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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Twelfth session

Nairobi, 6–17 November 2006

Agenda item 12 (a)

Conclusion of the session

Adoption of the report of the Conference on its twelfth session

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Second session

Nairobi, 6–17 November 2006

Agenda item 22 (a)

Conclusion of the session

**Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties
serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
on its second session**

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth session

Rapporteur: Mr. William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu (Ghana)

**Draft report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the
Parties to the Kyoto Protocol on its second session**

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Addendum

I. High-level segment

(Agenda item 9 of the Conference of the Parties)
(Agenda item 19 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting
of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol)

1. The joint high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twelfth session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP) at its second session was opened by the President of the COP and the COP/MOP at the 2nd meeting of the COP and the 5th meeting of the COP/MOP, on 15 November.
2. Welcoming all present, the President reiterated that evidence showed that climate change was becoming one of the greatest challenges in the history of humankind with devastating economic, social and environmental impacts, particularly in vulnerable regions of the world such as Africa. Those impacts would further hamper Africa's ability to eradicate poverty and hunger and meet its Millennium Development Goals. It was truly unfortunate that countries such as Kenya, which had done little in the past to cause climate change, should have to bear the full brunt of its effects. However, with the continuing spirit of cooperation in the ongoing negotiations, he said he was optimistic that realistic, concrete actions for the present and the future are within reach. Considerable progress had already been made at the conference so far and there was an emerging consensus on several other important issues.
3. Among the issues discussed, adaptation was critical to African countries. However, numerous constraints limited their capacity to adapt effectively. The conference had the potential to be a historic one, not only because it was the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa but also because the international community was close to operationalizing the Adaptation Fund and taking concrete action on adaptation. Nairobi could be the starting point for adaptation to be given the attention it required next to ongoing mitigation efforts. The conference could also provide a positive signal for the future of the clean development mechanism (CDM) by taking action to encourage equitable and broader distribution of CDM projects.
4. The President expressed his appreciation that delegates were ready to discuss issues which seemed to have been on the fringe, such as those pertaining to voluntary commitments, small island States and indigenous people. He further said that he was encouraged by the enthusiasm of youth delegates, who were intent on creatively engaging in climate change issues. In closing, he called upon Parties to pull together as an international community and take responsibility for past and present environmental misdeeds. Referring to a statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President said that Parties at Nairobi would have to send a signal, in resolute and unmistakable terms, that the world's political echelons take climate change seriously.

A. Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

5. At the welcoming ceremony, on 15 November, the Conference heard a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan. The text of this message is reproduced in full in the annex to this document.

B. Statement by the President of Kenya

6. Welcoming all participants and thanking the Secretary-General of the United Nations for joining the conference, the President of Kenya, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, said that Africa faced some of the severest effects of climate change. These would have a significant impact not only on the continent's ecosystems but also on its economic activities, particularly agriculture and tourism, which were major sources of income to many African economies. It was clear that tackling climate change was not a matter of choice,

but an imperative. The international community had to agree on the necessary solutions today and not tomorrow and decide on their implementation. Stressing the need for global joint action, he urged all countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

7. For developing countries, tackling climate change was unlikely to succeed unless deliberate efforts were made to support their efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Poor countries, particularly in Africa, needed support to invest in alternative ways of producing energy without increasing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. That could be done by supporting African countries in energy conservation, creating new efficiency standards for vehicles and investing in clean energy that was renewable, low in carbon dioxide emissions and affordable. It was also important to ensure that information on climate change as well as technological and financial support was readily available to developing countries. There was an urgent need to work out the modalities and mechanisms of bringing these technologies to wider use. Furthermore, the Adaptation Fund should be finalized in order to facilitate access to financial resources for poor countries, and projects under the clean development mechanism needed to be promoted to ensure that developing countries could share in its benefits in a more equitable manner.

8. He concluded by saying that both the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol provided a good basis for multilateral action. Now it was time for real and meaningful action which would benefit present and future generations.

C. Statement by the Executive Secretary

9. The Executive Secretary said that the urgency to act on climate change was unquestionable. With the well-being of humankind at stake, it was unacceptable to see time being lost in the international climate change process. Referring to discussions on a future climate change regime, he suggested that the solution to the problem did not lie in limiting economic development or harming national competitiveness but in incentives for economies to grow along a greener path and the implementation of mechanisms to ensure that necessary resources were available. The international climate change process showed that it was possible to create a regime that encouraged action and achieved results in the areas important to developing countries. However, it required the right policy signals and the trust and full engagement of everyone.

10. Cooperation on reducing emissions provided for a cost-effective solution that could “green” economic growth, facilitate technology transfer and generate funding for adaptation in developing countries. If half the emission reductions required by 2050 to effectively combat climate change were met through investment abroad, it could generate up to USD 100 billion per year in green investment flow to developing countries. That amounted to less than half of one per cent of the economic output of industrialized countries. Getting that to work would be a move towards a self-financing climate compact.

11. UNFCCC and other United Nations agencies were committed to support Parties in that process, as was evidenced by the launch of the Nairobi Framework announced by the Secretary-General in his address to the conference. As Parties had chosen to address climate change within a United Nations context, he expressed confidence that they were intent on finding a global solution that respected the interests of all Parties.

D. Statements by heads of state or government

12. Mr. Moritz Leuenberger, President of the Swiss Confederation, also made a statement at the opening of the high-level segment.

13. The President highlighted the need to combine efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change with measures to prevent future global warming. In order to increase the availability of financial resources for these efforts, he proposed an international carbon tax on individuals and businesses, based on the “polluter pays” principle. Such a tax would serve the dual purpose of encouraging major emitters of greenhouse gases to reduce emissions and of providing sufficient and reliable resources to fund adaptation. Reminding Parties that climate change knows no borders, he called upon them to rise above differing economic and national interests and find a common approach to address the global challenge of climate change.

E. Statements by ministers and other heads of delegation

[to be completed]

II. Statements by observer organizations

(Agenda item 10 of the Conference of the Parties)

(Agenda item 20 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol)

A. Statements by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

14. At the opening of the joint high-level segment of the COP and the COP/MOP, on 15 November, statements were made by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization; the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility; the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; a vice-president of the World Bank; the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹

B. Statements by intergovernmental organizations

[to be completed]

C. Statements by non-governmental organizations

[to be completed]

Annexes

[to be completed]

¹ A statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was made available to Parties in hard copy.