



Berlin, 16. – 17. Juli 2012

Petersberger  
Petersberg Klimadialog III  
Climate Dialogue III

Matching ambition with action

## **Co-Chairs' conclusions**

Berlin, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012

On 16-17 July 2012, at the invitation of Qatar and Germany, 31 Ministers and their representatives, the Chairs of the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP and the Co-chairs of the ADP, as well as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, met in Berlin. In an informal setting Ministers discussed the implementation of climate action in their respective countries and possible ways forward in the UN climate negotiations. The main messages from the discussion are summarised below in a non-exhaustive manner.

### *On the international climate negotiation process*

The urgency to tackle climate change continues to grow. Ministers stressed that combating climate change and adapting to its consequences remains a key political priority and needs engagement at the highest political level. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the success of the UN Climate conference in Durban in 2011. They also highlighted that its outcome represented a delicate balance and that in order to keep that balance all elements of the Durban package needed to be taken forward in parallel. Ministers also stressed that the UN climate negotiations needed to pick up speed in order to ensure the upcoming UN climate conference in Doha (Qatar) is successful.

Ministers noted with great concern that the targets and actions currently pledged remain insufficient to reach the objective of holding temperature increase below 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and stressed that more political will is needed, both before and after 2020. Ministers acknowledged that there is scope for increasing our collective and individual level of ambition. It was stressed that raising the overall level of ambition does not mean only raising mitigation ambition. The provision of means of implementation, adaptation and technology were also identified as playing a pivotal role in this regard. Ministers concluded that rather than blaming each other, they wanted to bring forward specific initiatives in mutual cooperation. Many ministers stressed that these should be measurable and transparent in order to have a verifiable impact.

Ministers expressed their continued commitment to a multilateral approach and stressed the importance of retaining a rules-based system, combining both top-down guidance and bottom-up activities. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was seen as an important step towards this end. Ministers acknowledged the need for the negotiation of a new instrument applicable to all, be it a protocol, another legal instrument or an outcome with legal force under the Convention, by 2015 to be implemented from 2020 onwards. They discussed how the context for a future climate regime would differ from the context in which the UNFCCC was

negotiated in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. It was highlighted that differences need to be taken into account when designing the new arrangements, including i.a. evolving capabilities and increased vulnerabilities, respecting the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities under the Convention. Ministers stressed that responsibilities will continue to differ. Historic emissions, current emissions as well as emission trajectories were also seen as relevant, though the emphasis given to each of them varied. To reflect all of this, the idea of a continuum of commitments was raised. There was a common understanding that equity and fairness are essential to yielding the required global and ambitious response. It was stressed that considerations of equity may be informed by objective criteria but that equity is also a subjective concept.

Ministers also discussed the deliverables that the conference in Doha could agree. Some stressed that they see Doha as a point of transition, where one journey ends and another one begins. Possible elements of a package of decisions to be concluded in Doha included inter alia the terms of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative action, including through clarifying the role of climate finance after the fast-start period up until 2020, the start-up of the mechanisms for adaptation and technology cooperation, the setting of rules for increased transparency, and the agreement of a work program for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform with milestones for 2012 and through to 2015.

#### *On the implementation of national climate action*

Ministers acknowledged that in a great number of countries, ambitious measures and plans for adaptation and mitigation are already being implemented, some of which were presented at this Dialogue meeting. Ministers stressed that they take these actions for domestic reasons but also as a contribution to meeting their international mitigation pledges. Many explained how in their experience, lowering emissions yielded substantial benefits for their economic development. A great number of countries have embedded their climate action in long-term strategies, which they found useful to better harness win-win opportunities for environment and development. Ministers stressed that although every country has its own unique socio-economic conditions, there is great potential for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practice.

Ministers also noted that there is sometimes a disconnect between that which is discussed in the international negotiations and what is happening on the ground. They stressed that the UN-process should contribute to creating incentives for enhancing national ambition. At the same time, experience with national implementation should be introduced into the UN process and, in the long-run, stimulate more ambition on the international level.

The open and political exchange at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue III confirmed once again the value of such informal fora. Ministers undertook to take the constructive spirit and ideas of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue III back to their respective delegations, the negotiation groups they were representing and to the UN negotiations.