



environment  
& tourism

Department:  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Status of the International Climate Change Negotiations

## Climate Change Summit 5 March

### Alf Wills

# OVERVIEW

- President Motlanthe – said on the 3 Mar 09 “The outcome of the negotiations, to be concluded in Copenhagen at the end of this year, will have to achieve a delicate balance of interests that accommodates the concerns and aspirations of developing and developed countries alike”.
- Diversity of interests
- Key issues
- Implications for the Architecture
- Possible future implications

# Diversity of Interests

## **The USA indicated new willingness to engage in international regime but:**

- Unlikely to join Kyoto – resist QELRO type targets -compromise their economy
- Have a long way to “catch up” the EU & others – need to start with clean slate
- Developing countries must have targets – carbon leakage
- Therefore, they are looking for new solution under the Convention

## **The EU and other Annex 1 Parties argue that**

- USA needs to be legally bound & comparable - EU & others at a competitive disadvantage
- Have invested in Kyoto carbon market & need it secured after 2012
- Also pressurising developing countries to take commitments – carbon leakage.

## **The G77&China bloc argue that**

- The historical responsibility lies with the developed world.
- Priorities are poverty, econ growth and development.
- But – the G77 is divided on issues of priority
  - Adaptation priority for LDC’s, SIDS & Africa
  - Response measures priority for OPEC & some others
  - Technology priority for rapidly industrialising developing countries

# Key Issues

## **International competitiveness (code words = environmental effectiveness & burden sharing)**

- Comparable effort among A1P
  - for the US & Aust – comparable going forward
  - for the EU & Japan – taking acct of past effort
  - For EIT's – level of ambition based on capability
- Carbon Leakage – developing countries
  - EU propose target – 15% to 30% below BAU
  - Japan – sectoral approach (emission intensive sectors)
  - US not clear how – but must be legally binding
  - Cross border tax adjustments
- Response measures
  - OPEC – impact of mitig measures on fossil fuel consumption
  - Other Ding C's – impact on exports (eg foodmiles - consumer resistance to carbon footprint)



# Key Issues (2)

- **Adaptation** – for all but particularly for the most vulnerable
  - Financing at scale
    - the Move beyond planning & early warning to implementation
    - Equal priority to mitigation
    - OPEC – resilience to response measures
- **Technology, finance & capacity** (both mitigation & Adaptation)
  - Technology - IPR, trade vs transfer, domestic licensing/production, development, diffusion, cost
  - Finance & investment – Source, Scale, Mechanism(s), Access, Governance & flexibility (stages of technology maturity)
  - Capacity – to research, develop & bring to market ie. new “green growth capacity (produce, install, operate, maintain & decommission)

# Implications for the Architecture

- 3 options
  - New “super protocol” – supersede Kyoto
  - Decisions on the new commitments for the USA, actions by developing, adaptation, technology and finance and technology (and a 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period under KYOTO)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period under KYOTO and a new Protocol for new commitments for the USA, actions by developing, adaptation, technology and finance and technology

# Possible future implications

- My personal reflections
  - Extreme pressure on more advanced developing countries to take on quantified targets of some description
  - May up till 2020 have a softer version of these targets
  - But after 2020 – it will be difficult to avoid “hard targets” beyond then
  - SA will need to prepare NOW for a future carbon constrained world

# THANK YOU



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