



Norwegian positions towards the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha, COP 18, 26 November – 7 December 2012

The Durban platform

The world is in urgent need of a more comprehensive and ambitious global framework on climate change under the United Nations. An important step forward was taken in 2011 when the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties established the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), based on the recognition that fulfilling the ultimate objective of the Convention will require strengthening the multilateral rules-based regime under the Convention.

Deliverables at Doha

Norway believes that it is paramount to establish such a regime no later than 2015, in the form of a protocol under the Convention. This will give direction and energy to the UN process, promote higher ambitions, and mobilize resources. To make this happen, three aspects are particularly important: A second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol from 2013, sustained climate finance, and a plan for negotiations towards a new international agreement which keeps the process on track for it to be finalized in 2015. Doha must deliver on these issues. Doha should also conclude on outstanding issues from the Cancun and Durban Conferences in 2010 and 2011. Norway hopes to see decisions in Doha on a new market mechanism under the Convention and results based financing for REDD+.

The Kyoto Protocol

The Doha Conference will make history by agreeing on the terms for a second

commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol from 2013. Norway is ready to take on an 8 year second commitment period at Doha in line with Norway's pledge to reduce emissions by 30 % in 2020 based on 1990 levels.

Climate finance

Decisions from Cancun and Durban bring us closer to a financial architecture under the Convention more fit for future challenges. In Doha, Parties will deliberate and decide on important finance related issues, including reports from the newly established Green Climate Fund and the Standing Committee. Parties will also discuss the report from the work program on long term finance. Developed countries have committed to the goal of mobilizing 100 billion USD annually by 2020, in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation. In this light it will be important to make progress on the mobilization of climate finance after 2012, including on sources of climate finance. An important part of this effort will be to enable the Green Climate Fund to help developing countries achieving low carbon, climate resilient pathways to growth.

Towards the 2015 agreement

Parties have made good progress the last years in developing the climate regime and its institutional framework. But the world has not seen the deep cuts necessary to keep global warming below two degrees. The cost of impact from climate change will increase the longer it takes to agree on further necessary emission cuts, while capacity to adapt to climate change is still

lacking. The largest economies of the world must take on stronger commitments. The wealthier part of the world must demonstrate that it takes the lead in combating climate change. While there is little time to 2015, there are encouraging developments in many parts of the world. National climate policies are being developed and implemented. A new global framework under the UNFCCC should capture this progress and promote and incentivize further action within a common legal framework. Differentiated responsibilities should be combined with commitments applicable to all Parties such as reporting and accounting rules. The agreement should also reflect evolving responsibilities and capabilities in a changing world.

Enhancing mitigation ambition

Norway considers it crucial that the Doha conference shows progress in the work on enhancing mitigation ambition as a matter of urgency. The Doha Conference, as well as the plan of work for 2013, must explore options that can close the gap between the aggregate effect of Parties' current mitigation pledges and the emission pathways consistent with a likely chance of holding global temperature increase below 2 or 1,5 degrees Celsius. This calls for a practical approach, as further mitigation action must be implemented earlier than 2020.

Adaptation

The impacts of climate change are becoming an increasing burden to development throughout the world. Least developed countries, small island development states and countries in Africa prone to drought and floods are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The Cancun framework, including the work undertaken by the Adaptation Committee and the strengthening of national adaptation planning for least developed countries provide a solid basis on which to build enhanced action on

adaptation under the Convention. In Doha, support for national adaptation planning, as well as identifying the appropriate role of the Convention on addressing loss and damage, will be key deliverables.

Market based mechanisms

The market is used to pursue least cost abatement opportunities under the Kyoto Protocol through the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and International Emissions Trading, as well as domestic and regional schemes. The market will enable us to do more, and thus to raise ambitions. Over ten years, the CDM has mobilized investments of more than USD 215 billion in clean technology and emission mitigation in developing countries. Following the economic crisis, the carbon market is currently very weak. Enhanced mitigation ambition will give increased demand for reductions provided by the market and strengthen it, including the CDM. Norway welcomes the new market mechanism defined in Durban as an opportunity to go beyond the project based mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, targeting broad segments of the economy. The new mechanism can ensure a net decrease of emissions from the covered sectors and be helpful in getting regulatory control of emissions in both developing and developed countries.

REDD+

Deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries account for approximately one sixth of global emissions. Reduction of emissions from the forestry sector in developing countries (REDD+) offers a cost-effective and rapid option to secure large emission reductions before 2020. Efforts to establish a REDD+ mechanism made great progress at the climate conferences in 2010 and 2011. In Doha, the important issues include monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of emission reductions, and how developing countries will be paid for emission reduction results.