

CMP: Informal consultations by COP Presidency on way forward for “revisit mechanism”

Lima, 4 Dec (Hilary Chiew) – Developed country Parties could not agree to the proposal of developing countries on the need for a contact group to discuss the issue of revisiting the ambition of Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The Group of 77 and China (G77-China) has requested for a contact group during the deliberation of agenda item 2(e) on *Status of Ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol* at the resumed meeting of the 10th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10) on 3 December.

Presiding over the meeting that started at noon, COP President Manuel Pulgar-Vidal said he would consider the intervention when the next agenda item 8 on *Report on the high-level ministerial roundtable on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments* is taken up.

(There was also no agreement to an earlier proposal of the Russian Federation to set up a contact group on decision-making in the UNFCCC process addressed in the agenda of the COP. See below for details.)

Representing **G77-China, Bolivia** said the Group has presented a letter which reiterated that it expected Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) to revisit their ambitions for the second commitment period, consistent with the Doha Amendment (a decision of CMP 8).

Citing confusion and the lack of clarity over the purpose and scope of the contact group, Australia, New Zealand and the European Union (EU) responded that they are therefore not ready to agree to the establishment of a contact group but are prepared to consult for a way forward.

Pulgar-Vidal said he had heard the Parties' views around this item and proposed that he will

personally undertake informal consultations and report back to the plenary.

Bolivia then sought clarification if the informal consultation will be about the establishment of a contact group.

Pulgar-Vidal replied that the consultation is going to be around the different positions of the Parties on this item and stressed that he will personally undertake the informal consultation.

To this, Bolivia reiterated that the Group's proposal is for a contact group.

The COP President requested for two minutes to consult the secretariat and later announced that he would personally consult the various Parties on the way forward for a contact group.

In its intervention, Bolivia reminded that the Doha Amendment for the second commitment period of the KP was a political compromise and Annex I Parties must take it seriously to close the mitigation gap. It said that the matter is critically important to demonstrate Annex I commitment in the pre-2020 period and towards achieving an outcome in Paris. It wished to emphasise the Group's disappointment and concern that none of the Annex I Parties has declared intention to increase their commitment. It therefore proposed the setting up of a contact group to make necessary arrangements to increase ambition before it is too late.

Voicing its support, **China** said Parties should all remember that at the Doha conference (in 2012) developing countries were deeply concerned with the low emission targets from developed countries. But to promote the multilateral process the developing countries had shown flexibility and constructiveness under the pre-condition that developed country Parties accept such commitments to increase their ambition by the setting up of the revisit mechanism.

It said the June ministerial session was a starting point but would like to now call on developed countries to report to the CMP on whether they will increase their emission reduction targets as well as work to be carried out for the increase of emissions reduction.

China further said it would propose that the review of the second commitment period (CP2) to be included in the agenda of the CMP until it is appropriately resolved. And to reach reasonable solution, it would support the setting up of a contact group to further promote this mechanism to ensure that developed countries increase their ambitions.

Cuba said there is an important link between the Doha amendment in relation to CP2 and the negotiation for the 2015 agreement. Parties need a clear expression of that commitment and raising of ambition for the pre-2020 period. Therefore, at this crucial stage, it supports the contact group idea “as we know the level of ambition is not sufficient”.

South Africa supported setting up the contact group under the CMP to come up with a draft decision to ensure that we can still discuss this issue on the revisit mechanism. It said there is still scope and room for KP Parties to increase their respective levels of ambition, pointing out that the KP is not just a set of well-crafted rules that exist but that it gives assurance that Parties will work towards meeting their commitments.

Saudi Arabia said we need to continue our journey started a long time back in 2005 that has gone through so many years. We need to build on the political momentum in June and with the leadership of the Peruvian (COP) Presidency, we need to continue building on that momentum to increase the ambition. It fully supports the establishment of a contact group to increase the level of ambition.

India said the importance of the KP and its CP2 cannot be overemphasised especially for the pre-2020 ambition and would need significant scaling up of ambition by KP Parties. It stressed that this future action of CP2 needs to be captured clearly and a roadmap laid down especially at this juncture of the post-2020 agreement as the confidence-building requires that this issue be discussed further. It too supports the formation of a contact group in order to move forward on this agenda item.

Egypt and **Iraq** also added their voice to support the establishment of a contact group and shared the views of the G77-China and other developing countries’ intervention.

Australia said it is a little confused about the proposal as it has not had the opportunity to see the (G77-China) letter yet. It is not clear of the purpose of the contact group, whether it is just to follow-up on the high-level segment or is it about the question of ratification or other broader issues of the pre-2020 mitigation ambition. Due to this, it is not ready to agree but is ready to consult for further clarity.

New Zealand said it shared the concern of Australia as it too has not seen the letter and is not clear of the purpose and scope of the proposed contact group. It will not be ready to agree to it at this time but it is, however, ready to consult to find a way forward.

The European Union said it is already implementing legislation on its targets and is well on track to perform its commitment and it is determined to complete the ratification as early as possible in 2015. It said there is need to focus on the necessary legal matters (back home) in preparation for the 2015 agreement. It wanted to avoid proliferation of more issues hence it does not see the need for a contact group at this moment. It also associated with Australia and New Zealand that the G77-China’s proposal is unclear.

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Christina Figueres, told the plenary that two years after the Doha Amendment, CP2 is still not able to enter into force. Currently there are 19 instruments of acceptance and 125 more Parties’ ratification are needed. She said many Parties consider the KP does not answer the challenge of ambition hence now the dedication to constructively construct a new agreement that is applicable to all. However, she reminded that Parties did adopt the Doha Amendment, in part, that is to have the legally-binding instrument to take us to 2020. She said governments should not just adopt but must implement the decision so it would be good to give a sign that when a legal instrument is adopted, it goes into force.

COP meeting on 3 December

Earlier at the resumed meeting of the COP, Parties dealt with the agenda item 19(c) on *Decision-making in the UNFCCC's process* which has come to be known as the 'Russian proposal'.

Parties could not agree to the setting up of a contact group for this agenda item and preferred that the matter be discussed in the informal consultation format.

The agenda item was considered at the Warsaw COP last November following a proposal from Belarus and the Russian Federation. Parties were to undertake forward-looking, open-ended informal consultations in conjunction with the 40th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBSA and SBI) and the possibility of reporting on the outcomes at the Lima COP.

The Russian proposal first surfaced at the 38th session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) held in Bonn during the June session. It had explained that the proposal stemmed from its concern that the process of the negotiations these past few years have shown serious deficiencies regarding how the rules of procedures are not applied properly.

[For more details on this matter, please read the five reports of TWN Bonn News Update (June 2013) at <http://www.twn.my/title2/climate/bonn.news.11.htm>]

Saudi Arabia said it had listened carefully to the brief report on the consultation on this matter and noted that Parties had worked constructively during the consultation in Warsaw. Although it regarded the topic to be very important, it could not support having a contact group but could support the previous practice of having informal consultations, adding that the time here in Lima does not permit the contact group.

China believed that informal consultations still suit the discussion and this format should be continued to address this issue and would not support having a contact group to explore solutions to this issue.

India said at this juncture, it too could not support the formation of a contact group. **Iraq** said it would support the issue to be discussed in informal consultations.

The European Union believed the issue is important but also do not see the need for a contact group. It believed that the issue has been sufficiently dealt with in informal consultations which had fruitful discussion and looked forward to the same process here. It said delegations are stretched to the maximum and pleaded to stay focused on the outcome for a 2015 agreement.

The Russian Federation said its proposal is based on the principle to bring added value to review the process of decision-making hence it felt it was wise to introduce a draft decision on the matter here. It said as we find ourselves at a crucial stage leading to the Paris conference (COP 21 next year), it is crucial to establish the most favourable condition within the context of procedural issue to guarantee the success of the Paris conference.

It said it is somewhat surprised by the reactions on a matter that is purely operational. It said this item is of no less importance than the others and need to be considered very seriously. It said a contact group will open up opportunity for all to adopt a proper decision on this matter.

COP President Pulgar-Vidal who chaired the meeting said given there is no agreement, he would asked Parties to consult among themselves before the conclusion of the plenary today to move forward on this issue.