



2011 ANNUAL MEETING

September 19 - 22, 2011 ★ Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers

CGI Opening Plenary: Leaders Dialogue on Climate Change

Tuesday, September 20, 2011: 8:30 – 9:45 AM

I. Session Objective:

This session will bring together distinguished Heads of State to highlight opportunities for collaboration and share effective strategies for addressing the global climate challenge in the coming years.

II. Summary of Discussion:

PARTICIPANTS:

President Bill Clinton, *founding chairman, Clinton Global Initiative; 42nd president of the United States*

José Manuel D. Barroso, *president of the European Commission*

Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, *president of the United Mexican States*

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, *prime minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh*

Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé, *prime minister of Mali*

Jens Stoltenberg, *prime minister of the Kingdom of Norway*

Tillman Thomas, *prime minister of Grenada*

Danilo Türk, *president of the Republic of Slovenia*

Jacob Zuma, *president of the Republic of South Africa*

President Clinton: Welcome to CGI. I heard Presidents Calderón and Zuma were convening a climate change dialogue, so I invited them here to discuss climate change. We need to address climate change in an economically sustainable way.

President Calderón:

- Notes the difficulty of droughts and forest fires in Mexico and the US as well as Hurricane Irene.
- Mexico has put in place a special program to reduce carbon emissions. They are subsidizing refrigerator replacement in order to reduce emissions.
- Creating a green fund and increasing transparency in emissions reporting are among the issues to be discussed at the next global climate change meeting in Durban, South Africa.
- Today there are new challenges in South Africa – to continue achievements made at recent meetings and to continue the Kyoto Protocol, which will expire next year. We need a new instrument to formalize our climate change initiative to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

President Zuma:

- We need to take into account what happened in Copenhagen and Cancún – that there are things we cannot live with. In Durban, we must figure out how to replace the Kyoto Protocol.
- Island countries are particularly affected, and they cannot understand why larger nations continue failing to realize the magnitude of this problem.
- We must come to an agreement that will encompass all of us, but we have to be more sympathetic to those whose lives are in danger most immediately.
- We are faced with the challenge of determining what will happen after Durban. All the smaller nations are looking for a legally binding agreement that provides security for them.

Prime Minister Stoltenberg:

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- We have not moved as quickly as we hoped. I do not believe a legally binding agreement can happen in Durban, but the world should keep negotiating
- Emissions reductions would benefit us in many ways. We should be inspired by China's green progress and Europe's cap and trade program.
- In Durban, we should establish a green fund, reduce deforestation (the cheapest, fastest way to make progress), and introduce a price on carbon emissions (which reduces emissions and generates revenue).

Prime Minister Thomas:

- We have to reach some agreement that replaces the Kyoto Protocol. The rising sea level is a major concern given Grenada's vulnerability. We cannot leave Durban without a legally binding agreement and some form of monitoring.
- He believes there is great potential in geothermal, solar, and wind energy.

President Clinton: The Caribbean is a microcosm of the world's problems because they import oil rather than developing alternative solutions.

President Turk:

- There should be a binding obligation. If that is not achievable soon, we need to find more short-term solutions.
- We have to adjust our gross spending to match our net income and find the appropriate public funds to invest in transformative technology.

Prime Minister Hasina:

- Mitigation of climate change is the key to a secure future. Bangladesh has set up a climate change trust fund with its own resources. Bangladesh is concerned about displacement of their people due to global warming.
- In Durban, they hope for a legally binding agreement. They would like to balance adoption and adaptation, provide external support to vulnerable countries as they identify challenges to green initiatives, and provision a "green fund" to meet the cost of adaptation for vulnerable countries.

Prime Minister Sidibe: Climate change affects all nations, both in terms of climate and economics.

President Barroso:

- In Durban, we need to make the Cancún agreement real, especially via technology; take on initiatives left unaddressed at Cancún; and develop a comprehensive, balanced Durban package.
- A second Kyoto will not work if only the EU and a few other countries sign up.
- We have two very important allies – science and public opinion – so we should use them.

President Clinton: Whatever we conclude in Durban, it has to be able to work economically for rich, poor, and middle-income countries, and we must treat low-income nations equally.

III. Opportunities for Action:

- Reach an agreement in Durban that serves the purpose of the expiring Kyoto Protocol.
- Develop climate change mitigations that are economically viable for low, middle, and high-income nations.
- Tangible actions to be taken include stopping rainforest deforestation, increasing transparency in emissions reporting, creating a green fund, and setting a price for carbon emissions.

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- Science and public opinion are on our side, so we must use those tools.
- Programs to reduce emissions, like Mexico's refrigerator replacement, can make a difference.

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