

Mr. Chairman,

I did not intend to take the floor on this item as I already explained our considerations on inputs into future work in my statement yesterday. However, having listened carefully to our Chinese colleague this morning, I recognized that there still remain considerable doubts or misunderstandings about the German position regarding a very crucial issue. Therefore I would like to ask your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, for taking the floor and clarifying this issue.

In our statement yesterday I expressed the firm position of my country strictly to respect the Berlin Mandate and its different elements and appealed to others to do the same. We have decided in Berlin upon a clear task for the Ad Hoc Group: to strengthen the commitments in Art. 4.2 a) and b) of Annex I Parties by elaborating policies and measures as well as quantified limitation and reduction objectives for these Annex I Parties without introducing any new commitments for Non Annex I Parties, while reaffirming existing commitments in Art. 4.1 and continuing to advance the implementation of these commitments. That for us is the basis and commitment for our future work.

Already in Berlin we have fully subscribed to this balanced compromise and my colleagues have repeatedly expressed this in the negotiating group under Ambassador Kjellen's chairmanship. But obviously not all doubts could be removed. So let me clarify again:

The German element paper submitted in September last year is outdated insofar as it was addressing possible commitments to be undertaken by a certain category of developing countries. I fully understand the confusion that prevails, as the elements paper is still referred to by many delegations. We understand this reference being directed to a different part of that paper, namely its section II which lists a comprehensive basket of policies and measures for Annex I Parties. These policies and measures mentioned in section II are still seen by many delegations, as well as by ourselves as a useful input for negotiating the new commitments of Annex I Parties. I hope that this clarification and explicit dissociation is now fully understood by all our friends and colleagues, especially in the developing world. May I express my thanks through you, Mr. Chairman, to my Chinese colleague for the affirmation he already gave me bilaterally that he is now fully aware of our position and that his concerns are removed.