



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Approach to Cancun and beyond

SAIIA Presentation  
November 2010

# Overview of presentation

- Overview of status of negotiations and political dynamics
- Progress in negotiations under Convention and Kyoto Protocol
- Possible scenarios
- South African approach
- Alliances



# Current Status of the Climate Change negotiations

- Loss of momentum; recognition that the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties / 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will not achieve final agreement
- Deep divisions between developed and developing countries
- No agreement on shape and legal form of final outcome; one or two treaties or just operational decisions
- As President of 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties / 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, SA needs to push for clarity on this
- Momentum towards a “balanced set of decisions”



# Current Status of the Climate Change negotiations cont'

- Not much progress was achieved in 2010
- So far, 4 meetings (April, June, Aug, Oct)
- General agreement that focusing on the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action text will not yield immediate results
- The meeting in Tianjin therefore decided to focus on AREAS where there might be general consensus.



# Current Dynamics

- USA not passed its climate legislation; not ready to enter their target and financial pledges into legally binding treaty
- Therefore, other developed countries not prepared to take on internationally binding targets for 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period Under Kyoto
- Some developed countries (Japan, Canada) insistent on their targets NOT in Kyoto Protocol
- China will not agree legal form till US signals
- G77 & China fractured but united on 2 track framework; retains Kyoto Protocol but disagree legal form under the Convention



## Current Dynamics (cont)

- US want China in the same Legally Binding Agreement and the establishment of a robust Measurable Reporting and Verifiable system targeting China domestic actions
- China resists a “name and shame” system as in a yearly US published China human rights rept.
- US focus on controlling China’s economic competitiveness.
- Stalemate imply that there will be a possible gap between 1<sup>st</sup> Commitment Period and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period



# Scenarios

- Current pledges mean: over 70% of mitigation effort by developing countries
- Scenarios for a Cancun outcome:
  - Comprehensive package: 2 track Legally Binding Agreement
  - Fragmentation: abandon prospects of Legally Binding Agreement, focus on operational decisions, incremental progress.
  - Two step: middle road; accept that for now can't deliver global agreement; decisions now
- Trend is to fragmentation: no movement on increasing ambition, on legal form, multiple forums

# Convention & Kyoto Protocol Progress

- Convention: Limited progress under Ad Hoc Working Group- Long-term Cooperative Action. (LCA). Chair proposed issues for decisions in Cancun:
  - adaptation committee,
  - new fund,
  - technology mechanism,
  - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD),
  - sectoral approach for agriculture,
  - inscribing targets for developed countries; actions for developing countries
- KP: No progress, pledges remain; developed countries insisting on establishing the Land–use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), accounting and new mechanism rules before reviewing their level of ambition





# Balanced set of decisions

- Strong momentum to produce a “balanced set of decisions” in Cancun.
- Key to understand that Cancun sets approach for the period beyond – up to 2014
- SA proposed a decision on:
  - the overarching legal form (2 track Legally Binding Agreement),
  - including a mandate to continue negotiations under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol
  - within an agreed timeframe, with package of decisions on: process; implementation up to 2012; readiness & demonstration programmes



- SA proposed Cancun only take Implementation type decisions for the period now up to 2012, to ensure no undermining of future negotiations
- Progress in negotiating a new legally binding agreement captured in decisions as building blocks & process decisions to:
  - capture emerging consensus on new & improved institutional arrangements, particularly for (i) adaption; (ii) means of implementation, such as finance, technology transfer, capacity building.
  - These would not operationalise the institutional architecture; rather they would capture consensus and ensure a process that would serve as building blocks for future Legally Binding Agreement.



# Implementation of decisions under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)/Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advise(SBSTA)

- This set of decisions would focus on addressing immediate implementation, (financial review, technology, adaptation work programme)
- A decision under the Kyoto Protocol to increase the effectiveness of the Clean Development Mechanism,
  - including addressing the standardization of baselines and
  - increasing the regional distribution of Clean Development Mechanism projects in Africa



# SA & African approach

- Africa is most vulnerable and current pledges in Accord indicate a 4 to 5 degree world= disastrous for Africa.
- Therefore, interest is for future multilateral climate change regime which:
  - Resolves current and future crisis
  - AND simultaneously supports building of future sustainable economic development, competitiveness and growth in a way that enhances social justice and environmentally sustainable development



# SA & African Approach (cont)

- Two track legally binding outcome:
  - Convention:
    - legally binding targets for USA
    - ACTIONS for developing countries
    - Legally binding support by developed countries
    - Legal framework for adaptation
    - MRV of targets, action and support
  - Kyoto Protocol: amendment to adopt a 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period; ambition into science
- Ensure that there is time / space and resources for developing countries to transition to low carbon economies, and adapt



# SA & African approach (cont)

- Need a Measurable Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for Developing countries based on
  - National Communications enabling “adding up” of ALL efforts
  - to assess if we are meeting a target of keeping temperatures well below 2 degree
  - Without impacting national sovereignty.
- A MRV system for Developed countries to
  - Verify support provided by them
  - Verify progress towards their legal targets



# Alliances

- SA negotiates its position from within Africa Group, and G77 & China. Also aligns with BASIC
  - Africa: principle, foreign policy, 2 track Legally Binding Agreement
  - G77 & China: implementation of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities principle
  - BASIC: equitable outcome that secures development space for all developing countries



# Summary of Approach

- Cancun sets the platform for the future
- Continue a 2 track legally binding agreement.
  - A framework for Legally Binding Agreement under the Convention
  - Decision(s) on building blocks for the final agreement
  - Implementation decisions for period up to 2012
  - Agreement on a Kyoto 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period & intervention to avoid a gap between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CP; decisions on process to finalise the rules, new mechanisms, new gasses & methods.





THANK YOU!



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