



Umbrella Group Statement: Durban High Level Session

Madam President, distinguished delegates

I speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group of countries: Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States, and Australia.

We meet in Africa, an ancient continent with a bright future. South Africa hosted Africa's first Football World Cup last year with outstanding success. We hope South Africa's first climate conference of the Parties will be just as successful. We are committed to outcomes that build on the good progress made at Cancun and take us closer to a future framework. Outcomes that enable mitigation by all countries.

Africa's countries and its ecosystems, like those the world over, are vulnerable to climate change. Its people are looking for solid outcomes from Durban, as are people everywhere.

The Umbrella Group acknowledges our responsibility to show leadership here.

We are doing this in four ways.

First, as we promised, we are delivering climate finance. After two years of a three year commitment, Umbrella Group nations' contributions to the \$30 billion in fast-start finance approach \$20 billion dollars.

A significant proportion of this is going to Africa. It is directed to crucial projects that will help Africa climate-proof its agriculture, manage its water resources and boost its food security. In this respect, we support agreement to a work program on adaptation and mitigation in agriculture as an important outcome in Durban.

Second, we are working here in Durban to deliver the mechanisms that developing countries need to help them adapt to climate change, tap into low-emission technology and targeted funding.

All Umbrella Group countries want a Green Climate Fund.

With the correct design, we believe it can mobilise climate investment in developing countries and help put them on the path to low-carbon development.

We all want the Green Climate Fund to start its work right after Durban. We are working hard to ensure this can be the case.

Third, we are taking strong action at home across our economies to reduce our emissions.

Umbrella Group countries were encouraged by the enormous progress we made in Cancun, especially the commitment to worldwide action embodied in the targets and actions put forward by 90 countries. All Umbrella Group countries have made ambitious emissions reduction pledges and intend to stand by these as we go forward together.

Fourth, vital for the confidence of all Parties, we are leading work with others to agree the new transparency regime that will ensure we know countries are taking the action they promised and can compare the efforts they are making.

A transparent framework for mitigation will be the cornerstone of our efforts. Strong outcomes that on mitigation and transparency, that progress the political agreements we made in Cancun, are essential to a successful outcome here in Durban. In particular, the reporting and review processes that will provide the basis of future confidence must be finalised here in Durban if the whole package in Durban is to go forward.

Madam President

We, the Umbrella Group countries, are ready to support a deal that puts in place the building blocks of a comprehensive climate framework that makes sense for the 21st century.

One that promotes environmental integrity and builds the capacity of all countries to help us reach our common and urgent goal: keeping the global temperature rise to below two degrees.

Thank you.