

UNGA Thematic Debate on Climate Change

Statement by Belgium

- Madame president,
- Let me first of all join others in congratulating and thanking you for organising this important and interesting debate.
- Portugal has spoken on behalf of all 27 Member States of the EU. Belgium, of course, aligns with that statement. Let me nevertheless emphasise some of the aspects of Portugal's statement, particularly in relation to the way forward.
- As Denmark just said, the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention that will take place in Bali at the end of this year is key. In Bali we need to agree on the timeline, deliverables and milestones for the ensuing 2 years of negotiations. Given the relatively short time we have, we may also need to think about increasing the frequency of meetings for these negotiations.
- The building blocks for such an agreement have been under discussion under several agenda items of the Conferences of the Framework Convention on Climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Let me just reiterate what they are:
 - deeper absolute emission reduction commitments by developed countries, showing that developed countries are continuing to take the lead ;:
 - fair and effective contributions by other countries, including by new and flexible types of commitments, to reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity of economic development;
 - continuing and extending the carbon market;
 - increasing cooperation on technology research, development, diffusion, deployment and transfer;
 - enhancing efforts to address adaptation;
 - reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
 - addressing emissions from international aviation;
- In Bali, we should agree on how we can tie these elements together into a coherent package that will allow us to reach the ultimate objective of the Convention.
- Climate change is a global problem which requires global solutions, involving all nations. ALL developed countries, should take the lead, as is clearly stated in the Convention. But the industrialised countries cannot go it alone, as their share in global emissions will continue to decline. It is therefore quite clear that fair and effective efforts from other major emitters, guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities enshrined in the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, are needed.
- Recent developments such as the G8 Summit in Germany or the Midnight Sun Dialogue in Sweden show that there is sufficient common ground to start talks on a regime, encompassing all the building blocks I mentioned earlier, in Bali.
- We should therefore take up the suggestion by Brazil and South-Africa at the 3rd Convention Dialogue Workshop in Bonn last May to go from the exchange of views and experiences between Parties and stakeholders into a negotiation format; Bali can and should be the kick-off of these negotiations.
- What we need to do now is to forge the political will into a global agreement.
- Thank you Madame President.