

29 NOV. – 10 DEC., 2010

CANCÚN, MEXICO

COP16

COP PRESIDENT: PATRICIA ESPINOSA,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF MEXICO



Summit Kickoff:

These events drew almost 12,000 participants, including almost 5200 government officials, 5400 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations, and 1270 accredited members of the press.

Governments agreed to put aside issues that had stalemated international climate talks for years. They approved a set of decisions anchoring national mitigation pledges and taking initial steps to strengthen finance, transparency and other elements of the multilateral climate framework. The major accomplishment of Cancún was demonstrating that the UN negotiations can still produce tangible results –the most tangible since the Marrakesh Accords nearly a decade ago. With the Mexican government working hard to keep the negotiating process open and inclusive, there were no pitched procedural battles or dramatic walkouts.

Summit Conclusions and Recommendations:

- The Cancún Agreements import the essential elements of the Copenhagen Accord into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They include the mitigation targets and actions pledged under the Accord - marking the first time that all major economies pledged explicit actions under the UNFCCC since its launch nearly two decades ago. The Agreements also take initial steps to implement the operational elements of the Accord, including a new Green Climate Fund for developing countries and a system of “international consultations and analysis” to help verify countries’ actions.

- The summit sets a goal of limiting average global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It calls for a periodic review to consider strengthening this long-term goal. The summit sets that the first review is to begin in 2013 and conclude by 2015. At COP17, parties will again consider setting a timeframe for the peaking of global emissions and a global emissions goal for 2050.
- To strengthen the measurement, reporting and verification of mitigation actions and support for developing countries, the summit calls for more detailed reporting in the national communications of both developed and developing countries of mitigation actions and support provided or received.
- Developed countries were collectively committed to provide USD 30 billion in fast-start finance for developing countries in 2010-12 and to mobilize USD 100 billion a year in public and private finance by 2020 “in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation”.
- Parties agreed to establish a Green Climate Fund operating under the “guidance” –rather than the direct “authority”– of, and accountable to, the Conference of the Parties (COP). The fund is to be governed by a 24-member board with equal representation from developed and developing countries and supported by an independent secretariat. The World Bank was designated as its interim trustee, subject to a review three years after the fund began operations.
- The design of the fund was delegated to a 40-member Transitional Committee (15 members from developed countries and 25 from developing ones). The summit establishes a new Standing Committee to assist the COP in areas such as “improving coherence and coordination” among different finance channels and the MRV of finance. The summit also establishes a work program to consider “approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change in ... particularly vulnerable” developing countries including a climate insurance facility and other options for risk-sharing, with recommendations due at COP18.
- Parties established the Cancún Adaptation Framework to enhance adaptation efforts by all countries, a process to help the least developed countries (LDCs) develop and implement national adaptation plans, and an Adaptation Committee to provide technical support to parties, facilitate sharing of information and best practices, and advise the COP on adaptation-related matters.
- The summit outlines a phased approach to strengthening efforts by developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and other forestry-related activities, starting with the development of national strategies and “evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported, and verified”.