



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE

28 – 29 OCTOBER 2011

**“BUILDING TOMORROW TODAY, WORKING TOWARDS A NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON
CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AFRICAN COP 17”**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa recognises the responsibilities assigned to South Africa in hosting the 17th Conference of Parties (COP) in Durban, 29 November – 9 December 2011. As the legislative arm of the Government, Parliament also realises the significance of its role in assisting the Executive by creating an opportunity for engagement on the form and content of the negotiations to reach consensus on an agreement on climate change.

With regard to the role of parliamentarians on aspects of climate change, their focus is on their roles within the legislative, accountability, oversight and budget allocation processes. To undertake these mandated functions, a collaborative approach with the South African citizenry is essential. To this end, Parliament facilitated a national consultative seminar to convene climate change engagements with the Executive, civil society, business, traditional leaders and other relevant stakeholders on key aspects of negotiation issues to promote consensus building toward COP 17. The following objectives underpin the theme, *'Attaining Consensus and Committee in Attaining a Global Agreement on Climate Change at COP17,'* of the seminar:

- To obtain insights into the collective expectations on the form and content of an agreement at COP 17;
- To receive an update on the work of the subsidiary bodies so as to ascertain progress on the Kyoto Protocol, Long Term Consultative Action under the Convention, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;
- To look at the ways in which South Africa can use this platform to advance the case for developing countries generally, and Africa specifically;
- To receive inputs from Parliament, civil society, business, organised business, traditional leaders and Government in reaching consensus on a climate change agreement; and
- To draft and adopt a Declaration on expectations of technical and other details to be contained in a 'global agreement'.

2. INSIGHTS OFFERED BY PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Opening Session

In the opening session, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, the Honourable M Sisulu, Professor G Midgley and Ms B Sonjica offered an overview of South Africa and Africa's position, as well of the current and previous state of play within the UNFCCC process.

2.1.1 Opening and Welcome

The Honourable Mr Sisulu welcomed all delegates and stressed the importance and related challenges of the impact of climate change, particularly in developing countries on the African continent. He referred to the 2011 September session of the African Environmental Ministerial Conference in Bamako, Mali, which culminated in a Declaration on Climate Change. The Declaration emphasises the point that support to Africa must be based on the Continent's priorities (food security, poverty alleviation and climate risk management) in relation to adaptation, mitigation, capacity building, transparent financing, technology development and transfer.

In relation to the national context, the South African Government:

- Accepts the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 4th Assessment Report on warming of the climate system, and that the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations as a result of human activity is primarily responsible for the warming trend;
- Regards climate change as one of the greatest threats to sustainable development;





- Has taken bold action by making voluntary commitments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Will continue to engage in the current multilateral negotiations to strengthen the international response to the climate change crisis. South Africa has ratified the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. The Government continues its efforts to strengthen and ensure the full implementation of the UNFCCC on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

Whilst accepting its obligations and upholding the democratic approach to multilateralism, South Africa's international climate change negotiation reflects the 'common but differentiated responsibilities' position as contained in Article 3.1 of the UNFCCC. This places greater responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emission in the near term on the part of developed/industrialised countries', as stipulated in the UNFCCC.

In conclusion, the Speaker maintained that the success of COP 17 would require a balance been struck along three areas of work in the negotiations:

- Between operationalising decisions made thus far in the negotiations, particularly in the Cancun agreement, and pending issues;
- Between the outcomes under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol; and
- The advancement of all elements that will make up the future climate change regime.

2.1.2 Outcome of previous Conference of Parties (COPs) and Members of Parties (MOPs) to the Kyoto Protocol, and its implications for parties

Professor Guy Midgley, from the South African National Biodiversity Institute and Ms Bulelwa Sonjica, the former Minister of Environmental Affairs provided an overview of the outcome of previous Conference of Parties and Members of Parties, and their implications for parties.

The international political response to climate change began with the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, spelling out a framework for action aimed at stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid 'dangerous anthropogenic interferences' with the climate system. The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and includes 194 parties.

In December 1997, delegates at the 3rd Conference of Parties (COP 3) in Kyoto, Japan, agreed to a Protocol to the UNFCCC committing industrialised countries and countries in transition to a market economy to achieve emission reduction targets. These countries, known under the UNFCCC as Annex 1 parties, agreed to reduce their overall emissions of six greenhouse gases by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels between 2008-2012 (the first commitment period), with specific targets varying from country to country. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on 16 February 2005 and currently has 190 parties.

In 2005, at COP/MOP 11 in Montreal, Canada, parties established the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol mandates Annex 1 Parties' consideration of further commitments to at least seven years before the end of the first commitment period. In addition, COP 11 agreed in Montreal to consider long-term cooperation under the UNFCCC through a series of four workshops known as the Convention Dialogue, which continued until COP 13.

COP 13 and COP/MOP took place in December 2007, in Bali, Indonesia. The focus was on long-term issues and the negotiations resulted in the adoption of the Bali Action Plan (BAP), establishing the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Terms Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) under the UNFCCC. Its mandate was to focus on key elements of long-term cooperation identified during the Convention Dialogue, namely: mitigation; adaptation, finance and technology and capacity building. Parties agreed on a two-year negotiating process, the Bali Roadmap, which included 'tracks' under the Convention and the Protocol set a deadline for concluding the negotiations in Copenhagen.





The AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP are two key bodies under the Bali Roadmap.¹ Between 2008 and 2010 the Conference of the Parties, took place in Poznań, Poland (COP14/MOP4), Copenhagen, Denmark (COP15/MOP5) and Cancún, Mexico (COP 16/MOP 6). At COP 14, delegates agreed on principles for the financing of a fund to help the poorest nations cope with the effects of climate change. A mechanism to incorporate forest protection into the efforts of the international community to combat climate change was also incorporated.

At COP 15, the main issue was to establish an ambitious climate agreement for the period from 2012, when the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol expires. The conference did not achieve a legally binding agreement for long-term action. A 13-page 'political accord' was negotiated by approximately 25 parties, including the United States of America and China, but was only 'noted' by the COP as it was considered an external document, not negotiated within the UNFCCC process. The accord was notable in that it referred to a collective commitment by developed countries for new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions. The negotiations on extending the Kyoto Protocol had unresolved issues, as did the negotiations on a framework for long-term cooperative action.

At COP 16, the Cancún Agreements, which resulted from the two-week UNFCCC negotiations meeting in Mexico, were widely considered a robust success despite the deep fragmentation between 'negotiating blocs' seen in and after Copenhagen. COP 16 put multilateralism back on track to deliver meaningful action on climate change.

3. UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS AND THE WORK OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The Director-General, Mr J M Matjila, from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Mr Maesala Kekana, adviser to the Minister of Environmental Affairs, provided an overview of the status of negotiations toward COP 17, as well as advances made in the work of the subsidiary bodies.

3.1 Outcome of previous negotiations at COPs and MOPs

The 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The conference is officially referred to as the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UNFCCC and the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, the two permanent subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC – the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – are likely to hold their 35th sessions.²

The 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference extended the mandates of the two temporary subsidiary bodies – the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), that are expected to meet as well. The four subsidiary bodies are committees that assist the Conference of the Parties. The workings of these bodies toward the Conference of the Parties provide the outcome to an agreement.

Negotiations took a turn after COP 16 (Cancun, Mexico) leading to two schools of thought in the climate change debate. The two comprise the comprehensive regime and the incremental regime. South Africa supports the former. The position stipulates a top-down approach where targets are set for developed countries. These countries have to reduce emissions by

¹ The AWG-LCA launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action. The mandate of the AWG-KP is to discuss future commitments for industrialized countries under the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol established a working group in December 2005 called the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)

² The SBI gives advice to the Conference of the Parties on all matters concerning the implementation of the Convention. The SBSTA's task is to provide the COP with advice on scientific, technological and methodological matters. Two key areas of work in this regard are promoting the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies and conducting technical work to improve the guidelines for preparing national communications and emission inventories.





40% in 2020 if average temperatures are to be reduced by 2°C in 2050. There is a general scientific view that temperatures could rise by 2°C by 2050 if nothing is done. The consequences would be severe. However, not all nation states agree on this view, and there are attempts to move toward an incremental progress, where countries voluntarily decide on contributions. Incremental progress is nevertheless on the negotiating table.

Before COP 16 in 2010, negotiations sought to build a transparent and comparable framework under the Convention for the United States, and negotiated for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. However, the incremental progress argued since Cancun, had hampered progress. The United States has refused to be a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, and was unlikely to join, as it did not have domestic legislation on climate change. President Obama had tried to push legislation through Senate but received no support, and had to withdraw the legislation. There is a strong attempt to build a comparable framework under the Convention along the lines of the Kyoto Protocol. If the United States agrees to this, parties who ratified the Kyoto Protocol would willingly sign the second commitment period.

Another complication is that Parties that ratified the Kyoto Protocol no longer want to pursue the Kyoto Protocol. Countries like Japan, Russia, and the European Union countries are looking at major developing economies like China, Brazil, India and South Africa to commit to targets. The G77+China group (developing nations) had started engaging the European Union on possible solutions for Durban. The European Union, had asked to merge its objectives with the G77, and Ministers are engaged in these talks. The outcomes of COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico will influence the work of COP 17, Durban, South Africa.

The Copenhagen Accord was finalised in Cancun and its outcomes include:

- Launching of institutions like the Green Climate Fund, Technology Executive Mechanism, Persian Framework and Response Measure Forum; and
- Setting up a process to elaborate on governance and operational modalities of these institutions; and
- Outlining issues that required further engagements like intellectual property rights, the legal form of negotiations and the second commitment period.

3.2 South Africa and COP 17

There are a number of critical issues that South Africa will have to address regarding the question of the legal form of a future global climate agreement. Negotiations on the second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol are not finalised, and Durban is expected to pronounce on the second commitment period. The challenge however is that the United States has never ratified the Kyoto Protocol; therefore, the Kyoto Protocol targets do not bind it. Another Ad Hoc Working Group (Long-Term Cooperative Action) was established in Bali (Indonesia) in 2007 to negotiate a separate track for the United States. The nations still disagreed and little progress was made on the objectives of the Long-Term Cooperative Action. Negotiations on this aspect would continue at COP 17. Durban will constitute multiple agendas, as there will be meetings of the Conventions two permanent subsidiary bodies, the Convention on Members of Parties (CMP) and of COP 17. There could be 10 meetings going on at the same time and this requires capacity from participating nations.

The Minister of International Relations would co-preside at the conference, while the Minister of Environmental Affairs would lead the South African negotiating delegation. South Africa still needs to protect and articulate its national interest and this is why the Minister has to lead the delegation. The Africa Group of Negotiators has been formed to influence the scenario. The group will come up with common positions and report to African ministers of environment for endorsement. These will then be forwarded to the African Union *via* a Committee chaired by Ethiopia, and thereafter to the Heads of State.

South Africa had committed to the UNFCCC with the hope that it would secure a binding multilateral agreement that should be fair and inclusive. The agreement has to balance issues of mitigation and adaptation and recognise that development





is a priority. It is important to have a balanced outcome, as a great deal of money has already been spent on mitigation. Adaptation has to be central to the negotiations as Africa is the most vulnerable continent.

Outstanding matters from Cancun would form part of the discussions in Durban. Work has been undertaken to operationalise the Green Climate Fund. A Transitional Committee, chaired by Mexico and Norway was formed to design the Fund. The Honourable Minister Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Office of the Presidency, represents South Africa. The Committee is expected to report progress in Durban. The Technology Executive Committee has recently begun its work but with some difficulties. Three people on this committee represent Africa, but South Africa does not have a representative.

The Departments of International Relations and Cooperation and Environmental Affairs hosted a number of meetings to formulate Africa's position. African Ministers of Environment met in Mali to finalise the continent's position.

According to negotiators, the possibilities of all proposals being met in Durban are limited. The continent has however identified the following five key aspects, and if met, the conference would be a success:

- Maintaining the integrity of the multilateral process as it is undermined. Traditional partners had formed a coalition with the United States and disregarded the multilateral process because of its own challenges. India is one of those countries who opted for voluntary systems, which are difficult to monitor;
- Operationalising institutions that were agreed to in Cancun. There are no disagreements on this issue in both the developed and developing countries;
- Obtaining a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Although not all countries ratified the Kyoto Protocol, there are several ways to achieve the second commitment period;
- Placing adaptation at the centre of the conference outcome; and
- Finalisation of the Green Climate Fund.

If all of the five priorities mentioned above are agreed to in Durban, it would be a success.

4. OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Dr Thokozani Simelane, Chief Research Specialist and Head of Unit, Africa Institute of South Africa and Ms Romy Chevallier from the South African Institute of International Affairs provided an overview of the role of G77+ China and Africa and the role of the South African Government to advance the cause for developing countries in ensuring a fair, equitable and balanced outcome at COP 17.

4.1 G77 + China and Africa

In providing an overview, Dr Simelane noted that the G77 + China and Africa are pursuing and working toward reaching consensus on adaptation, finance, technology transfer, REDD+ (Reduction of emissions from deforestation and desertification), and mitigation.

The main 'sticking' point with regard to COP and the G77 + China has been a demand by some of the developed nations that developing countries like China, India, Brazil and South Africa be required to commit to legally binding emissions reduction targets. G77 + China remain opposed to attempts to phase out the Kyoto Protocol. The G77 + China's position is that the centrality of the UNFCCC must be preserved and respected with negotiations being conducted within the UNFCCC. They further argue that the process must be open, democratic, party-driven, transparent, inclusive, legitimate and accountable, and implemented according to the principles of the Bali Action Plan.





The **challenge** to this position is that a group of influential industrialised countries including Japan, Russia, Canada and the United States of America have indicated that they will not sign up to a second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012. These countries are calling for a new international treaty to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The European Union is leading a proposal for two parallel treaties that will extend the Kyoto Protocol for those covered by the agreement, while also imposing binding emission targets on countries that currently face solid emissions reduction commitments.

Africa's position

Africa is seeking a balanced and ambitious outcome based on evidence and science that will honour the promises that countries made to each other in the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Africa's opinion is that there is a need to agree to a level of cooperative global efforts that cut global emissions to safe levels for Africa and the world. There is a need to close the mitigation gap by ensuring that the developed countries take on fair and appropriate contributions to the global effort. There is also a need to close the finance gap by ensuring that developed countries meet their commitments to enable the adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries to ensure that these are protected from the worst effects of climate change.

Despite the commitment of funding by developed countries, Africa needs to develop self-reliance to safeguard and maximise the potential and available technical, financial and human resources that could be at its disposal. There is also a need for Africa to work out clear alternatives and strategies that would encourage more focused leadership of the climate agenda.

4.2 Role of the South African Government

Ms Romy Chevallier noted that the South African Government is hosting the 2011 annual United Nation (UN)-led international climate change talks. The negotiations seek to shape the future architecture of the global climate change regime. This is one of the most politically divisive and complex areas currently under discussion within the multilateral context. South Africa has an important task in moving the discussion forward. Reconciling its domestic climate agenda with that of the region, while simultaneously pursuing an ambitious international climate agenda, will be challenging. However, good preparations and communication focus on an inclusive, transparent and multilateral process, and an emphasis on substance will assist South Africa in working towards a successful outcome for the climate summit.

South Africa's negotiating stance is informed by numerous national and regional considerations. Its key objective is to encompass the continent and draw those most vulnerable into the centre of the debate. This event, coined 'the African COP' represents an opportune moment for the continent to heighten its presence in the multilateral system. To do this, South Africa needs to consolidate its own competing priorities and interests with that of the region and work alongside the African Union (AU) members in strengthening their common voice.

South Africa's approach at the COP is likely to be politically ambitious, adopting a top-down approach towards either salvaging the Kyoto Protocol or maintaining some form of a legally binding agreement. In some instances, South Africa is likely to use a bottom-up incremental approach, building on the foundation and institutional groundwork laid in Cancun and attempting to make this emerging architecture operational by identifying lasting, reliable sources of financing.

COP 17 has put South Africa's own mitigation commitments in the spotlight. It is the world's 12th highest greenhouse gas emitter. As the host nation, there is an expectation that the country guide by example and illustrate climate leadership. On 12 October 2011, Cabinet approved South Africa's National Climate Change Response Policy. This White Paper sets out South Africa's mitigation and adaptation path towards achieving a socio-economic transition to a climate-resilient and low carbon economy.





Government has also renewed its voluntary commitment to reduce carbon emissions below a business as usual baseline by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025, subject to the availability of adequate financial and technical support. These commitments require political will at national level to encourage sufficient domestic action and long-term strategies that support South Africa's behaviour on the international scene. Ms Chevallier's presentation provided the following recommendations:

- South Africa should use its leadership position, as incoming president and chair of COP 17 to the UNFCCC, to champion countries to support African agency, keeping vulnerable people and development concerns at the centre of the debate;
- The South African COP presidency should learn from previous climate meetings in terms of process and preparations; upholding the principles of multilateralism, transparency and the inclusion of non-governmental actors in the discussion are central to the overall success and legitimacy of COP 17;
- South Africa needs to consolidate its own competing national priorities and interests with others in the region; and
- South Africa should lead by example and illustrate concrete mitigation progress at national level. Clarity is needed on South Africa's renewable energy feed-in tariff regulations, its Integrated Resource Plan 2 and the proposed design of a carbon tax. South Africa needs to focus on awareness raising and education, so that projects exist beyond the Durban meeting.

5. THE ROLE OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TOWARD BUILDING A NATIONAL CONSENSUS

The Honourable Mr S Njikelana (Parliament), Ms L Naidoo (civil society), Ms J Yawitch (business) and Mr M Kekana (Government) provided the way in which various stakeholders engage their constituencies in the run-up to COP 17. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as the agency Indalo Yethu, under the Department of Environmental Affairs, provided messages of support to the National Consultative Seminar on Climate Change.

5.1 The role of Parliament

Climate change is a development issue: it causes poverty, affects food security and has a severe impact on the global economy. Climate change has moved from being a scientific to a policy issue, and it is in this context that Members of Parliament (MPs), as representatives of the people, have an important role to play.

Those who are affected are the people who are far removed from negotiations in Copenhagen, Cancun and now Durban, and who through no fault of their own, are at the receiving end of the actions of "global polluters". The only way their conditions can change is if there is a policy shift, if there is action on the part of policy-makers and the people, who represent them, that is, the Members of Parliament.

5.2 The role of organised civil society

In many instances, the voices of 'people on the ground' find resonance through the work of civil society organisations. Civil society organisations hold meetings to offer the space to communities to articulate issues that affect their daily lives. In the past couple of years, the number of disasters, not only in South Africa but globally, have necessitated civil society organisations to undertake awareness and education on climate change and to provide solutions, in some instances, to communities to deal with stressors.

The economy of South Africa is built on the use of fossil fuels and communities bear the brunt of the impacts and effects of various forms of pollution. Many citizens living in areas where this type of development occurs accept it as a way of life. It





is critical to make citizens aware that there are alternatives, such as moving away from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Civil society organisations, after broad consultations with a number of stakeholders, argue that the following aspects are critical for the developmental agenda of South Africa:

- Reducing carbon emissions by shifting to renewable energy;
- Developing a public transport system;
- Promoting small-scale agriculture;
- Holding polluting industries accountable; and
- Safeguarding biodiversity and peoples' rights.

5.3 The role of business

In building consensus to COP 17/CMP 7, the National Business Initiative (NBI) came together with business and individuals to work on issues related to sustainability in its broadest sense, in support of the government's position on climate change. A wide range of discussions within the business sector located climate change and its role at a national level. The business sector accepted the principles contained in South Africa's National Climate Response Green and White Paper. There is an acceptance from business that issues relevant to the international community, as articulated in the UNFCCC will also form the basis of their work. In supporting the South African Government, NBI has interacted with African and international business sector and looking at the work that business is undertaking in respect of mitigation and adaptation.

In March 2011, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and NBI agreed to cooperate around the COP 17 programme. A Chief Executive Officer's (CEOs) Forum was formed, as the body of Chief Executives, to provide a public face to the business initiative. The co-chairs comprise Eskom, Sasol and Impala Platinum, with over 40 companies across all sectors participating in events. There is an agreement among all participating organisations to partner and work with the World Business Council on Sustainable Development and the International Chamber of Commerce, who will form the official business observer organisations at COP. The individuals in the negotiating team fall under the Government mandate.

In the lead up to COP 17, the business sector has developed programmes to build awareness and understanding of the content of international negotiations and UNFCCC processes. They have run seminar series led by negotiators and have established partnerships with Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders on climate solutions.

The key negotiation issues for business are:

- Business support for efforts to secure second commitment period. This is critical for continuity of carbon market, as South African companies are actively involved in carbon financing in Africa and internationally. The business sector is also involved in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) portfolio;
- Support for the establishment of the Green Climate Fund and engagements with the Transitional Committee;
- Support for Government in ensuring that technology mechanism is established and supports the flow of Research and Development and technology innovations;
- Ensuring that adaptation measures are key and central to Africa;
- Support for market mechanism negotiations; and
- Support for a balanced and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) outcome.

The result of the business action toward COP 17 has built a business understanding of climate change issues in general and processes of international negotiations in particular. It has also mobilised business leadership around the issue and in support of Government, build partnerships with stakeholders in other sectors, created platforms for showcasing innovations and created the basis for business action and engagement around climate change into the future.





5.4 The role of Government

Representatives from member states, observers, other international bodies such as the United Nations, the Inter Parliamentary Union as well as civil society organisations meet as the COP/CMP meetings under the UNFCCC. The highest decision body is the COP/CMP.

The Convention makes provision for two intersessional meetings, even though parties can agree to additional meetings, as was the case in 2011. In 2011, the first intersessional meeting held in April, in Bangkok deliberated on the mandate for negotiations as to whether its Bali or Cancun compromise would set an agenda that covers both the Cancun and the Bali Action Plan.

The second meeting, held in June 2011, in Bonn, saw slow progress on technical issues, while the more central and difficult aspects of the Cancun or Bali decisions did not progress well. The third meeting held in October, in Panama, focused on generating a negotiating text for Durban, with arguments posited for a text. These ranged from being compilations of views, facilitators notes and negotiation text.

5.5 Message of support from the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Dr. Agostinho Zacarias, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for South Africa, delivered a message of support to the National Consultative Seminar on Climate Change. His message conveyed the appreciation of the United Nations family in South Africa for the initiative by Parliament to engage with various stakeholders in South Africa. He also reminded the delegates of the ideals held dear to Oliver Tambo, that is, human rights, democracy, equality and the emancipation of the African People. He urged the delegates to take these ideals to the negotiations in Durban.

The UNDP appreciated the initiative by Parliament in bringing the parties together and expressed the desire to see this cooperation strengthen and grow, and to be the start of a series of active engagements that would deepen our position at the COP process. The UNDP in turn, has initiated a series of meetings with business, media (press), youth and civil society representatives in order to create partnerships going forward.

The UNDP wished for incremental progress in Durban, which will enable parties to stabilise greenhouse gas emission while at the same time achieving economic development. With regard to the Green Fund, the UNDP touched on the issues of flexibility, technology sharing and governance.

Central to the UNDP's message was that, "Kyoto must not be allowed to die" and that issues of the Green Economy, Biodiversity and Low Carbon Emissions must be taken forward. These issues hold the key to sustainable development.

Dr. Agostinho Zacarias concluded his message with a pledge of support, from the UNDP beyond COP 17. UNDP is serious on ensuring strengthened partnerships in the Green Economy. He concluded with the hope that Durban would be remembered for what it has achieved.

5.6 Message of support from the representative of the Interfaith Communities

Bishop J. Davies emphasised that climate change was a moral issue and he mentioned the Interfaith Rally in Durban on the 27th November 2011 to which all were invited. The Interfaith Communities were hoping to secure one million signatures and to present the petition to the parties to the negotiations in a replica of the Ark. The petition reads as follows:





You must be honest and committed to treating the Earth and people with respect at the climate Summit in Durban. Moral principles – and not profit and economic gain – should be applied in the negotiations in order to secure our common future.

Thus far, the negotiations have not yielded any acceptable result; meanwhile the people of Africa are suffering fatal impacts of climate change. You must commit to the principle of inter-generational equity, for the rights of our children and Mother Earth (Extract from the - We have faith – Act now Petition).

5.7 Message of support from a representative of Indalo Yethu

Ms June Josephs-Langa, CEO at Indalo Yethu congratulated Parliament for convening the National Consultative Seminar on climate change. She argued that while the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presented the best science evidence on the reality of climate change, political will on implementation of adaptation and mitigation is critical.

Africa is the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and therefore it is important that collective leadership urge a fair and equitable deal for Africa and the developing world in the UNFCCC negotiations. Apart from global negotiations, there is also a national responsibility to empower the nation and people at grassroots with information about climate change. The impacts of climate change in the future will change the way in which people live, travel and gain access to electricity and water.

The implementation of ensuring that the citizenry engages on climate change culminated in an initiative by Indalo Yethu, the National Environment Awareness Agency. Indalo Yethu, together with the Department of Environmental Affairs, supported by the German Government, the Passenger and Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) and a host of civil society organisations embarked on an ambitious outreach project to engage the nation in their villages and town in a national conversation about climate change. This collective translated the initiative by launching the Climate Change Train, which left the Cape Town Station on 29 October 2011. The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Engage with women, youth, faith leaders, traditional leaders, people in informal settlements, labour and grassroots organisations in the national conversation; and
- Engaged with key development thinkers to craft a draft Climate Charter, which like the Freedom Charter will allow people to shape the Charter to articulate their rights and aspirations in their own language.

The Climate Train contains a showcase of green energy innovations and biodiversity adaptation to show what people in towns and villages the affordability of alternatives. There are new opportunities in the green economy to create jobs in green innovation, biodiversity, and waste and energy services. The Climate Train will reach its destination at the Durban Station on the eve of the UNFCCC meeting on 27 November 2011.

In conclusion, the presenter invited all delegates to the reception to launch the Climate Train at Cape Town Central Station at 18h00. She maintained that once the leadership at all levels saw the Climate Train, they would be better able to encourage their constituencies when the Train arrives at their towns.

6. INSIGHTS OFFERED BY COMMISSIONS

6.1 Commission 1: Character of the outcome of COP 17

On the character of the outcome of COP 17, including scenario building, delegates in Commission 1 posited scenarios, which ranged from legally binding outcomes, comparable outcomes and the provisional application of the second commitment period of the KP. Essentially, there are three sets of scenarios and various hybrids.





In a perfect world, the Kyoto Protocol architecture scenario (1) is the best option. This is whereby developed countries enter into a second commitment period and non-Kyoto countries enter into a commitment under the Convention. Ministers at the first meeting in 2011 looked at a second scenario to make COP 17 a success. Scenario 2, out of the Berlin talks, proposes the 'provisional application of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol with a comparable option for non-Kyoto Protocol followed by a transitional period. This means that instead of 'killing' the Kyoto Protocol, parties enter a provisional application of the commitment period until the 2015 review period, followed by a transitional period, and thereafter engage on the future. Scenario 3 argues for no agreement but Durban decides on a transitional period.

At the pre-COP meeting, the Minister from China proposed a hybrid to amend Scenario 3, whereby Durban should provisionally agree to the Kyoto Protocol until 2015, review the process and thereafter Parties could negotiate a legal agreement. Many argued that this would not be enough for those Parties willing to commit to a second period. One cannot wait for 2015 to review and thereafter engage in formulating a legal agreement. Durban has to set the scene for a legal agreement.

At the last round of climate negotiations in Panama, the debate on the future of the Kyoto Protocol resulted in:

- The G77 and China group of developing nations reiterated their stance that they were not prepared to listen to any future deal on mitigating climate change that would see an end to the KP; and
- The United States, Russia, Canada and Japan remained adamant that they would not sign up to an extended period of the Kyoto Protocol. The nations have instead proposed a new global treaty to replace the treaty when it expires in 2012.

The South African position is that the second commitment period is paramount for the G77 and China. The nations in this bloc are ready to negotiate and to produce actual texts in both tracks, based on respect for this position as well as others. The elements are in place and have to be translated into an express political commitment from the developed nations.





There was consensus from participants within the Commission that Scenario 1 would be supported: namely, that the Kyoto Protocol architecture scenario would include developed country Parties entering into a second commitment period, with non-Kyoto Protocol countries committing to a future legally binding agreement under the Convention. Commission 1 emphasised that it did want to see Durban as the graveyard of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Commission took note of the complicated geopolitical context and decided that there needed to be a 'fall back option' included so that the South African negotiating team had some opportunity for flexibility. Scenario 2 is a 'provisional application of the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol with comparable obligations for non-Kyoto Protocol parties, followed by a transitional period after the 2015 review when a future regime has been agreed to. However, it must be noted that there was much concern about this option as the consensus was that a non-legally binding option is not what South Africa wants.

All members of the Commission agreed that Durban would be considered a failure if no attempt was made to salvage the Kyoto Protocol and no political agreement made at COP 17. This is the worst-case scenario.

6.2 Commission 2: Adaptation and mitigation

On adaptation and mitigation, Commission 2 maintained that of critical importance is an understanding that adaptation and mitigation are not mutually exclusive, but needs to be dealt with together. If a greater focus is given to adaptation, the co-benefits of adaptation must be assessed across all sectors. The argument made is that the benefits of mitigation may be maladaptive for adaptation.





The centrality of assessing climate variability over a 10 to 15 year period is important when devising projects and programmes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) review also mentions the frequency and rapidity of extreme weather events, and therefore if there is no adaptation and mitigation processes in place, it will be counter to the developmental objectives. Adaptation is not about coping. The aim is to enhance and build resilience of communities to withstand weather shocks. The kind of adaptation processes must be locally managed to withstand local conditions. At the start of the initial UNFCCC process, there was thinking that the global community could mitigate their way out of climate change. This was not achieved and substantial irreversible damage has been done to the earth.

At the local government perspective, there is an understanding that national policies materialise from issues at the local level. Cities need to understand and respond to climate change. Africa, as a continent only emits about 4% of the world's emissions, and with limited resources, it is essential that cities improve adaptive capacity and deal with climate variability. Some of the challenges faced by cities in Africa are the lack of grey infrastructure, the lack of capacity at municipal level, and the destruction of green infrastructure to enhance grey infrastructure. It is therefore important for cities without the necessary grey infrastructure to look at ecosystems based adaptation approaches to adapt to extreme climate variabilities.

On strategies going forward in relation to management of adaptation and mitigation issues at a national level, Commission 2 noted:

- Since South Africa is a big carbon emitter, it is also necessary to protect ecosystems, rivers and wetlands. A number of flagship projects, outlined in the White Paper on Climate Change, 2011, focus on mitigation, but these projects should focus on adaptation as well;
- Large quantities of water are used but South Africa does not have a mechanism in place to capture excess water that flows into the sea. Some of this water can be used for hydropower and to increase agricultural outputs;
- Industry needs to be monitored in respect of environmental degradation and pollution. There is a vast historical knowledge base, which can be used to generate new ways to respond and adapt to climate change. A need exists to build on the inventory of existing knowledge;
- The real issue that needs to be asked at the high level negotiations at COP 17 – what do all these negotiations mean to service delivery and improving the quality of people's lives. There was a suggestion that Parties also need to frame COP 17 around immediate improvement of the lives of people on the ground to balance the social and economic needs of people and their reliance on the biophysical environment; and
- Public money should focus on adaptation, and private funding should focus on mitigation.

6.3 Commission 3: Transfer of technology

On transfer of technology, Commission 3 noted that technology may not reside in developing countries and this must not disadvantage developing countries. The issue of intellectual property rights and the *private* versus *public* interest comes out strongly when private companies rather than countries own the rights to technology. Many companies do not want to transfer technology freely, and more discussions are needed on how to UN-commercialise technology, using the principles of equity and fairness.

Some discussions ensued around the usage of differentiated transfer and sharing approach. This, it was argued could be achieved if nation states used the context of technology sharing rather than transfer. In instances, where public monies are used to develop technologies, the useful open source technology could be promoted, with the establishment of a global technology pool. Within the UNFCCC, all developing countries will have to audit its technology needs. The argument is that the UNFCCC needs to mediate this need, negotiate various categories of technology and the level of exposure a developing country would experience if it did not have access to this technology. According to these categories, there is a possibility that arrangements for technology sharing would take place. There must be beneficiation of own resources, coupled with







local manufacturing industry and skills development. Developing countries may share interest in terms of the types of technologies needed.

At a national level, there are a number of mechanisms outlined in the White Paper, which include research and development, and the use of various agencies and institutions to run the process. South Africa leads the world in some climate change technology, but needs to increase the speed at which it accelerates the roll out of renewal energy technologies. South Africa also invests very little of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in research and development compared to other developing countries.

Participants however cautioned that the technology transfer issue should not be used as a guise for technology dumping by developed countries, through which they can extend their markets. One cannot divorce technology sharing from international trade. There may be increasing trade barriers against carbon intensive exports and gas emissions embedded in products, as most products are very coal-based.

Institutions and/or principals responsible for funding, technology sharing, such as the Green Climate Fund, Development Banks and the UNFCCC need to set up institutional arrangements for the disbursement of funds and/or technology. If countries are investing money to these funds, the developing countries must ensure that such monies are additional to existing aid, and not re-labelled as aid.

There are a number of innovative proposals to generate funding, which include levies on international shipping and aviation fuels and a financial transaction tax.

6.4 Commission 4: Climate change and finances

On climate change and finances, Commission 4 noted that while there is progress on the finalisation of the Green Climate Fund, Durban should set the terms for its operations. All, except the United States of America and Saudi Arabia, have ratified the report on the Fund. The Commission acknowledged that it would be a tough two weeks of negotiations to achieve a binding agreement on the Fund. The need exists to promote a Fund that has – direct access, outlines a future for carbon financing (preferably an extension of the Kyoto Protocol), includes REDD, secures long-term sources of financing, establishes an effective secretariat and board structures, aligns with existing funds and needs a clear legal status with certain commitments which are legally binding.

With regard to climate change and finances, the Commission noted that it was critical in the run-up to COP 17 that stakeholders engage their constituencies and partners both domestically and internationally, especially on:

- The need for a formal assessment of sources and scale-up of funds available and those required;
- Additional funding – a roadmap for scaling up of finance from 2012 – 2020





- (beyond fast start finance) to the \$100 billion per annum from 2020;
- Additional long-term sources of funding (for example, there is a proposal for 1.5% of GDP as assessed contribution);
 - A commitment to the initial capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund, with legally binding commitments to be made in Durban;
 - A move ahead with the most promising sources of finance (for example, carbon pricing for shipping);
 - The need for a common accounting and reporting framework for green funding; and
 - A sound communication strategy.

In relation to national outcomes, the Commission argued that it is imperative that South Africa urgently identifies its national implementing agency; what the funds will be used for (for example, national vulnerability assessments); and how domestic funds will be allocated. South Africa also needs to establish enabling environments (for example, in relevant sectors and in Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) at municipal level).

The Commission concluded by stressing the importance of maintaining momentum on climate change and green issues beyond COP 17.

6.5 Commission 5: Gender mainstreaming and climate change

On gender mainstreaming and climate change, Commission 5 noted that climate change and its adverse effect is all about food and the forced dislocation of people, a large percentage of which are women. Women in agriculture produce 60% of Africa's food. In South Africa, this figure may be as high as 30%. Trend analyses show that in the next 20 years, the maize price will double while the yield will decrease by 30%. The Commission stressed that food and rural/urban dislocation are interrelated and that scarcity of food (and water) leads to dislocation and this leads to conflict.

In their discussion, the Commission noted the lack of information and awareness among the public on the question of climate change and its effect on the social structure. The Commission called for broad awareness campaigns that included the use of constituency officers and the integration of climate change into the education system. Concomitant to this, the Commission stressed the need for Parliamentary oversight of the various government departments and for the closer cooperation between government departments.

A serious concern raised by the Commission was the lack of consultation with women in the planning of programmes and interventions. This was emphasised as most often women are the agents of change and a source of practical knowledge. The Commission called for a strategy of information, education and communication on climate change. This should be crosscutting across all departments, supported by the necessary budgetary provisions.

With regard to the Green Climate Fund, there is a lack of attention to issues affecting women. The green economy must include all branches of society to ensure that climate justice equals social justice. The Commission went further to call for gender based budgeting and monitoring.

Finally, the Commission commented on the lack of infrastructure, which includes the built infrastructure, information, technology transfer, and lack of administrative and society structures. It extended a call to the South African Delegation to the climate change negotiations, to play a proactive role in promoting issues of women at the negotiation table.

7. ASPECTS FOR FURTHER DEBATE RAISED DURING DISCUSSIONS

The findings from the insights offered by presentations and commissions raised a number of issues during the discussion sessions. This section captures the critical aspects, which could be used for further debate, future seminar or workshops or as stand-alone items or categories of themes:





South Africa's position as outlined in the White Paper on Climate Change, 2011: Government's National Climate Change Response Policy was approved by Cabinet on 12 October 2011, and was formally published as a White Paper on 19 October 2011. The White Paper represents the culmination of an iterative and participatory policy development process that began in October 2011. The White Paper is the product of a 6-year process that involved ground-breaking modelling and research activities, two national conferences, numerous workshops and conferences in every province, numerous bilateral and key stakeholder engagement, including a National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) review and Parliamentary hearings. Two critical objectives frame South Africa's response to climate change:

- To effectively manage the inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity; and
- To make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate systems. This must be contained in a framework that enables economic, social and environmental development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Rehabilitation and protection of ecosystems: Ecosystems have become particularly important politically, since the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - ratified by 192 countries. For the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, experts assessed the literature on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. The Report concluded that climate change would result in the extinction of many species and a reduction in the diversity of ecosystems, and therefore it is critical to protect and rehabilitate ecosystems currently, rather than wait for the devastations of climate change.

Sectoral approaches: Proposals to broaden the global scope of greenhouse gas mitigation to developing countries. Sector-based market mechanisms are put forward to create incentives for mitigation in developing countries beyond the existing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and to encourage mitigation at a manageable cost. The introduction of new, sector-based, market mechanisms is only one of many proposals discussed by UNFCCC Parties in the context of a post-2012 international climate policy framework, as a possible means to support mitigation actions in developing countries. The role of such sectoral mechanisms will eventually be determined by the emission goals that accompany them, and on how the Parties decide to harness the carbon market and other mechanisms to support mitigation in developing countries. These aspects are currently under negotiations.

Adaptation and Mitigation Funds and Programmes at Local Government Level: Adaptation: A response to climate change that involves changing lifestyles and infrastructure to cope with the effects of climate change. For example, a coastal community might adapt by building up sea defences, whereas a farming community might need to adapt by growing different types of crops as seasons change. **Mitigation:** Human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouses gases.

Finance: While the negotiation of targets to mitigate climate change sets a regulatory framework, financing is crucial to realise emission reductions and to adapt to impending climatic changes. Without the financial support for the implementation of adaptation projects, the developing countries cannot further their development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore not surprising that, along with mitigation targets, climate finance was a focal point of the negotiations, given that ambitious GHG emission reductions, adaptation to climate change, and technology transfer cannot happen without significant investments to support least capable countries. To the extent that debate in Copenhagen centred on the creation of a new climate finance regime, there has been a clear distinction between pre-2012 "fast start" issues and a post-2012 long-term financing regime.

Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets: Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are commonly expressed in either parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent, parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent concentration, a percentage reduction from a specified baseline year or by a nominated year, or in terms of limiting global climate change to below a specific temperature, such as a 2 degree increase over pre-industrial temperatures.





Emissions trading: A mechanisms for achieving emissions reductions in an economy by allocating a certain quantity of emissions for a fixed period to organisations. Organisations that do not use their full allocation can sell any spare in an open market to those that have exceeded their allocations and must pay for extra permits.

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA): Actions taken by developing countries in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA): Documents prepared by least developed countries identifying urgent and immediate needs for adapting to climate change. The NAPAs are then presented to the international donor community for support.

REDD+: At COP11, discussions revolved around reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. These discussions led to a major decision at COP13 in Bali to stimulate action, resulting in the inclusion of a Reducing Emissions for Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD) mechanism in the Bali Action Plan. The original Bali agreement simply called for reducing emissions from deforestation (RED) and then progressed to include land degradation (REDD). In the months leading to COP 15, REDD grew to include conservation, sustainable forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement (REDD+).

Clean Development Mechanisms: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of three market-based mechanisms established under the Kyoto Protocol as a means of allowing the industrialised Annex 1 countries to meet their national targets by investing in lower cost carbon emission reduction projects in developing countries. (The other two mechanisms are Emissions Trading and Joint Implementation. The CDM operates under the oversight of the Conference of the Parties (COP/MOP) of the UNFCCC. The CDM is the world's largest carbon offset market. Its growth has been rapid. The CDM project pipeline has grown in four years from essentially nothing to more than 3000 projects, either registered or in the process of achieving the necessary regulatory approvals.

Technology transfer: The technology transfer concept has been embodied in the UNFCCC's goals since it came into force in 1994. Several initiatives and mechanisms are already in place to deploy climate technologies in the developing world. This is one of the aims of the Clean Development Mechanism, for example, although the amount of genuine technology transfer that has occurred under the mechanism is the subject of vigorous debate, COP 13 in Bali commissioned the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop a strategic programme to deliver technology transfer to developing countries.





8. RESOLUTIONS

Having deliberated for two days, the delegates resolved that:

1. Collaborative leadership on issues of climate change in South Africa should be a continuous process between different sectors of society that includes, but are not restricted to, the Legislatures, civil society organisations, business and Government;
2. The public hearings on the National Climate Change Response White Paper 2011, to be held in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, should be used as a means to move toward climate change legislation;
3. Because Parliaments have an important role to play in the legislative process, holding the Executive to account as well as approving national budgets, legislators can effectively, together with input from various stakeholders, use mechanisms available to them in order to:
 - a. Ensure the strengthening of government institutions through better integration of legislation and policies to build long-term adaptive capacity and resilience against food shortages;
 - b. Ensure that climate change considerations inform all policy decision-making across government;
 - c. Hold Government to account with regard to the implementation of international and regional agreements on climate change, and exert pressure on countries internationally to abide by these agreements;
 - d. Ensure that Government uses mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimise the effects of climate change on the population, more especially the poor, vulnerable, rural communities, and women in particular;
 - e. Ensure that Parliament advocates for more resources to public education and awareness at all levels; and
 - f. Encourage development partners to ensure that their development assistance does not create negative environmental impacts. In addition, development assistance programmes should be reformed to support mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and adaptation measures.
4. The South African COP Presidency should ensure that COP 17 upholds the principles of multilateralism, transparency and the inclusion of non-governmental actors, which are central to the overall success and legitimacy of COP 17;
5. More discussions should be held at a national level, where Parties frame COP 17 around the immediate actions required to improve the lives of the people on the ground and to balance their social and economic needs;
6. There should be more emphasis on technology sharing rather than technology transfer;
7. South Africa needs to invest more of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in research and development of technology, as is the case in many other developing countries;
 8. With regard to climate change and finances, it is critical in the run-up to COP 17 that stakeholders engage their constituencies and partners, both domestically and internationally, on the need for a formal assessment of resources and the scale-up of available and required funds;
 9. The green economy must include all branches of society, including women, as climate justice is equal to social justice;
 10. Since leadership on climate change issues in the build-up to COP 17 is strengthened by interaction amongst representatives from legislatures, Government, business, civil society organisations, traditional leaders, interfaith bodies, youth organisations, and other stakeholders, networking and relations amongst these stakeholders should be consolidated with a view to further engagement on climate change related issues; and
 11. The delegation appreciated the opportunity to interact with Parliament. Delegates requested annual or bi-annual seminars post-COP 17. There was a collective view that all at the seminar participants should become involved, and become an activist on climate change issues





DECLARATION

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE

28 – 29 October 2011

Parliament of South Africa

In creating a common vision in preparation for the COP 17 meeting in Durban, South Africa

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7) will take place on 5 December 2011 in Durban (South Africa). The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document, which will be conveyed to the UN Conference. The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as the host of the Parliamentary Meeting in Durban, has convened a National Consultative Seminar between Parliament, Civil Society, Business (including Labour), traditional leaders, religious groupings and Government to find common ground in preparation for the National Climate Change Conference. The Declaration is a statement emanating from the deliberations and especially the commissions that debated the issues and outcome of COP17, Adaptation & Mitigation, Transfer of Technology, Funding and Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change.

The Declaration was tabled 17 November 2011 and will accompany the Parliamentarians to the IPU meeting in December 2011.

1. We, the Delegates to the National Consultative Seminar on Climate Change, gathered in Cape Town, South Africa, from 28 – 29 October 2011, recognise that climate change continues to present a potentially irreversible threat to humanity and the planet and must be addressed by all countries as a matter of urgency.
2. We reaffirm that climate change in its current form is one of the greatest challenges of our time, with projected impacts on air quality, food security, human and animal health and the supply of clean water, as well as heightened risks of floods, droughts and fires globally. All Parties must, therefore, work together to ensure long-term sustainable development, food and water security and limit the risks of natural disasters.
3. We recognise that global warming is supported by scientific evidence and that higher average temperature and dramatically changing weather patterns are due largely to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions. We also recognise that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required to limit the rise in global average temperatures. We therefore welcome the formal decision reached at COP16/CMP6 in Cancun to adopt universally the long-term goal of a maximum temperature increase of 2°C on the understanding that this target will be reviewed by 2015 based on the latest scientific findings.
4. We, in the developing countries and South Africa, recognise that developed nations are responsible for the biggest share of emissions and that the developing nations, due to their high vulnerabilities, are affected most by climate change. This is especially true for the most vulnerable in our societies (Women and children).
5. We encourage the transfer of technology between countries and the use of this technology to reduce emissions and to adapt to a changing world. We also recognise the importance of a balance between the reduction of emissions, adaptation and the growth and development of a country and a region to ensure a sustainable future.





6. We reaffirm our belief that in order to achieve a comprehensive and balanced outcome at COP17/CMP7, the Parties must continue to work within the framework agreed in Bali and the work programme agreed in Cancun. We take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the multilateral processes on climate change and stress the need to seek consensus and co-operation between the world's developing nations and especially in Africa.
7. We reiterate our view that respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities depends on the willingness of all Parties to undertake commitments in an appropriate and legally binding form. As participants to the National Consultative Seminar, we reaffirm our commitment to work in partnership with other stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations, business, organised labour, traditional leaders, religious groupings and Government in seeking long-term sustainable solutions to global threats to the environment. We therefore call on Parliaments to continue to do all they can to ensure adoption and implementation of climate change policies and legislation.
8. We note that the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012, and therefore state emphatically that a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is central to a comprehensive and balanced outcome in Durban.
9. We reaffirm the urgent need to support developing countries in their adaptation efforts, particularly the poorer and least developed countries of Africa. We therefore emphasize the importance of obtaining a guaranteed balance between adaptation and mitigation, both being pivotal to the negotiations. We call on the Governments to prioritize capacity-building (including training and data) as a cross-cutting issue and give the matter their utmost attention.
10. We reaffirm that adaptation and mitigation are different but interrelated in nature and must be co managed. They must be incorporated into our productivity and development plans for the future, a future that must include all sectors. We also reaffirm that we must do more than cope, we must develop our capacity and infrastructure while guarding against the dumping of inappropriate technology and training.
11. We emphasise that the mobilisation of financial resources is crucial to dealing with climate change and requires that governance issues and institutional arrangements be dealt with transparently and efficiently, ensuring accessibility and an equal footing for developed and developing countries in the governance and administration of climate funds. We further emphasise the need to create "direct access" protocols to access funds.
12. We call for the timely operationalisation of all the institutions established under the Cancun Agreement, including the Adaptation Committee and especially the Green Climate Fund. Further to this, we call for the South African Government to contribute a percentage of GDP to a local Green Fund and for clarity on the mechanisms to access these funds.
13. We recognise the general lack of understanding regarding issues of Climate Change, coping strategies and the assistance that is available. A strong call for broad awareness campaigns is made and for Parliamentarians to use their constituency offices to this end.
14. We call for the effective monitoring of industry in regards to pollution and degradation, emphasising the need for the industry to assume responsibility in that regard, and to balance development and usage issues.
15. We resolve to continue fostering a common understanding of the threat of climate change and of the actions needed to avert dangerous human interference in the climate system.
16. We, the delegates to the National Consultative Seminar, have noted that in Africa and especially in South Africa, extreme and unpredictable climate variability is becoming a reality and there is a need to bring this into our





planning at all levels, recognising that it has a greater impact on the poorest sectors of the community. In this regard, we expect local Government to clarify their role and bring the following into their planning.

- a. How cities will adapt to variable climate change?
 - b. How infrastructure, including information and training, will be created in order to improve adaptive capacity?
17. Conditional to all of the above, we desire gender mainstreaming, as this is the group what will be hardest hit and the group that will carry the brunt of the adverse conditions. At the same time, women are the agents of change who can make a meaningful and positive change to the national effort.
 18. We express concern that, as a country that is considered to be a leader in Gender Equality, the South African Government delegation to the Climate Change negotiations does not take an active enough lead in gender mainstreaming at the international forums and negotiations.
 19. We reiterate our commitment to assist our government in implementing existing and future climate change agreements.
 20. We, the delegates to the National Consultative Seminar on Climate Change thank the Parliament of South Africa for the opportunity to interact with Parliament and one another and we call for this to become an annual institution.
 21. We appreciated the opportunity to interact with Parliament and request that a post COP 17 evaluation meeting be held and that the National Consultative Seminar on Climate Change becomes an annual event. We are of the view that we should not wait for collective action but that everyone at the National Seminar on Climate Change should become involved and become an activist in the area of climate change.



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