

REMARKS BY SECRETARY PATRICIA ESPINOSA IN THE CONFERENCE “CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY, FROM CANCUN TO DURBAN” ORGANIZED BY UNITAR

February 28, Geneva, Switzerland

I. Información básica

- i. *Contexto.* La Secretaria Espinosa participará en su carácter de Presidenta de la Décimo Sexta Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP 16), con el objetivo central de difundir los resultados de la Conferencias de Cancún y establecer el camino hacia las Conferencias de Durban. El discurso se presenta en una sesión informativa organizada por el Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para la Formación y la Investigación (UNITAR). El Director Ejecutivo dará una presentación previa a la intervención de la Secretaria Espinosa.
- ii. *Identificación del foro y la audiencia.* La presentación se realizará frente a académicos, representantes de la sociedad civil y medios. La Canciller hablará por un espacio de 15 a 20 minutos, seguido de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas. La Secretaria tendrá una presentación de apoyo preparada con base en el guión
- iii. *Vocativos por orden de importancia.* Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Mr. Carlos López.
- iv. *Mensaje central de la intervención.* Los Acuerdos de Cancún sientan las bases para una nueva era de cooperación internacional para detener el cambio climático. La Presidencia mexicana organizara consultas informales para facilitar la implementación de los acuerdos.
- v. *Otros mensajes a transmitir.* se necesita de la acción de todos los países, de acuerdo a responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas. Debemos transitar hacia un modelo de desarrollo sustentable. México fortalecerá el diálogo con distintos sectores de la sociedad civil.

II. Elementos discursivos:

Dear friends,

I want to thank the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for the opportunity to address you here today.

It is a great honor for me to be here today to comment with all of you the results of the Cancun Climate Change Conferences and to lay out

what further actions need to be taken to pave the way towards a successful Conference in Durban.

Caring for the environment is the sign of our times. It is not only our responsibility, but also a question of survival, as millions of human beings all over the world are under threat. The protection of the environment is a crosscutting issue that involves different aspects of our lives, and as a consequence, different government ministries and stakeholders have been involved in the negotiations.

Last year we witnessed Parties' political will to move towards sustainable development. We were encouraged by the results of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya in October, and a few weeks later, by the substantive outcomes of Cancun.

We of course did not have a guarantee that our meetings in Cancun would be successful. The global response we needed to a global phenomenon was by no means easy to achieve, knowing that beyond technical issues, and even beyond environmental issues, this question required political leadership and vision. Making difficult decisions is only possible when collective benefits prevail over individual ones, and long term outcomes replace immediate gains.

During 2010, Mexico saw the need to foster a cooperation atmosphere that should take hold well before the Cancun conferences began. Flexibility and political will, coupled with pragmatism and a higher level

of ambition, were crucial prerequisites for achieving good results in December.

Allow me, therefore, to present my thoughts on what we together achieved in Cancun and on how to build from it onwards.

LÁMINA 2

Cancun is the beginning of a new era of international cooperation in climate change. It is now time to roll up our sleeves and work hard to **ensure that the entities and mechanisms created by the Cancun Agreements are fully operational by Durban**. They will pave the way to a strengthened regime where all countries contribute their utmost to halt climate change, in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

During 2010 we used all the tools provided by diplomacy in order to bring back trust to the climate change negotiating process. **In Cancun, against all odds, the international community achieved a major milestone:** we broke up the inertia, and were able to surmount the paralysis and **reconcile our differences, forging common understandings among almost 200 countries**. We worked together, governments, civil society, private sector, academia and the media. **We must continue to do so: all of us have a role in fighting climate change; none of us will succeed alone.**

Mexico led with responsibility and absolute **openness and transparency** the preparatory process during 2010. All voices and

points of view were heard and taken into account. **The Cancun Agreements represent the work done by all Parties**; they are the result of a truly collective effort, and as a consequence, multilateralism and the United Nations were strengthened. In Cancun we all won.

LÁMINA 3

Let me briefly summarize our achievements in Cancun and make some comments on the way we, as President of the Conferences, conceive this year's work.

The Cancun Agreements orchestrate a framework for short and long term efforts for mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. Among others, they reflect:

- Our determination to **hold the increase of global average temperature below 2°C**. We know that even this goal could lead to extreme situations for many developing countries, so we must work to revise periodically that target, aiming at holding the increase to 1.5°C in the nearest possible future.
- A robust and transparent **mitigation** package, with quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by Annex I Parties and nationally appropriate mitigation actions, known as NAMAs, by developing country Parties. This package envisages a continuous process of review of our targets in order to move towards increasing the collective level of ambition, and encourages the development of national low-carbon strategies.

- We should be aware that **mitigation commitments or actions already made by developed and developing countries go well beyond the targets committed under the Kyoto Protocol**. Today, Annex I countries have announced their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. But this time, their effort is not isolated. Developing country Parties have also made public their NAMAs. It is true that efforts by developing countries are voluntary in nature and require financial and technological support. However, this collective effort is by itself a breakthrough in the climate regime, and demonstrates the engagement of all countries in the fight against climate change, reminding us that only by acting together we will achieve our ambitious goals.
- The Cancun Agreements also define a **solid institutional architecture to support developing countries' actions**:
- The **REDD+ mechanism** aims at encouraging specific activities in order to slow, halt and reverse forest loss in the developing world, taking into account indigenous peoples and local communities' rights.
- The Cancun **Adaptation** Framework is to be implemented nationally with international support where necessary. It also foresees the creation of an Adaptation Committee and a Program for loss and damage derived from the adverse effects of climate change.

- Research and development of new **technologies** is crucial in our fight against climate change. We will promote the establishment of research centers on climate change, and also strengthen international cooperation on capacity building.
- To ensure the implementation of these agreements we established the **Green Climate Fund**, which will act as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention. It will be governed by a Board and will be supported by an independent secretariat. The World Bank will act as an interim trustee of the Fund, subject to a review three years after the mechanism becomes operational.
- The Agreements also acknowledge the **financial commitment made by developed countries** of providing USD 30 billion for 2010-2012, under transparency standards, and of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020.
- In the **Kyoto Protocol** track, we agreed to ensure that there should be no gap between the first and second commitment period of the Protocol. Discussions will continue on legal options, including the possibility of adopting a legally binding outcome under the Bali Action Plan process.

As you can appreciate, we have a solid basis that will be implemented in the incoming months. By engaging all stakeholders, we will further our efforts.

LÁMINA 4

The road ahead is not easy and we still have challenges and pending issues before us. But I am convinced that climate change cannot be solved at once and needs to be approached gradually.

By implementing the Cancun Agreements we will be generating trust, and trust will move us to increase our ambition in all areas. In the fight against climate change no contribution is small and all efforts count. We must continue discussions on pending issues, make operational institutions and entities established in Cancun and make sure that the Durban Climate Conferences deliver further results. Only by focusing on facilitating action on the ground we will achieve our goals and increase our ambition.

If we want to be successful, we should start by recognizing our political and economic constraints: **fighting climate change poses a burden on all countries, and no country would be willing to bear such a burden alone.** However, if all countries act together, if we all start sharing the burden, in accordance with our own capabilities and responsibilities, we will be able to design a long term regime based in the Framework Convention.

Furthermore, **developed countries are taking measures to do more and are providing resources to support developing countries.** At the same time, most developing countries have been implementing domestic actions without formal international recognition, and many others are willing to do so if they have access to means for action. We

are certainly moving in the right direction and developed countries must continue leading the fight against climate change.

We, governments and society, are aware that **the solution to climate change is strongly linked to our development policies**. If we want to stop this phenomenon, we must modify our production and consumption patterns. This represents many challenges, but also new **opportunities for sustainable development**. This will require substantial changes in our growth models. We must find solutions that recognize the political, economic and social implications of this phenomenon, as well as environmental.

In other words, we need a new revolution in our production models. Let's take advantage of this new strive for greener economies. New technologies will allow us to reach a sustainable development, which as a consequence would have a direct positive impact in our societies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cancun Agreements define the climate agenda for the incoming years. Knowing that there is no single solution to the climate change challenge, the implementation of the Agreements will facilitate further discussions to strengthen the climate regime now, up to and beyond 2012.

LÁMINA 5

As I mentioned at the beginning, it is time to roll up our sleeves and work in the implementation of the Cancun Agreements.

On the road to Durban, the Mexican Presidency together with the incoming South African Presidency will work towards the implementation of the Agreements, ensuring that the institutions and entities established in Cancun become a reality in Durban, while fostering consensus over other key issues of the negotiations.

Today's international relations cannot be understood without the active participation of civil society. The Cancun Conferences highlighted the importance of keeping an open, permanent and transparent dialog with civil society. During 2011 the Mexican Presidency will **strengthen and consolidate the dialogue among all stakeholders**, as done in 2010. Their engagement is crucial to achieve the ambitious objectives reached at Cancun.

The Mexican Presidency will organize **informal consultations on key issues along 2011, in support to the formal negotiations.** As President of COP16/CMP6, I am convening a Ministerial Dialogue to facilitate the implementation of the Cancun Agreements in Mexico City next month. We intend to convene similar gatherings during the year, but focused on specific issues such as mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance, and REDD+.

The Green Climate Fund is one of the major achievements from Cancun, and Mexico is committed to its prompt operation. In this

regard, **Mexico has offered to host the first meeting of the Transitional Committee during March.**

Private sector is a key partner in the fight against climate change; it mobilizes investments, develops and facilitates the transfer of technology, and supports capacity-building activities both for mitigation and adaptation. Mexico will continue its dialogue with the private sector to ensure that decisions adopted by States, as part of the Convention process, do contribute in promoting collaboration and partnerships on climate issues like carbon markets, low carbon development and finance.

Dear friends,

The agreements reached in 2010 have begun a **new era of cooperation**. We have the opportunity to build a new sustainable model in which economic growth, poverty eradication, social inclusion and the preservation of the environment are fully compatible. Mexico is ready and is doing its part.

I am sure that the good will and sense of cooperation showed by all countries in Cancun will prevail, and that together we will deliver.

Thank you very much.