

INFORMATION NOTE

As of 17 August 2012

Workshop on a framework for various approaches

I. Mandate and background

1. The Conference of Parties (COP) at its seventeenth session in Durban, South Africa, emphasized that various approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries, must meet standards that deliver real, permanent, additional and verified mitigation outcomes, avoid double counting of effort, and achieve a net decrease and/or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions.

2. The COP requested the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) to conduct a work programme to consider a framework for such approaches, with a view to recommending a decision to the COP at its eighteenth session. Parties and admitted UNFCCC observer organizations were invited to submit their views on these matters by 5 March 2012. The AWG-LCA was further requested to conduct one or more workshops with Parties, experts and other stakeholders, to consider the submissions received, including an in-session workshop during the first part of the fifteenth session of the AWG-LCA in Bonn in May 2012.

3. During the Bonn session, Parties had the opportunity at workshops and at meetings of an informal group to exchange views on a framework. There was a general sense that these experiences, particularly the workshops, helped to foster greater technical understanding of the proposals that have been made in each area. There was also a sense that further discussion about the role of a framework for various approaches in the context of the international climate system would be helpful, although the view that work on technical elements could proceed in parallel with consideration of this role was also expressed.

4. At the conclusion of the Bonn session, Parties proposed that the following steps would be useful in progressing the work before Doha: (a) to invite Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 6 July 2012, further views on matters relating to a framework for various approaches, including lessons learned, with suggestions for focused discussion; (b) to request the secretariat to prepare a technical paper, which draws from the information contained in submissions, the presentations and discussions at the workshops on various approaches that were held in conjunction with AWG-LCA 15, and the discussions at the meetings of the informal group on various approaches during AWG-LCA 15; and (c) to focus discussions through workshops, where possible.

II. Proposed approach

5. The workshop will be organized in two consecutive panels, each organized around a thematic area. After the opening of the workshop by the facilitator, and an introduction of the technical paper by the secretariat, the facilitator will pose questions for consideration by all participants. Panelists will be invited to intervene, followed by statements and questions from the audience. Panelists will be drawn from Parties (developed and developing) and observers.

6. The workshop is open for participation to Parties and observers. They are invited to come prepared to participate in the discussion around the questions prepared for each panel.

7. A written workshop report will be prepared by the facilitator of the workshop with the assistance of the secretariat.

III. Panels and thematic areas

Panel 1: Fundamental principles and relations

8. The objectives of this panel will be to, first, clarify what is the stated and expected objectives of the framework for various approaches, including the type of activities that could be covered; and, second, understand the how activities under the framework, should relate to the new market based mechanism, the KP mechanisms, and other cooperation mechanisms, such as NAMA and the Green Climate Fund.

9. Panelists will be drawn from Parties (developed and developing) and observers, including business and environmental organizations

10. The moderator will briefly introduce the topic of discussion, focusing on Parties' submissions in relation to the following questions:

- What is the purpose – beyond agreed principles in Cancun/Durban– for the framework for various approaches? What type of activities should be allowed to be included?
- What should be the relation between the framework, on one hand, and the new market-based mechanism, the KP mechanisms, NAMA and the green climate fund, on the other hand? How can they be made to complement and support, instead of compete with and distort these other mechanisms/tools?
- How is the type of activities that would be covered by the framework different from the type of activities that would be covered by the new market based mechanism?

11. The panel will be invited to react to this introduction, after which a moderated discussion with panelists and workshop participants will follow.

Panel 2: Tools to operationalize the framework for various approaches

12. The objective of this panel will be to identify key elements that would be required for the functioning of the framework for various approaches, and to explore practical options for putting these elements into operation.

13. Panelists will be drawn from Parties (developed and developing) and observers, including business and environmental organizations

14. The moderator will briefly introduce the topic of discussion, focusing on Parties' submissions in relation to the following questions:

- What are the key elements and/or type of criteria that have to be included in framework to ensure that activities meet real, permanent, verified and additional mitigation?
- How can the environmental integrity of activities under the framework be assessed/assured? To what extent can existing mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol serve to inform and support development of approaches to ensure the environmental integrity?
- What process/model should be applied to approve or reject activities (approaches, mechanisms and units) proposed by parties to the framework? Should responsibility follow a centralized approval model (similar to the CDM and JI), a country led and country administered approval process?

15. The panel will be invited to react to this introduction, after which a moderated discussion with panelists and workshop participants will follow.

IV. Date and venue

16. The workshop will take place on Friday 31 August 2012, during the informal additional session of the AWG-LCA to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The venue and the exact timing will be announced in due course.