



JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEVENTH BASIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Zimbali, Durban, 29th May 2011

The seventh BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change took place at Zimbali, near Durban from 28 to 29 May 2011. The Ministers who participated in the meeting were H.E. Minister Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs from South Africa, H.E. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and H.E Liu Zhenmin, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs from China, H.E. Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Minister for Environment from Brazil, Mr JM Mauskar, Special Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests from India. The incoming COP President, H.E. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane also attended. In line with the “BASIC-plus” approach, Argentina as chair of the G77 and China was invited to the meeting and was represented by Mr J Fernandes.

- Ministers discussed the work required to achieve a comprehensive and balanced outcome in COP17 and CMP7 in Durban. Ministers indicated that COP17 and CMP7 must continue to work within the framework agreed in Bali, and in this context address the work programme agreed in Cancún, following the agenda agreed in Bangkok, with a view to complete the mandate of the Bali Road Map.
- They considered the challenges and possible priority elements on the road to COP17 and CMP7 in Durban. The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to constructively engage with others to develop an ambitious and realistic outcome, urging Annex 1 Parties to fulfill their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to demonstrate this in concrete terms. Ministers emphasized that the environmental integrity of the climate regime was of critical importance to all, particularly for developing countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In this regard, they stressed that unilateral approaches, such as the inclusion of emissions from the aviation sector in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme or establishing unilateral carbon accounting rules are inimical to multi-lateralism, and clearly not in line with the provisions and principles of the Convention, particularly the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Issues with regard to maritime and aviation emissions, agriculture and

HFC's should also be addressed in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention.

- Ministers reaffirmed the centrality of the negotiations under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, recognising that parallel and informal processes can also contribute to the formal negotiations in a supplementary manner, without however, undermining the transparent and inclusive multilateral process under the UNFCCC. Ministers strongly supported the South African proposals for a transparent, inclusive preparatory process to ensure that Durban takes a major step forward in working towards the perspective of a comprehensive, ambitious, fair and effective outcome. Ministers encouraged South Africa to explore with Parties in Bonn how this preparatory process could efficiently inform the negotiations.
- The Kyoto Protocol, including its multi-lateral definition of commitments and rules, is critical to environmental integrity of the climate change regime. Given that the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012, they expressed the view that the second commitment period is central to a comprehensive and balanced Durban outcome.
- Ministers emphasised that the perspective of developments under the UNFCCC, respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, will depend first and foremost on the political willingness of all Annex I Parties to undertake commitments in an appropriate legal form.
- Recognising the urgent need to support developing countries in adaptation, particularly SIDS, LDC's and Africa, Ministers emphasised that the balance between adaptation and mitigation needs to be guaranteed. The costs of inactions are huge, and the impacts will be felt most by poor countries and communities. Adaptation should be as central to negotiations as mitigation, and this has to be reflected in the structures being designed for financial and technology transfer support.
- Ministers considered work by experts on the need for rigorous, robust and transparent accounting for finance by Annex I Parties. A common reporting format for funding must be considerably enhanced. This will require further work by negotiators and experts, in order to ensure that accounting for finance by all developed countries is consistent, complete, comparable, transparent and accurate. Ministers identified the need for work on MRV at expert and negotiator level. A proposal was made to consider the possibility of creating a fund between BASIC countries to stimulate research providing evidence on climate

change issues. This analysis could be developed by institutions from BASIC countries and other countries from G77 and China.

- Solutions on disbursement of finance are urgently required to enhance trust. Ministers were of the view that the UNFCCC Secretariat should publish information on funding already disbursed under fast-start finance provided by developed countries, since it is a commitment made under a multi-lateral agreement. They also reiterated that the Transitional Committee should interact with, and be guided by the AWG-LCA.
- Ministers received presentations on a document by experts from BASIC countries on “a framework for equitable access to sustainable development” as requested at the 6th BASIC Ministerial Meeting. This work will be refined and published, as contribution to the body of scientific knowledge informing policy development.
- Ministers emphasised the need for early operationalisation of all the institutions established in terms of the Cancun agreements, including the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive Committee, Centre and Network, the registry, the work programme on the Response Measure Forum and the Green Climate Fund.
- The work programme on the road to Durban entails a high volume of work. Ministers heard a report from negotiators that identified the need for 35 to 40 technical and operational decisions or guideline under the COP and CMP. Ministers emphasized that a negotiating session in September/October is essential, and that it should include a short programme of the Subsidiary Bodies as a significant amount of work was mandated to these bodies in Cancun. They noted India’s submission of three items to be added to the provisional agenda of the COP (equity and sustainable development; trade measures and climate; mitigation, adaptation actions and IPR technology). Ministers also noted the submission made by Saudi Arabia relating to the provisional agenda of upcoming session of the SBI and SBSTA and stressed the importance of following the rules and procedures for the inclusion and removal of agenda items. Ministers expressed their complete support for the programme and timetable for informal consultations by the incoming COP Presidency.
- Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of BASIC countries to continue working to strengthen the unity of G77 and China and thanked Argentina as chair of the Group for its presence and valuable contribution. The importance of rebuilding trust and

strengthening the multilateral system was emphasised. Ministers re-emphasised that an agreement on the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is absolutely critical for the success of the Durban Conference.

- Ministers welcomed the offer of Brazil to host the 8th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in August 2011.
