



UN Climate Summit 2014 Report – September 23, 2014

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE) are private, non-partisan, not-for-profit institutions, created by His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernández, former President of the Dominican Republic.

FUNGLODE and GFDD are dedicated to formulating innovative and strategic proposals on global issues of national interest with the purpose of contributing to the creation of effective public policies related to the governance and social and economic development of the Dominican Republic.

The title of the Conference was “**Climate Summit 2014: Catalyzing Action**” and lasted one day (from 8am to 7.30pm). It was made up of several sessions including an Opening and Closing Ceremony, National Action & Ambition Announcements on climate change policy by UN Member states, Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Action Announcements, and several presentation by guest speakers on 8 action areas including: Agriculture, Cities, Energy, Financing, Forests, Industry, Resilience and Transportation.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony featured a presentation by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as well as interventions by guest speakers on the importance of climate change from Mr. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Mr. Al Gore, Chairman of Generation Investment Management and the Climate Reality Project, and Mr. Leonardo DiCaprio, Actor and UN Messenger of Peace.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (SG) drummed home to delegates the importance of the summit stating that “Climate change is the defining issue of our age” and that “Our response will define our future”. He explained that we need to achieve carbon neutrality by the end of the century, and to do this we need to ensure we limit a global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius in the Paris Climate Change Agreement in December 2015. To support these efforts the SG stated that finance measures would play an important role. He referred to the need for adding private finance measures to public funds such as the Green Climate Fund.

Mr. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York explained that Hurricane Sandy was a clear wake up call for New Yorkers in terms of the dangers of climate change, the storm having “caused 44 dead here in NYC”. Mr. de Blasio outlined New York City’s commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and supported a complete move away from fossil fuels through global action on climate change.

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stressed that human influence in climate change is clear and that we need to act decisively if we are to address climate change. To ensure that we limit global temperature rises below 2 degree rises he stressed that we need to peak our greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Illustrating the effects of climate change with the issue of climate migration, accelerating collapse of our ice sheets and steady rise in climate related deaths, Dr. Pachauri called for a rapid transition to clean technology. He explained that this transition would entail embracing renewables, energy efficiency measures and reforestation measures. He stressed that the cost of action on climate would rapidly be outweighed by the cost of inaction.

Mr. Al Gore, Chairman of Generation Investment Management and the Climate Reality Project explained that we have entered a period of hope, fueled by economic opportunity whereby the price of renewable energies such as solar has dramatically fallen (US onshore wind costs have fallen from \$109/MWh in 2009 to \$38 today. This means they are now competitive with natural gas without the benefit of federal subsidies). He pointed to the fact that investment in renewable energy

today outweighs the costs of investment in carbon industries. Turning to emerging financial products, Mr. Gore stressed that the green bonds market has increased 10 times (In 2012 \$3 billion of such bonds were sold. In the first six months of 2014, the sum was about \$20 billion, nearly twice as much as in 2013 as a whole). Mr. Gore concluded by stressing that he saw the global agreement to be reached on climate change in Paris in 2015 as the path to change, and that all is needed is political will.

Mr. Leonardo DiCaprio, Actor and UN Messenger of Peace

Mr. DiCaprio called for “a price tag on carbon emissions” and the need to “eliminate government subsidies for coal, gas, and oil companies”. He stressed that “We need to end the free ride that industrial polluters have been given in the name of a free-market economy, they don’t deserve our tax dollars, they deserve our scrutiny. For the economy itself will die if our ecosystems collapse.” Pointing to the economic benefits offered by renewable energy he stated that “New research shows that by 2050 clean, renewable energy could supply 100% of the world’s energy needs using existing technologies, and it would create millions of jobs”.

Summary of the National Action & Ambition Announcements:

- Overall there was convergence on the need for a 2 degree pathway before the end of the century. Most states agreed that to do this will take bold and ambitious action;
- Many states outlined bold plans to achieve the fight against climate change, including bold energy efficiency targets and the call for a price on carbon;
- An overall commitment to mobilized climate finance was called for, achieving capitalization of the GCF before meeting in Lima;
- The need to channel private funds in compliment to public financing for specific projects was recognized;
- Numerous states reaffirmed the principles of the UNFCCC;
- Some countries emphasized the need to reaffirm the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility and to abide by the second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol.

Key State Positions:

H.E. Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States referred to the national climate issues endured by the USA over the last year (Hurricane Sandy, Colorado wildfires, Miami floods at high tide) and pointed to the need to cut GHG emissions at home and support climate adaptation measures globally.

Mr. Obama referred to the US’s important role to lead by example on climate issues as the second largest emitter in the world. He then told UN delegates that pollution must be contained to address climate change and called out China, saying that the most populous country on Earth, with the

fastest increase in carbon pollution, must join the United States to lead the rest of the world in carbon reduction.

He stressed that the "urgent and growing threat of climate change" would ultimately "define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other" issue.

After focusing on recent national plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions, such as his national climate action plan, President Obama announced measure to help developing countries better prepare for climate change and outlined a partnership plan to meet additional carbon reduction goals by 2020. This included directing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish new emission standards for active coal plants in the United States, reducing 350 million metric tons of carbon emission by 2030 thanks to the expansion of renewable energy source and working with China to cut HFC emissions by 80% by 2050.

H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania and Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change pointed to national measures being put in place including climate smart agriculture measures (food security, forests and wetlands) and renewable energy measures. He stressed it would be difficult to succeed without the support of developed countries due to limitations in finance and technology.

President Kilwete explained that Africa is only responsible for 3% of world GHG emission, yet it sequesters 68Bn tons of carbon that is produced elsewhere.

He made specific demands for all nations to play their part, stressing that adaptation and mitigation measures must succeed, developing countries must honor their commitments on climate change, investment in rural electrification on renewable energy must be supported by states (ensure movement away from biomass reliance).

H.E. Mr. Baron Waqa, President of Nauru and Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) reminded delegates that AOSIS is a group of 44 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

He stated that AOSIS is committed to finalizing a meaningful agreement that will attain a 1.5 global temperature reduction goal. Mr. Wagar pointed to the publication of the report "Tackling the Challenge of Climate Change": measures necessary to tackle CC. Urgent action needed.

He stated that bold national contributions are needed from states and developed countries must take the lead. In terms of climate finance he called for \$50 billion in capital finance to be inserted in the Green Climate Fund. The international Conference on SIDS was successful in reaching 297 partnerships.

H.E. Mr. Zhang Gaoli, Vice-Premier of China, referred to his National Climate Change program and stressed that as of 2013, the level of carbon intensity in China was down by 28% from 2005 levels. He also pointed out that China is responsible for 58% of all energy saved between 1991 and

2010. Turning to national forest cover, he stressed that this grew by 2 billion cubic meters from 2005 level.

As a developing country, Mr. Gaoli stressed that China will take on responsibilities that are commensurate with its national conditions and capabilities. He explained that China would announce its 2020 actions on climate change as soon as possible to help reduce GHG and raise the forest cover in the country. He stated that China would aim to bring about peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible.

Looking at finance, he stated that China will double its support for the establishment of a south south fund on climate change & that it will provide \$6 billion in advancing south south cooperation on climate change.

Commenting on the upcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris, he confirmed that China would support the establishment of a climate change agreement. Having said this Mr. Gaoli warned that negotiations should stick to the UNFCCC process and respect the principle of Common But differentiated Responsibilities. He explained that we need to meet our respective commitments: developed countries need to provide technology transfer capability to developing countries

H.E. Mr David Cameron, Prime Minister of the UK confirmed that it would reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels

H.E. Mr. Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of the island state of Tuvalu confirmed that Tuvalu would seek to source 100% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2020. In order to do this Tuvalu warned that it would require further partnerships to do this. It thanks the governments of the EU, Japan, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirate for helping to make so much progress on this target to date.

State Positions on Climate Finance

Developed and developing countries have started pulling together to capitalize the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a climate change fund for poor countries – by pledging more than US\$2 billion.

France committed to providing \$1bn to the GCF the first significant contribution since Germany threw in \$1bn last July. Sweden has also contributed.

The Green Climate Fund was founded in 2010 to help poor countries cope with climate change. UN officials and developing country diplomats have said repeatedly it will not be possible to reach a climate deal in Paris, without a significant fund for those countries which did the least to cause climate change but will bear the brunt.

South Korea and Switzerland went on to pledge \$100m each, Denmark pledged \$70m, Norway pledged \$33m and Mexico said it would give \$10m.

Analysis: The total of \$2.3bn pledged for the Green Climate Fund so far has fallen short of the \$10bn to \$15bn that UN officials and developing country said was needed to show rich countries were

committed to acting on climate change. It also was unclear whether the pledges represented new money and when they would be inputted.

Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Action Announcements by issue area:

The afternoon negotiation sessions were divided by issue areas with representation from both the public and the private sector. The outcomes in each issue area were as follows:

- **Agriculture:** More than 20 Governments, 30 organizations and companies announced they would join the newly launched Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. The countries joining represent millions of farmers, at least a quarter of the world cereal production, 43 million undernourished people and 16 per cent of total agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. A North-American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance will also be established to help farmers, ranchers and foresters adapt to climate change, improve resiliency and ease the associated risks of the production process. This alliance is to be launched in 2015;
- **Cities:** A global Compact of Mayors – which brought together well over two thousands cities, including over 200 cities with specific targets and strategies for greenhouse gas reductions, was launched. Key partners of the Compact of Mayors include the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group www.c40.org; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability www.iclei.org; and the United Cities and Local Governments www.uclg.org. About 20 public and private sector partners also united today to launch the City Climate Finance Leadership Alliance to stimulate investments in low-carbon and climate-resistant infrastructure in cities in low- and middle-income countries. This alliance aims to stimulate public and private investment to generate the trillions of dollars needed each year for climate-smart infrastructure. The Alliance partners include the World Bank, UN-Habitat, Bank of America, Bank of West Africa, Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Agence Française de Développement, the French Agency for Development;
- **Energy:** A new Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform was launched under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative with participation from Leaders from more than 40 countries, 30 cities and dozens of corporations;
- **Financing:** the investment community and financial institutions announced that they will mobilize hundreds of billions of dollars for financing low-carbon and climate resilient pathways. These commitments will involve more than \$US200 billion of financial assets by the end of 2015;
- **Forests:** More than 130 governments, companies, civil society and indigenous peoples endorsed the New York Declaration on Forests, pledging to cut the loss of forests in half by 2020 and, for the first time, to end it a decade later in 2030. It also calls for the restoration of more than 350 million hectares of forests and croplands, an area greater than the size of India, which would bring significant climate benefits and take pressure off primary forests;

- **Industry:** Multinational oil and gas companies have joined forces with governments and international environmental organizations to cut the emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas produced by the oil and gas industry, as part of the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership. Partners of the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership include: ENI of Italy; Petróleos Mexicanos or Pemex; the U.S. gas company Southwestern Energy; Norway's Statoil Group; BG Group, the former British Gas, and Thailand's oil and gas company, PTT. The Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense Fund have also signed onto the initiative, as have governments from major oil and gas producing countries, including Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, The Russian Federation and the United States. The Global Green Freight Action Plan was also launched during the summit. This Plan is a new global coordinating mechanism that includes the support of more than 20 countries and about two dozen leading NGOs, multinational and intergovernmental organizations that aims to align and enhance existing efforts toward cleaner freight delivery;
- **Resilience:** Two initiatives that will expand access to clean, renewable energy for people in eastern and southern Africa and the Small Island Developing States will be substantially scaled up. The Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) aims to expand the portion of renewable energy used by the Eastern Africa Power Pool and Southern African Power Pool from its current 12 per cent to at least 40 per cent by 2030. The Small Island Developing States Lighthouse Initiative will strengthen international cooperation and speed the development of low-carbon renewable energy resources, aiming to install about 120 megawatts of renewable energy in these countries by 2019;
- **Transportation:** Four global transport alliances launched or advanced initiatives that aim to significantly scale-up proven low carbon transport technologies. The Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (UEMI) was launched to increase the number of electric vehicles in cities to at least 30 percent of all new vehicles sold on annual basis by 2030 while simultaneously developing the enabling infrastructure for their effective use. The International Union of Railways (UIC) – with 240 members worldwide including the major railways of Europe, China, Russia, India and the US – launched the Low-Carbon Sustainable Rail Transport Challenge. In the Association's green growth agenda framework, the UIC aims to increase rail use for freight and transport and meet ambitious targets for increased efficiency and emission reduction of 50 percent each by 2030 and 60 and 75 percent, respectively, by 2050. Governments under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the aviation industry, represented through the cross-industry Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), stepped up commitment and partnerships to achieve the ultimate objective of a sustainable international aviation sector, and in particular to reach the industry's long-term existing global goal to halve net CO2 emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.

Closing Ceremony:

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon thanked all participants of the Climate Summit for their efforts and commitments on climate change policy and confirmed that a full report of outcomes would soon be uploaded to the [Climate Summit's official website](#).