

**Submission by the Republic of Mali on behalf of the African Group of  
Negotiators on Agenda Item 3: Further guidance in relation to the  
Mitigation section of 1/CP21:  
5 May 2017**

**General Remarks**

The Africa Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the APA Agenda item 3: Further guidance in relation to the Mitigation section of 1/CP21 on: (a) features of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as specified in paragraph 26; (b) information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs, as specified in Para 28 and (c) accounting for Parties' NDCs as specified in Paragraph 31. This submission is guided by the questions from the informal notes of APA 1.2 held in Marrakesh and Co-chairs reflections note.

In line with the Paris Agreement, NDCs are nationally- determined and in our view, should contain adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation components. The African Group recognises that this agenda item is a mitigation space, but emphasises the need to discuss other components of NDCs elsewhere.

Features of, information contained in, and the way in which Parties account for, their NDCs, should facilitate the achievement of all the goals of the PA, and also provide a rigorous basis for transparency provisions, the global stocktake, and provision of the means of implementation. On the issue of differentiation, it is the African group view that Art 4 of PA provides for differentiated mitigation contributions among the developed and developing countries, with further flexibility for LDCs.

Therefore features, information & accounting should be developed taking into account the diversity of NDCs and national circumstances of Parties and the different obligations of Parties and flexibility embedded in the Paris Agreement

**3(a) - Features** of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 26

i) What is the understanding of features of NDCs under this agenda item?

Features are common distinctive characteristics/attributes of the mitigation component of NDCs communicated by Parties in fulfilling their procedural obligation under the Paris Agreement.

ii) What should be the purpose of further guidance on features under this agenda item?

Further guidance on features of mitigation components of NDC is necessary to enhance clarity of NDCs and facilitate the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement. Further guidance on features of NDCs is needed to provide guidance to Parties in their preparation of NDCs and a rigorous basis for transparency, the global stocktake, and provision of the means of implementation.

Features such as quantifiability and common time-frames of NDCs are crucial to build consistency and facilitate aggregation of the mitigation efforts.

What is the relationship, if any, between further guidance on features of NDCs under this sub- item, and further guidance on sub-items 3(b) and 3(c)?

There are clear linkages between the sub-items a, b and c of the Agenda item. The Agenda item relate to the mitigation component of NDCs, taking into account their diversity as submitted by Parties. While features provide for the general characteristics of NDCs, the information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding provide for specific minimum information required to promote the corresponding features of the NDCs.

iii) How could this work be usefully structured and progressed?

- Exchange on information relevant for the different types of NDCs is an important first step to understand key aspects of features

- Features should be kept simple and general building on emerging understanding on information as such more space should to be dedicated to features following in depth-exchange on information.

**3(b) - Information** to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 28

i) What is the understanding of information to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs under this agenda item?

These are the minimum sets of upfront information that should be submitted by Parties when they communicate their NDCs, in order to provide clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDCs, which should build from paragraph 14 of decision 1/CP.20.

ii) What should be the purpose of further guidance on information to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs under this agenda item?

The purpose of further guidance on information is to enhance clarity and understanding of NDCs and to facilitate rigorous transparency and global stocktake processes, that is, quantify and compare NDCs, add them up

internationally and provide the information basis for analysis.

Additionally, further guidance on information is necessary to enhance transparency and help build trust and confidence among parties and facilitate ambition. The INDC synthesis report FCCC/CP/2015/7 identifies about 6 types of INDCs, which were informed by paragraph 14 of decision 1/CP.20, however several assumptions by the Secretariat were necessary for presenting an aggregate effect. This should inform the purpose of defining information and features for the different types of NDCs.

iii) What is the relationship, if any, between further guidance on information to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs under this sub-item, and further guidance on sub-items 3(a) and 3(b)?

The sub-items are related as explained above:

iv) How could this work be usefully structured and progressed?

In addition to the points in questions (iii) on Features above, there is need for:

- Technical paper on types of mitigation NDCs in FCCC/CP/2015/7, information submitted by parties and information gaps building from paragraph 14 of decision 1/CP.20.

- Structured discussion on types of mitigation components of NDCs and the needed further guidance in relation to information, taking into account the differentiation and flexibilities provided to Parties in the Paris Agreement.

v) What issues should be discussed and resolved under this sub-item?

- General information of the mitigation component for all types of NDCs corresponding to features in the Agreement building on the provisions of the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21 Paragraph 27.
- Specific information of the mitigation component on different types of NDCs

### **3(c) -Accounting** for Parties

nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 31:

i) What is the understanding of accounting for Parties NDCs under this agenda item?

Accounting means to put an emissions reduction number on an action, thereby being able to add up numbers from different actions and countries, and, hence, to understand if actions are sufficient or need for enhanced actions to close the

emissions gap. The mandate of accounting discussions under this sub-item should be limited to accounting for mitigation components of NDCs as indicated in Para 31 of decision 1/CP. 21, informed by the type of NDC, and not accounting rules.

ii) What should be the purpose of the guidance on accounting for NDCs under this agenda item?

Guidance on accounting for the mitigation component of NDCs is essential to enhance understanding of mitigation contributions and to facilitate aggregation of mitigation effort. Accounting guidance is also necessary for tracking individual and collective progress towards the 2 and 1.5 degrees' Celsius goal.

iii) What is the relationship, if any, between guidance for accounting for NDCs under this sub- item, and further guidance on sub-items 3(a) and 3(b)?

All the sub-items of Agenda item 3 are related, however, item 3 (c) could be discussed separately.

iii) How can Parties draw from existing approaches under the Convention and its related legal instruments?

Existing accounting approaches under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol are applicable to certain types of NDCs and not others. The accounting framework should be developed considering the diversity of the mitigation component of NDCs, national circumstances and development priorities and objectives of Parties different obligations of Parties and flexibility in the Paris Agreement

iv)How could the work under this sub-item be usefully structured and progressed?

- Common accounting methodologies based on a common set of inventory guidelines and metrics as reviewed by the IPCC. – 2006 IPCC methodologies
- A workshop on experience of existing accounting arrangements under Convention and Kyoto Protocol
- Specific guidance on accounting for each type of mitigation component of NDCs

v) What issues should be discussed and resolved under this sub-item?

- Scope of accounting and how guidance apply to different NDCs
- Linkages with Art 6, 13 and Art 14