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AUSTRALIA

High Level Segment Statement

Check against delivery

Australia has come to Cancun determined to play its part in securing a successful climate change outcome. Let me at the outset thank Mexico for hosting this important meeting, and pledge Australia's support for your Presidency.

I have been privileged to assist the Presidency in my role as a facilitator.

Australia accepts the climate science. Like my developed and developing colleagues who spoke before me, and my South-East Asian and Pacific colleagues, we understand the effects of climate change on water, weather, and food production and how challenging this can be.

We too will be adversely affected by increases in temperature. We will have less water and will experience an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These disrupt our communities and compromise infrastructure – just as they do for others.

That is why Australia is committed to a durable, legally-binding and environmentally-effective outcome. Such an outcome must include mitigation contributions by all major economies.

Australia has already submitted an economy-wide mitigation pledge under the Copenhagen Accord, as have all other developed countries, along with mitigation actions by developing countries.

In Cancun, we need to bring all these pledges into the UN process.

We must also seek a balanced package that captures progress on:

- Mitigation
- Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as International Consultation and Analysis
- Long-term climate financing
- A technology mechanism
- A REDD+ mechanism
- An international adaptation framework

There has been talk at this meeting about the future of the Kyoto Protocol.

Australia's position on this is clear. We have long supported an outcome that includes legally-binding mitigation contributions by all major economies.

A single treaty for all Parties would be the simplest and most transparent option. However, we can be flexible on this question in the context of a comprehensive legal outcome.

Madame President – climate change is an issue that we all face.

Many parties here today are already taking action in their domestic economies and we congratulate them on their efforts.

Australia understands that strong domestic action on climate change delivers both economic and environmental benefits

That is why Australia already has policies in place to encourage the development of clean energy sources within our economy, as well as a suite of policies to support greater energy efficiency for households and businesses.

My Government is also working to introduce a carbon price into our economy to achieve emissions reductions.

No one should underestimate the challenge in Australia to make the economic reform required to reduce carbon pollution.

My Government tried 3 times to introduce a carbon price during our last term of Government and was unsuccessful due to political opposition.

However, I reiterate our determination to pursue the introduction of a carbon price into our economy– it is a policy that is firmly in our national interest and one that will contribute to emissions reductions.

Apart from the domestic action we are taking the Australian Government is also endeavouring to play a constructive role internationally.

Today I announced further allocations under the $599 million of Australia's committed fast start financing. These included:

- $15 million to the Adaptation Fund
- $169 million in new regional adaptation allocations to the Pacific, South and South-East Asia and Africa
- $32 million for REDD+ Initiatives in Indonesia under our International Forest Carbon Initiative
- $10 million to the Climate Investment Funds' Programme on Scaling-up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries, and
- $10 million to the Partnership for Market Readiness

Australia is delivering on fast start and we will continue to provide regular and transparent information on the delivery of our fast start funds.

Madame President,

The effectiveness of the UNFCCC process is closely monitored in Australia.

Too often we allow ourselves to be distracted by process issues and by negotiating tactics.

It is time now to refocus on the major task at hand. It is imperative for the credibility of this process that we are able to make progress here at this Conference.

Australia will continue to make every effort to support a successful outcome, and encourages all parties to be flexible so as to achieve our common goals.