

## The Greenland Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change Ilulissat, Greenland, 30 June – 3 July 2009 Chair's Summary



Ministers and heads of delegation from 29 countries completed a circle by returning to Ilulissat, Greenland, for the fifth informal ministerial dialogue on climate change - a dialogue that was launched by Denmark in August 2005.

### The Chair summarised the discussions as follows

- 1. Ministers committed to success in Copenhagen.** Ministers urged political leadership by all, and agreed that leadership begins in national capitals. Ministers committed to provide their delegations with clear guidelines and flexible mandates, in order to speed up and intensify negotiations in the run up to Copenhagen. This was seen as imperative to narrow gaps and build mutual trust. Ministers agreed that we can do more collectively than the sum of our individual efforts – and that we must bridge these gaps together.
- 2. Global warming must stay below 2 degrees.** Responding to science, ministers were determined to take action to stay below a global average temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, corresponding to an atmospheric concentration of no more than 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. This requires global emissions to be reduced by at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050 and global emissions to peak as soon as possible and preferably before 2020. In this context, Ministers stressed the need for developed countries to peak now, and to reduce emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. To meet these objectives, ministers acknowledged that credible mid-term targets (2020) for developed countries are needed. In this regard, they noted that the IPCC has described a range of 25-40% below 1990 in 2020 for developed countries, as well as substantial deviation from business as usual for developing countries.
- 3. Developed countries must demonstrate credible leadership.** Ministers agreed that developed country emission reductions must follow a credible pathway that is compatible with the 2 degrees limit. Aggregate reduction proposals from developed countries do not yet demonstrate the necessary leadership and do not meet the demands of science. It was stated that the so-called bottom-up approach will not likely deliver the necessary mitigation. Therefore, developed countries should explore how they can strengthen the ambition of their contributions in line with these objectives, as part of an ambitious global agreement.
- 4. Criteria for comparing efforts of developed countries must inform political decisions that lead to a deal perceived as fair by all.** Ministers agreed that comparability of efforts should be based on political principles of responsibility, capabilities and constraints. Ministers also

agreed that a common reference year (1990) allows us to compare the ambition of efforts, but that contributions, if necessary, could be expressed differently to help domestic acceptability.

5. **Developing country actions must be strengthened to meet the demands of science.** Ministers appreciated that even with the continued leadership by developed countries a step change is needed in the contributions of developing countries. It was argued that developing countries should identify the level of ambition they are ready to commit to for Copenhagen. Ministers welcomed the growing number of developing countries that are implementing nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and recognized that they reflect a serious response to the climate challenge. Ministers underlined that NAMAs should be considered in the context of low carbon growth, and the need to follow sustainable development and poverty alleviation priorities. Ministers expressed the need for countries to convey this through e.g. comprehensive national low carbon growth plans and national communications for developing countries. Ministers agreed that building on and enhancing the process of National Communications should provide the basis for strengthening mutual responsibility and accountability in a Copenhagen agreement. This would address the issue of verification of unilateral actions. Substantial additional financial support for this effort will be required.
6. **Actions by developing countries should reflect their right to develop and respective capabilities to reduce emissions.** Ministers underlined that negotiations should not be strained by further discussions on possible formal differentiation within groups. Ministers however appreciated that differentiation will materialize through developing countries' actions in accordance with their respective capabilities.
7. **No money, no deal.** Ministers agreed that new, additional, predictable and sustainable finance is an essential foundation for success in Copenhagen. Responding to the urgent needs of developing countries, ministers found that early action up to 2012 will be critical in building trust and confidence. Acknowledging that donor countries have a bad track record of delivering on pledges, ministers opted for a paradigm shift beyond 2012: For a deal on finance to be credible, it must identify specific mechanisms to ensure that resources will flow on a large and predictable scale over the longer term, and should indicate the range of financial resources that will be made available over time.
8. **New financial arrangements needed.** Ministers agreed that a mix of innovative and traditional sources is needed. Finance must go beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA). Ministers appreciated that a willingness by all to provide financial contributions within their means could catalyze further finance. In this regard ministers expressed a general interest in exploring the Mexican Green Fund proposal in combination with innovative financing. Ministers recognized that to ensure adequate financial flows, private sector investments must be incentivized and redirected to underpin mitigation and adaptation efforts, and that public finance should seek to leverage these flows.

9. **Finance for adaptation and mitigation should be treated separately.** Cutting emissions, and building resilience to climate impacts in developing countries are distinct challenges, and each should be supported by distinct sources and mechanisms.
10. **Adaptation has been neglected for too long.** Impacts of climate change will exacerbate existing disparities between rich and poor. Ministers acknowledged that adaptation has been given a more prominent place in the Bali Action Plan, and agreed that it must be the true second leg of a Copenhagen agreement. Ministers recognized that capacity needs to be built at both national and regional levels, including through the establishment of regional centers, and that a comprehensive program of work on adaptation could also include elements of knowledge networks, risk management and a strengthened structure under the UNFCCC.
11. **Funding for the least developed and most vulnerable countries is urgently needed.** The resources that have been raised to fund adaptation are far from sufficient. Ministers urgently called for existing adaptation plans to be financed without further delay. Ministers further emphasized that significant new and additional funding streams must be directed to the least developed and most vulnerable.
12. **“Green” and “Growth” go hand in hand.** In the context of the present global economic downturn, a number of governments have chosen to turn the financial crisis, and the flows it has unlocked, into an opportunity to increase energy independence, improve the efficiency of infrastructure and green their economies. Ministers recognized that responding to climate change provides an opportunity to make sound and sustainable investment choices that will move us towards a low carbon economy and to a more energy secure future.
13. **We urge Heads of State and Government to strengthen their engagement.** The first opportunity will be the leaders meeting of the Major Economies Forum in L’Aquila. Leaders should use this opportunity to provide direction on key challenges to an agreement in Copenhagen. The next will be the initiative by the UN Secretary General for a High Level Event on Climate Change on 22 September. This is a critical opportunity for leaders to raise the stakes for Copenhagen and build the momentum for its success. Leaders should be invited to provide their perspectives on the building blocks for Copenhagen, including ambitious and comparable developed country commitments, developing country actions, finance and governance, to help narrow down options and remove political obstacles.
14. **Continued political consultations needed.** Ministers expressed the need to engage in further political meetings before Copenhagen. The next dialogue will take place in conjunction with the UN high level event on climate change in New York on 22 September 2009.