PRESIDENT OF THE COP  
H.E. Mr. Lars Lokke RASMUSSEN  
Prime Minister  
Denmark  
Via email:  stm@stm.dk  

25 January 2010  

Re: Schedule of UNFCCC meetings in 2010  

Dear Mr. President:

The failure of Copenhagen to agree a fair, ambitious and binding global deal must be rectified in 2010, with a fair, ambitious and binding global deal being reached at Mexico that is in accordance with the Bali Action Plan.

A lesson from the failure at Copenhagen must be that more preparation is required to get a comprehensive deal.

We urge the UNFCCC Bureau to put in place a schedule of meetings and recommend a program of negotiations that is open, transparent and democratic. In particular allowing most vulnerable countries a strong voice and good representation. The program of negotiations must include key items such as aggregate and individual Annex 1 targets that are in line with keeping warming as far below 2 degrees as possible, being agreed early in 2010. The program of work must also include intersessionals early in the year identifying how the KP and LCA tracks will be progressed and how the Copenhagen Accord, including the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the high level Finance Panel, will be incorporated into the two tracks and operationalised under the UNFCCC.

The current meeting schedule in 2010 is not sufficient. At least 2 more intersessionals (at least 3 in all) must be scheduled before COP16/CMP6 to ensure sufficient preparation time. The last year has shown two week intersessionals to be more productive than one week intersessionals. 2009 also illustrated that sufficient preparation is required for the effective participation of Heads of State. In the event that Heads of State attend Mexico, we encourage the Bureau to begin preparation early in the year.

It is essential that COP16/CMP6, and the 2010 negotiation process, allow the engagement of civil society. The UNFCCC Bureau, the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Mexican Presidency must work together to ensure that civil society is able to fill a valuable role in the meeting – rather than being locked outside.

We look forward to working with the Presidency, the Bureau and the UNFCCC Secretariat to ensure that the negotiations in 2010 culminate in a fair, ambitious and binding global agreement.

Sincerely,

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