



environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNFCCC COP15 & CMP5, HELD IN COPENHAGEN, DEC 2009 & SA's ROLE IN THE CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

- **International Context**
- **National Context**
- **Current Status of UNFCCC negotiations**
- **Summary of the SA position**
- **Copenhagen process**
- **Copenhagen Accord**
- **Political dynamics**
- **Possible outcomes in Cancun and South Africa**



International Context

- **The Scientific Fact:** Climate change is man-made and has significant global sustainability impacts (UN IPCC provides the scientific base)
- **The Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC recognises that:**
 - the impacts of climate change are more imminent and severe than previously thought.
 - the report emphasize that CC is man-made with significant global sustainability impacts.
 - the impacts of CC presents more risk to the poor and most vulnerable countries.



National Context

- **South Africa ratified the UNFCCC in August 1997 and acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in August 2002.**
- **SA produced its 1st National CC Response Strategy in 2004. Further held a subsequent CC summit in 2009. These helped to improve awareness.**
- **CC is now more viewed as SD issue with many sector departments involved.**
- **We are currently involved in a CC policy development process. We also recognize that SA is the highest GHG emitter in Africa and has a moral obligation to reduce its GHG emissions.**
- **We are involved in UNFCCC negotiations that seeks to find a solution to global climate change problems.**



Current Status of UNFCCC Negotiations

- 2007 – international agreement (BAP) to conclude negotiation of new multi-lateral climate regime beyond 2012 under the Convention and its' Kyoto Protocol
- After 2 yrs of negotiations – still disagreement on key questions
 - How to share and reflect responsibility, commitment and action among developed and developing countries;
 - How to verify and ensure compliance with respective commitments and linked to this, the question of
 - Who pays



Summary of SA Position in UNFCCC negotiations

- New binding climate change regime beyond 2012 must be ambitious, fair, inclusive and effective, therefore must
 - Be based on the principles of “equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities”
 - prioritise both mitigation of GHG emissions and the adaptation to climate change impacts equally
 - balance both climate and development imperatives
- Developed country must take ambitious binding economy wide emission reduction commitment under the KP (USA under the Convention)
- Comprehensive international adaptation programme
- Both adaptation & mitigation action by developing countries supported by finance, technology & capacity building



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Copenhagen process

- Evident that agreement would be difficult – many Danish COP President interventions, which
 - Were non-inclusive
 - Created distrust & extensive negotiation of process
 - Final days – convened 28 heads of state – to formulate a political agreement – the Copenhagen Accord
 - Due to process issues – Accord not adopted as a COP decision. Noted



Copenhagen Accord

- The accord only noted – not agreed or adopted
- Accord represents political agreement among 28 Heads of State – drawn from regional groups – but excludes ALBA
- Political Agreement on some major elements
 - mechanism to record developed country economy-wide binding emission reduction targets, including the USA
 - mechanism to record developing country emission reduction actions
 - Fast-start finance and new operating entity for both adaptation and mitigation (\$10 bn per yr up to 2012 & \$100 bn per yr by 2020)



Copenhagen Accord

- Positive incentive approach to deforestation
- a technology development and transfer mechanism
- Still major gaps and problems with Accord
 - mixes adaptation and response measures
 - continuation of Kyoto
 - Low ambition of developed world & therefore equitable sharing of carbon space & global goals still not solved



Political dynamics as we approach Cancun

- Developed countries:
 - United to “kill Kyoto”
 - Divided on legal nature of their actions
 - Divided on level of ambition of mid & long term commitment & global goal & how to share & recognise early action
- The USA has abandoned its endeavor to pass its domestic climate and energy bill.
- The USA emphasise on operationalisation of elements of the Copenhagen Accord rather than seeking to achieve a comprehensive global agreement. This approach is fundamentally rejected by many developing countries.



Possible outcomes at COP 16 and COP 17

- The negotiations could swing towards a step-wise approach:
 - taking a set of decisions on the elements of the Accord that can be operationalised while leaving room to conclude a legal nature of the agreement in SA at COP 17.
- Make an agreement on a framework that can allow a start of negotiations towards a globally agreed treaty or legally binding instrument in 2011 and conclude in or after SA.



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