



Berlin, 17 – 19 May 2015

Petersberg
Petersberger Climate Dialogue VI
Klimadialog VI

Reaching for the Paris outcome

Co-chairs' conclusions

Berlin, 19th May 2015

On 17-19 May 2015, about 35 Ministers and their representatives, the Co-chairs of the ADP, as well as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, and high-level representatives of the UN Secretary General met in Berlin at the invitation of the governments of France and Germany. In an informal setting Ministers discussed how to accelerate progress towards an ambitious agreement at COP21 in Paris and how to enhance climate action in their respective countries. Chancellor Merkel underlined in her speech her commitment to contribute to the success of Paris, *inter alia* by striving for a strong signal from the G7 and doubling by 2020 the German contribution to climate finance as compared with 2014. President Hollande called on Ministers: "Let us mobilize, let's act, it is urgent. This is also in our interest, because climate change is not only a threat, but also a source of substantial opportunity to invent a different model of development."

The main messages from the ministerial discussions are summarized below in a non-exhaustive manner.

Designing an ambitious and balanced Paris outcome

Many Ministers underlined that for the Paris conference to be a success, it would need to provide a clear sense of direction that the world is embarking on a journey towards climate resilient sustainable development with a human dimension. Most Ministers stressed that the agreement should be comprehensive and built to last while holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. At the same time, the agreement should be flexible enough to accommodate changing circumstances and to continuously improve. Ministers underlined that it would be crucial to achieve political parity between mitigation and adaptation. They also stressed that ambition and means of implementation, such as finance, technology and capacity building, are two sides of the same coin. Ministers agreed that the components of the agreement should reinforce each other in an upward spiral of ambition. Robust Transparency and accountability provisions were seen as indispensable to building trust and confidence.

Several Ministers proposed the further operationalization of the below 2°C limit. Concepts that were suggested included *inter alia* climate/carbon neutrality, early peaking of global emissions, as well as deep/full decarbonisation in the course of this century. Such an operationalization could help guide short-term contributions and also inform national voluntary long-term pathways. Ministers also stressed that the Paris outcome should accelerate pre-2020 action and implementation of existing commitments on mitigation and finance. It should also inspire supportive initiatives by a wide range of non-state actors and sub-national authorities.

Ambitious national contributions for Paris

Many Ministers explained how they are working hard domestically on ambitious and transparent national contributions that will be submitted as soon as possible, many of

them this summer. Still, a number of Ministers expressed concerns that the overall level of ambition of the Paris outcome would not suffice to hold temperature increase below 2°C. To address this in the agreement, many called for the establishment of a regular assessment of the aggregate level of ambition. Some Ministers suggested that the results of such an assessment should inform and encourage bolder and more ambitious, while still nationally determined contributions over time. Several Ministers stressed that not only mitigation ambition, but also ambition on adaptation and means of implementation should be regularly assessed, while taking into consideration their different nature.

The legal character of national contributions in the Paris agreement was also discussed. Ministers shared the view that the level of bindingness and accountability would depend not only on the legal character of contributions, but also on other provisions in the Paris agreement, inter alia those relating to transparency and accounting.

Means of Implementation – their role in raising ambition pre and post 2020

Many Ministers stressed that better predictability of public finance and more clarity on how the goal of mobilizing 100 billion USD by 2020 will be reached would be necessary to foster an upwards spiral of ambition on means of implementation and mitigation. A number of Ministers underlined that the Paris outcome should catalyse and foster a worldwide transformation in which all investments – public and private – should become increasingly climate-friendly. Ministers stressed that all countries will contribute to such a transformation, but that different capabilities and responsibilities mean that there will be significant diversity in the way in which countries contribute. It was stressed several times that developed countries have a special responsibility in this regard and should continue to increase their efforts in mobilizing climate finance. It was underlined that developing countries' emphasis on climate finance was motivated by the desire to be in a position to demonstrate transformative leadership. Ministers acknowledged that a long-lasting cooperative effort would be needed to scale up development, deployment, support and transfer of technology as well as capacity building.

Establishing a sound rules based for the agreement

There was widespread support for the notion that a set of sound and common rules was essential to ensure transparency and accountability, to build mutual trust and confidence and to provide clarity about the aggregate level of ambition, with principles to be agreed in Paris. A great number of Ministers supported rules that would enable a forward-looking assessment of aggregate efforts. Several Ministers cautioned against assessing individual INDCs against each other in a judgmental manner. There was agreement that this assessment should be facilitative, rather than punitive. At the same time, some Ministers warned that other actors would make their own assessment of the level of ambition if the robustness of the rules system was insufficient. It was noted that a backward-looking tracking of progress against individual commitments of all Parties needs to be built into the existing system of reporting and review.

Many Ministers stressed that high-level principles and processes should already be fixed in the Paris agreement, allowing the details of such rules to be elaborated after Paris. Principles that were suggested during the discussion included inter alia: quantifiability, no backsliding and continuous improvement, no double-counting, increased comprehensiveness, as well as consistency in reporting. Views differed on how best to reflect different national circumstances, including those of LDCs. It was noted that existing requirements already catered for different national capabilities, which could be further developed through built-in flexibility and taking account of lessons learnt.

Improving the view for Paris

Many Ministers suggested that convergence on important issues would be needed well before the Paris conference. This would require early involvement of Ministers and possibly heads of state and government. Their pro-active engagement in mobilising political support in favour of a progressive outcome at COP 21 was considered important for success in Paris. Progress made in converging on key issues should regularly be captured and shared each step of the way.

Encouraging the engagement of stakeholders such as businesses, civil society organizations and subnational entities, including in support of the "Lima Paris Action Agenda", was stressed as essential for both scaling up pre-2020 ambition and success in Paris.