



**Fourth part of the second session of the
Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
Bonn, 10 March 2014**

**Opening address by
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Good morning everyone,

Let me, along with the co-chairs, officially welcome you to the first 2014 ADP meeting and first formal 2014 UNFCCC session. This beautiful World Conference Centre Bonn is adjacent to the secretariat offices, which will allow our staff to more efficiently and effectively support you.

Dear friends and colleagues, we open today's meeting in a year that holds much promise and potential. 2014 must be a year of greater action and ambition to check the advance of climate change and set the ground for a successful, global climate agreement in Paris.

This meeting will contribute to the already growing momentum, as the ADP works towards goals set in Durban and strengthened in Doha and Warsaw. At this meeting, the co-chairs invite you to advance towards those goals in two areas.

First, you are invited to develop a common understanding of how the new, universal agreement will operate enabling you to arrive at a strong draft by Lima.

They have also invited you to discuss preparation of nationally determined contributions and share how you are approaching the all-important domestic debate of what you, the Parties, can and will contribute to the global effort to stay well below 2 degrees Celsius warming.

Second, Parties are invited to look at pre-2020 ambition with a practical and action-oriented view, starting with energy efficiency and renewable energy. I hope you will find a virtual exhibition of examples of action on screens here and on our website inspiring.

These examples illuminate another truth: you are not acting alone.

Since Warsaw, I have had conversations with many different stakeholder groups, and one message has emerged consistently from these meetings: Climate action is the best way to minimize risk and capture rewards.

I have heard from investor groups and the business community that climate-friendly investment controls costs and improves returns.

I have heard from cities and sub-national governments that climate-friendly development keeps people happy and local economies safe and healthy.

I have even heard from military forces that immediate climate action provides for a more stable and secure future.

I hear support for climate action from youth groups, from faith groups, from business groups and of course from environmental groups.

In my conversations with all these groups I have been struck by two realities:

1. They are stepping up to their own responsibility and acting themselves.
2. And, these groups very clearly support you in your challenging task.

Today, in the spirit of the UN Climate Change Convention which will mark its 20th anniversary this month, I urge you to use that support as wind in your sails.

You have established a framework for cooperation, you have demonstrated a willingness to work together. Here this week you can turn willingness to work into the first concrete results of the year.

I am confident you will take hold of this opportunity and build on the foundation of trust and cooperation that you have put in place.

Towards those aims, I wish you all a successful and productive session!

Thank you.
