coordinated institutional arrangements that would be able to optimize and mobilize investment and financial flows. They called for arrangements that deliver oversight, accountability and legitimacy. Institutional arrangements under the Convention for the delivery of technology and financial resources need to be considered as well as how existing arrangements can be strengthened based on experience. Several participants called for a decisive outcome on the Adaptation Fund here in Poznan.

12. There were many specific declarations on individual efforts concerning medium and long-term reduction targets for achieving carbon neutrality, increased use of non-emitting energy sources and financial support for other countries.

13. Participants at the round table voiced their resounding commitment to and optimism for achieving an ambitious and comprehensive deal at COP 15 that can be ratified by all. The round table provided the opportunity to lay the foundations for further work on the components of an agreed outcome. Further, it sent a clear message regarding the need to continue to build momentum on the many points of convergence among all nations. The current financial and economic crisis should not weaken the determination to undertake decisive action.

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