

submission by the African Group
on
General guidelines for domestic measurement, reporting, and verification of
domestically-supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing
country Parties

The African Group welcomes the opportunity to present its initial views on the general guidelines for domestic measurement, reporting and verification of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties, as requested in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, paragraph 90. We appreciate other views from Parties and look forward to the views of others in this item under the SBSTA.

The African Group recalls that all Parties agreed “that the guidelines should be general, voluntary, pragmatic, non-prescriptive, non-intrusive and country driven, take into account national circumstances and national priorities, respect the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, build on existing domestic systems and capacities, recognize existing domestic measurement, reporting and verification systems and promote a cost-effective approach” (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, paragraph 89).

A general nature of the guidelines is appropriate for guidelines for nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) for which developing countries are using domestic resources, which have high opportunity costs in relation to resources for development and poverty eradication. Furthermore, the guidelines should not be more onerous than other general guidelines, such as those developed for international assessment and review and international consultation and analysis.

It may help to reflect on significant work done already, which can sharpen the focus of the work under these guidelines. In relation to reporting, our view is that the guidelines for biennial update reports are detailed and agreed (decision 1/CP.17, annex III). Measurement by its nature is done domestically matter, there are IPCC guidelines already being applied, and our Group is not of the view that guidelines are necessary in this respect. The international component of verification is covered by the general guidelines on international consultation and analysis (decision 1/CP.17, annex IV). Consequently, the focus of the general guidelines is on domestic verification, which is consistent with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 66.

Having considered what is already agreed, our view is that the guidelines could include elements that:

1. Build on existing domestic systems and capacity, including domestic data, methodologies, modeling (if any), experts and other aspects;
2. Assists domestic experts in applying international best practice; e.g. 2006 IPCC GHG guidelines (or 1996)
3. Recognise existing verification systems and applying national standards of verification, thereby enhancing cost-effectiveness
4. Should respect social and economic circumstance and should build on domestic priorities of parties.

The African Group looks forward to working with other groups and Parties to a decision on general guidelines for domestic verification of domestically-supported NAMAs by developing country Parties at COP-19.