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DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

# COP17

**COP PRESIDENT: MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE,**  
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA  
AND COOPERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Summit Kickoff:

The Conference drew over 12,480 participants including over 5400 government officials, 5800 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and more than 1200 members of the media.

COP17 aimed at establishing a firm set of commitments among participating countries to reduce country-level carbon emissions, agree on the mechanisms that were required to achieve carbon emissions reductions as a global effort to contain the disastrous effects of anthropogenic climate change, and promote as well as promote the reduced use of natural resources. In addition, the conference sought to establish a technology center that would serve as a hub to benefit, deploy, and manage climate monitoring solutions in various countries. This required significant collaboration with technology and information industry leaders in the world.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only appropriate instrument that can enable the international community to remain committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos  
Vice President of Angola and representative  
of the Southern African Development  
Community



## Summit Conclusions and Recommendations:

- It determined when and how the Green Climate Fund will be funded next year and the need to set a global goal to reduce global emissions by 2050 at the next session of the conference. Work to establish a timeframe for peak global greenhouse gas emissions based on the best available scientific knowledge shall be maintained.
- The issue of equitable access to sustainable development through a workshop to be held at the next session of the conference shall be considered. A report on it will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
- Working on defining the scope and means of reviewing the goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius for the period 2013-2015 and reviewing the progress made towards achieving it are afoot.
- Parties need to set quantitative emissions reduction targets as well as rules governing the expulsion of excess emissions rights from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol at the end of next year.
- Extension of the Kyoto Protocol to a second period (2013-2017): This is because the Protocol's initial emissions targets were to expire in 2012, which made the Durban Summit the last chance to reach agreement on a second phase, thus, avoiding the so-called commitment gap from 2008 to 2012.
- Parties adopted a series of decisions settling technical issues and aimed at converting the pledges the EU and others made under the Copenhagen and Cancún agreements into binding emission targets. Among these decisions come authorizing the continued use of emissions trading and project-based mechanisms (the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation) in the second commitment period and adding nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>), a gas used in the production of silicon wafers and other products, to the basket of gases covered by the Protocol.

