

Sprechpunkte CVF MENA Regionalkonsultation

am 28.05.15 in Genf

- Thank you to the host (Lebanon) and Chair of the CVF (Philippines)
- Germany is pleased to be involved among the supporters of the work of this Forum. We see the type of **South-South collaboration being pioneered by the Climate Vulnerable Forum in the climate domain** as a vital complement to more traditional forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a fast changing world. Many developing countries already have impressive track records of rising to the challenge of climate change, and more can certainly be done to promote awareness of the success stories and existing good practices. I believe that much potential for greater climate action can be found simply in **facilitating the diffusion of best practice** already in place in some countries.
- But we should not give up hope on the multilateral process and on progress for conventional forms of international cooperation in this domain. The **UNFCCC Green Climate Fund** is one example of progress: Germany has committed 1 billion USD of finance to this single mechanism, and a number of other countries have come forward with similar sums so all commitments now total some 10 billion USD in an initial phase. Germany is also doubling our 2 billion USD commitments to international climate finance by 2020, and others are taking similar actions.
- But we all have to make an effort to keep the level of ambition high since we have not yet reached our goals. And that is also why we have to ensure that **countries with the most at stake in these talks** – countries highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change already today – are empowered **to have their interests adequately reflected in the talks**. Through a **dedicated climate fund of the Federal Foreign Office**, we seek to support climate vulnerable countries also with a view to improving their position in the international climate negotiations.
- Today's and other similar regional workshops of this Forum taking place in different parts of the world since last year are particularly important because they enable the gathering of country experiences region-by-region through an exercise that facilitates comparison and mutual learning. These efforts are gradually forming an up-to-date global picture of the key priorities for climate

vulnerable countries of any region. This is especially important in 2015 in light of the **Paris climate conference this December**, where we will need to move from a negotiating text with lots of options reflecting the many differences of parties, to one single, final text reflecting an international consensus. Any efforts helping to identify areas of common ground for wider groups of countries will help.

- Germany is very happy to support this consultation, which enables the integration of views and priorities for the Middle East & North Africa region. This is indeed **the first time countries from the region have been involved** in this particular Forum, even though experts increasingly view climate issues as intertwined with other concerns prevalent in the region, such as security, migration and natural resource management.
- So I would like to end my remarks by **congratulating Lebanon** for taking the initiative to open up the Climate Vulnerable Forum's work to the MENA region. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of this two-day workshop and wish you all the best for your discussions. To **the Philippines** who currently chair the Forum, I would also like to very much acknowledge your investment in climate change diplomacy through this Forum, which is playing a truly valuable role in helping to build consensus, ambition and effectiveness into future climate change policies. We look forward to welcome you all to the **Global Consultation** held in Bonn next week!