Seventh Meeting of the Leaders' Representatives of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate

Co-Chair's Summary

The seventh Meeting at the Leaders' representative level of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate met in Rome, Italy, June 30 - July 1, 2010. It was attended by officials from the seventeen major economies, as well as the United Nations, with Bangladesh, Denmark, Barbados, Ethiopia, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates also participating in the session. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Peru, and Yemen were invited but unable to attend. Participants held frank and constructive discussions on issues that are central to advancing agreement on a balanced package outcome.

Participants emphasized the importance of quickly implementing the Copenhagen Accord's Fast Start financing provisions and highlighted that maximum clarity and transparency would build international confidence and would be an essential part of a balanced outcome in Cancun. Some proposed that a website could help provide clarity. Many emphasized the need to focus adaptation efforts on countries in need and those particularly vulnerable to climate change. Countries provided updates on their actions to meet their fast start financing commitments under the Accord. Spain reported on the initiative it launched with Costa Rica and the U.S. to build communities of practice to accelerate implementation of adaptation actions.

The MEF had an extensive discussion of MRV/transparency. It was suggested that, per the Copenhagen Accord, there are essentially three areas of MRV to be addressed: (1) Annex I Party mitigation, (2) financial and technological support of non-Annex I mitigation, and (3) non-Annex I mitigation. Various views were expressed concerning the timing of MRV decisions, i.e., how extensive Cancun decisions need to be.

Regarding Annex I Party mitigation and support, participants noted that there are several sets of existing guidelines that apply; there was discussion about the extent to which these guidelines are sufficient with respect to both frequency and content. Regarding non-Annex I Party mitigation, several ideas were put forward concerning in particular how the "international consultation and analysis" process should work. These included both possible principles (e.g., that it should be Party-driven, that it should be non-politicized, that there should be a "multilateral anchor," that the starting point should be national communications, that the purposes of MRV include the environmental purpose of seeing whether efforts are leading, individually and collectively, to the intended environmental outcome) and possible operational elements (e.g., that each Party should have a focal point, that there should be an opportunity for written questions to be submitted before consultations in addition to any oral questions).

Participants noted the various mitigation targets and actions listed under the Copenhagen Accord. They further discussed how such targets and actions might be reflected in a future outcome, including with respect to whether or not they should have a legally binding character, whether there should be a single instrument or two instruments, the timing of reflecting mitigation targets/actions, the application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and other aspects. Participants discussed the role of equity and the extent to which it is already reflected or needs to be further reflected, e.g., in relation to the 2 degree long-term goal. Some participants sought further clarity on the nature and implications of legally binding obligations, e.g., in relation to consequences for non-fulfillment. The issue was raised whether Annex I should list more Parties as they evolve. Several participants raised the important role of other processes, such as the Paris-Oslo process addressing deforestation, in advancing mitigation objectives.

To advance key activities in the Technology Action Plans of the Global Partnership launched by Leaders in L'Aquila July 2009, a Clean Energy Ministerial meeting 19-20 July in Washington, DC will launch new initiatives on energy efficiency, energy supply, and energy access. Mexico and India will co-host a ministerial meeting on technology 8-9 November to consider a range of important issues and advance the negotiations.

Mexico informed participants of their plans to promote a successful outcome in Cancun by undertaking intensive consultations on a range of issues, including by co-hosting ministerial meetings with other courtries.