

**IPCC 34th Plenary session
Kampala, Uganda, 18-19 November 2011**

**Statement by UNFCCC secretariat
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Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates and dear colleagues,

Thank you for the invitation extended to the UNFCCC secretariat to address the 34th session of the IPCC. I would like to use this opportunity to update the plenary, on behalf of the UNFCCC secretariat, on some developments in our process and to highlight some specific activities of relevance for IPCC.

[Developments under the UNFCCC – preparations for Durban]

The **Cancun** Agreements included a **comprehensive package** to help developing nations deal with climate change, including a **Technology Mechanism, Adaptation Committee** and the **Green Climate Fund**.

Importantly, the agreements, by committing to the **long-term global goal of limiting average global** temperature warming below 2 degrees Celsius, have **provided a strong signal** the international community has ever given to the private sector **that governments intend to move toward low-carbon economies**.

The **progress on the infrastructure-building** that Cancun delivered is encouraging and **an important step forward**. But Cancun fell short of addressing the real political issues, and this needs to be done in Durban. This concerns **the open questions on the Kyoto Protocol and the emerging mitigation framework**.

Under the **Kyoto Protocol**, negotiations are beginning to work **against the clock**. With the end of the first commitment period almost in sight, and the critical need to ensure that pledges will be met, there is an urgent need to **find a viable way forward in Durban**. Yet within the negotiations, there is still uncertainty on how the nature and status of emission reductions should be handled going forward.

Many Parties want targets for Annex I Parties to be inscribed in a **new second commitment period** under the Kyoto Protocol. Others have stated that they will not participate in a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and would like to see **mitigation commitments and actions formally anchored and monitored in a new mitigation framework under the Climate Change Convention**.

A mitigation framework under the Convention is evolving, but needs more time to be sufficiently detailed in terms of legal status, transparency, monitoring and accountability before it can become operational.

Durban needs to address both further commitments of developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol and the evolution of the mitigation framework under the Convention, **while ensuring the differentiated participation of developing countries**. This political balance will be at the core of the Durban discussions.

Durban will also have an important role on building **confidence in post-2012 climate financing**. To this end, a clear decision on a pathway to secure long-term sources of finance could be an essential component of the political package for Durban. A commitment

to capitalize and thereby make the Green Climate Fund operational is also an important ingredient to a successful outcome.

[Specific activities of relevance for IPCC]

Mr. Chair,

Effective and meaningful policy needs to be based on best available scientific knowledge. In this context, the IPCC has made some important contributions vis-à-vis the climate change negotiations, since your last session in Abu Dhabi.

The IPCC presented the outcomes of the **Special Report on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation** to policy makers at a special event of the SBSTA and the IPCC, held at the last session of the subsidiary bodies, in Bonn. The report provided a valuable input to the negotiations under the SBSTA agenda item on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation.

The **Research Dialogue** has benefited, in the past, from the active participation of the IPCC. This year, IPCC strengthened its participation not only in the Dialogue but also participated in the research workshop, organized in the pre-session period of the June session. IPCC used these events to inform Parties on its work of specific areas relevant for current negotiations including on new approaches in AR 5, such as on the parallel approach to scenarios, on dealing with uncertainty and with regional information.

The Panel responded also positively to the requests of the UNFCCC to organize a **technical briefing in Panama** to inform Parties what information will be provided in AR5 of relevance for the review of the temperature goal and by when this information will become available. In spite of some technical difficulties we had with the on-line participation of the speakers, the briefing was successful and was well received by Parties.

Nowhere is the important contribution of the IPCC more important than in terms of the review of the adequacy of the long-term global goal. As you know, the review is scheduled to commence in 2013 and should be concluded by 2015, when Parties will consider strengthening the long-term global goal, including in relation to a 1.5 degrees goal. Notably, the Conference of the Parties “shall take appropriate action based on the review”.

Scientific assessments are important for a number of other critical technical issues under the UNFCCC. The next session of the subsidiary bodies, which will take place in Durban, will continue to address the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The **IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation**, which is now in front of you for adoption, will be an important contribution of the IPCC to inform these deliberations. An IPCC-SBSTA special event, to be held on 30 November 2011, will be convened on the SREX to present the its key findings to climate change negotiators.

This new special report will also make an important contribution to the work of the **newly created adaptation institutions**, once they become fully operational. Similarly, it is bound to make a contribution to the **new SBI work programme on loss and damage** and will assist Parties in implementing adaptation options on the ground.

We know that IPCC is planning to further **outreach the outcomes of the two special reports** completed this year, including at a press conference at COP 17 in Durban, and we are supporting this effort.

The SBSTA will also continue to address the revision of the **UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention**. The revised guidelines will lead to the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, starting in 2015. IPCC will hold a side event on 30 November on its software for the 2006 IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Guidelines, and on recent and planned work of the TFI, which will inform these deliberations.

Before concluding, I would like to express our **thanks to IPCC for its active involvement in the UNFCCC process and cooperation** during our sessions, workshops, briefings and numerous events, which contributed to making informed decisions, on sound scientific and technical basis.

We look forward to the outcomes of this session and wish you every success in your deliberations in this beautiful resort in Kampala.

Thank you.
