

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Submission of information, views and proposals on the work of
the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action:
approaches to 2015 Agreement**

(April 2014)

Objective

The common goal of all the Parties to the UNFCCC is to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

Due involvement of all countries (with no exception and, first and foremost, of major GHG-emitters) in a climate solution which takes into the realities of the 21st century is the strategic objective. The future climate regime should be comprehensive in nature, universal in its membership and should provide equal opportunity for the socio-economic development of all states, while not creating unfair competition for business.

Legal Nature

It is paramount that a new instrument under the post-2020 climate regime be legally binding and set commitments not only for developed countries, but also measures to be taken by developing ones. While the substance of the climate actions to be taken by developed and developing countries may differ, they should be enshrined in a single international legal instrument. It is important to agree on the methodology for quantification and comparison of countries' efforts, using, for example, CO₂ equivalents. The new instrument while preserving the positive experience and know-how of the Kyoto Protocol, must preclude flaws of the current climate regime. It must serve as the lasting foundation of an equitable, long-standing climate solution which is prudent in all concerns: scientific, environmental, economic and political.

Principles

The new international legal instrument should adhere to all agreed principles of the UNFCCC, without giving deference to any particular one. Current global socio-economic development realities should be accounted for, while one-sided interpretation of the principles should be avoided. In the interest of the objectives of the new instrument, it is not acceptable to maintain the static division of countries as per the current UNFCCC categories. Categorization should be based on objective, scientific information shared by all countries. It also should be

flexible, allowing for adjustments (where necessary) to be made to countries' commitments as their level of socio-economic development increases. The new international legal instrument should be steadfastly based on clearly-defined rules: monitoring, reporting, verification and compliance. The use of market mechanisms might considerably increase climate efforts' effectiveness.

The instrument should contain the minimum requisite elements to lay out the architecture and "philosophy" of the regime. It should be bolstered, however, by detailed, thematic implementation rules in the form of decisions of the UNFCCC COP.

Term

The commitment period of the new instrument should be sufficiently long for countries to implement needed socio-economic measures and introduce relevant technologies: 10 years. The current base year of 1990 should be maintained as a baseline. This will foster continuity and consistency between the new climate regime and the UNFCCC/KP.

Commitments

The post-2020 climate regime new agreement should create incentives for all countries to implement climate measures and policies in an economically-sound way. It is important to agree on the general criteria applicable to country commitments (regulated gases, total volume of CO₂ emissions, country's regulated emissions as a share of its total emissions, energy efficiency, etc.). Countries' common goal – of not allowing global average temperature rise above 2°C – should not become the point of departure for a "top-down" delineation of who pledges what. The only reasonable method is for each country to set its own commitments pursuant to its level of socio-economic development, natural and geographical characteristics, and financial and technical capacity. Land-use and forests should be duly accounted for when setting targets.

Quantified targets as set by country should be accompanied by sufficient explanatory information to ensure countries' efforts are transparent and comparable.

Financial Mechanism

In terms of practicality, it would be best if the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC/KP serves as the financial mechanism for the new instrument.

Institutional Structure

The new international legal instrument should be supported by the existing subsidiary

bodies and institutional framework of the UNFCCC/KP to avoid duplication. Rather than re-invent the wheel, it would be best to utilize those building blocks of the current regime which have proved effective (modifying them, need be).

Organizational and Procedural Modalities

The Russian Federation notes the need to guarantee that the negotiations for a new agreement will be conducted as per international legal standards and the work practices of the United Nations, in strict compliance with the procedural provisions of the UNFCCC, including the "six month rule" (Article 15). They must be in the letter and spirit of the Rules of Procedure of the COP UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies and those of MOP KP and its subsidiary bodies.

The recent practice of holding negotiations under almost force-majeure circumstances (whereby earlier missed chances are compensated by de-facto round-the-clock labour on the final stages of negotiations) is perverse. It hampers the development of viable solutions and can no longer be accepted, especially when legally meaningful decisions are concerned.