



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OUTCOMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION COP18/CMP8

REPORT TO PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE 19 February 2013

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SECRET

OVERVIEW

- Context for the Doha climate change negotiations;
- South African position and national interest;
- Summary of the Doha outcomes;
- Implications;
- Recommendations.



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PURPOSE

- To provide a report on the outcome of the Doha climate change conference, in relation to South Africa's approved mandate

BACKGROUND

- Qatar hosted the 18th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP18), and the 8th session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8), in Doha, from 26 Nov to 07 Dec 2012.
- South Africa officially handed over the COP Presidency to Qatar at the beginning of the session and participated fully as a Party advancing and defending its national interests.

SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION AND NATIONAL INTEREST

South Africa seeks a future climate regime that:

- (i) balances climate and development imperatives, ensuring that the global emission reduction efforts are adequate to avert dangerous climate change, whilst protecting the developmental priorities of developing countries; and
- (ii) ensures that adaptation receives balanced and equal priority.

SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION AND NATIONAL INTEREST (2)

In Doha South Africa sought the full implementation of the Durban outcomes:

- a 2nd commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol (KP), on 1 January 2013;
- the conclusion of the work under the Convention on commitments for developed countries not participating in a 2nd commitment period of KP;
- support for developing country actions up to 2020;
- progress in the planning of work for the ADP.

CONTEXT FOR DOHA NEGOTIATIONS

- Doha concluded on the Durban mandate for an 8 year implementation phase for 2013 to 2020 and the negotiation of a new legal agreement for 2020.
- The key driver for the reconsideration of the current climate change architecture, has been the emergence of major developing countries
- The 2007 Bali Roadmap sought to address this through a 2-track structure for a post-2012 system under both the Kyoto Protocol and Convention.
- Political agreement in 2009 (Copenhagen - COP15/CMP5), formalised institutionally in 2010 (Cancun - COP16/CMP6), and finalised in Durban in 2011 at COP17/CMP7.



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ACHIEVEMENTS IN DURBAN – 2011, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR DOHA - 2012

Durban achieved:

- a Kyoto Protocol second commitment period;
- an architecture for enhanced cooperative action under the Convention;
- a process to increase current mitigation ambition;
- agreement to negotiate a future legal system under the Convention for the period beyond 2020.

These Durban agreements were to be operationalised in 2012 in Doha (COP18/CMP8).



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SA OBJECTIVES FOR DOHA

The main tasks for Doha were:

- to conclude and adopt a second commitment period up to 2020 through the amendment of the Kyoto Protocol;
- to conclude an agreed outcome under the Convention on comparable developed country commitments and developing country actions which are enabled and supported with finance and technology;
- to address the current challenge of low ambition pre-2020; and
- to develop a work programme for the negotiation of a future post-2020 legal outcome.

OUTCOMES- UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

- Agreed on the entry into force provisions for the 8 year long 2nd commitment period to come into effect on 1 Jan 2013,
- Agreed to a mechanism to review the ambition of developed country commitments by 2014,
- Secured environmental integrity by limiting use of surplus Assigned Amount Units from the 1st commitment period to 2%,
- Agreed to increased contribution to the Adaptation Fund by extending the 2% share of proceeds from activities under the Clean Development Mechanism to other carbon market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol.

IMPLICATIONS

- **Secondly**, the completion of negotiations on a new legal outcome under the Convention by 2015, which is to come into effect from 2020;
- **Thirdly**, careful analysis of the changing political landscape is needed to ensure that South Africa is well placed within a political alliance that would best serve our national interests; and

SUMMARY

- The climate change conference in Doha **secured the Durban legacy** with an outcome that:
- (i) concluded the necessary provisions to give effect to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, including legal, operational, ambition and environmental integrity considerations thus terminating the Ad hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP);
- (ii) concluded an agreed outcome under the Convention track, and terminated the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA);
- (iii) confirmed the agenda and a multi-year plan of work for negotiations under two workstreams of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP), namely, the workstream on ambition and the workstream on negotiating a future legal outcome by 2015, to come into effect by 2020.

Thank you

