

Submission by Saudi Arabia

Submission of Views on the Forum and Work Programme on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures **Area (b) Cooperation on Response Strategies;**

Saudi Arabia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on thematic area (b) of the work program of the forum on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

Saudi Arabia is among the Parties who have participated in the past sessions of the forum and has been witnessing the significant level of clarity brought onto subjects under discussion through interactive and cooperative dialogue conducted by Parties and participating organizations; we remain eager to see that this continues through the upcoming area. Indeed we believe in the importance of thematic area (b) on Cooperation on Response Strategies by providing for the substantial amount of work that has been conducted on the understanding of the adverse effects of the implantation of response measures under the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and ensued by latter decisions. We are of the strong view that in order to benefit from the active engagement by participants, an early plan needs to be developed on identifying the elements that will be discussed in this area and exploring the ways and means to address them.

Process

On the examination of a process, we expect the work on this area to provide effective guidance on how such process will be shaped to facilitate the cooperation on response strategy given the significant progress that was achieved on the topic. We strongly believe that cooperation on analyzing and understanding the response measures and their impacts will play a significant role for all Parties of the Convention, as it will enhance the predictability of impacts and provide clarity and information to improve planning and decision making process to Annex I Parties on their response strategies. In addition will enable Non-Annex I Parties in their preparation to identify required capacity-building activities, technical assistance and other means to alleviate the adverse impacts of those measures. The work in the forum should look into the expected future outcome of this area that will be useful for application on national, regional and international levels, which means that a particular discussion should be aimed into identifying which activities will be conducted domestically or under the Convention. It will be specifically important to examine potential institutions and their abilities to carry on those activities on the international level. The secretariat is encouraged to frame different options and arrangements for the process that can be considered by Parties.

We also look forward to an analytical discussion by Parties on how to continue cooperation and carry the work towards the 2015 agreement and beyond. Here we wish to note that the success of the forum depended greatly on its ability to function as a facilitative entity and we expect a process that is capable of maintaining the same spirit of cooperation, understanding and remain an exercise of partnership.

Elements

Equally important to the process, is the identification of elements that will be discussed by Parties. We expect a review of different areas to identify those elements and draw a clear path for further discussion. Additionally, the substantial outcome from the discussions on thematic areas that took place in the forum will also feed into the process, as findings, issues of concerns and expressed views will provide further insights to the topics. It is necessary to also emphasize that the progress that was achieved recently through the forum complements earlier work on response measures under the Convention, which calls for a gap analysis exercise to compare between results and findings from those earlier efforts and the level of implementation on ground throughout the different pillars of the Convention.

Parties can explore different questions that draw from all those different sources, which include:

- How effective are the existing MRVs in enabling reporting by Annex-I Parties on their response measures and how can the findings and highlighted issues from the areas on assessment and modeling contribute to add more effectiveness?
- How to inform the decision-making processes of mitigation policies about the findings and recommendations on the impacts of those measures on the social, economic and environmental aspects of developing Country?
- How to strengthen the capacity in conducting assessment of the adverse spillover effects of trade, market barriers and policy measures on the social and economic growth in the impacted developing Countries, which should include inter alia, studying certain affected industries, export opportunities, and labor force?
- What are the potential opportunities for cooperation in the areas of capacity building and building resilience, and how can the messages from related thematic discussions shed more light on those opportunities?
- What actions under the Convention and which other domestic actions are needed to support activities to help developing Countries alleviate the adverse impact of response measures such as economic diversification?
- How is the work on technology mechanism, such as TNAs and TAPs, can be utilized to build a knowledge base on appropriate technology needed by developing Countries to deal with the adverse impact of response measures?

- How to coordinate with technology mechanism and related arrangements within the Convention to examine and encourage technologies and technology-supporting policies that have no, or at least minimum, adverse impacts on the sustainable development of Non-Annex I Parties?
- How to synchronize findings and lessons learnt from the work on the impact of response measures with other mechanisms, arrangements and work-in-processes under the Convention?
- What are the potential sub-processes to determine technical assistance and support required by Non-Annex I Parties aiming to strengthen their capacity when dealing with the adverse impacts of response measures, such as improving efficiency in upstream and downstream activities relating to fossil fuels?

Furthermore, Parties with the insights of participating experts can investigate:

- How to address the potential for cooperative activities in generating reliable platform of data and information on the impacts of various response strategies?
- What are the best practices to organize capacity building activities for impacted developing Countries such as education and training programs that are especially designed for youth?
- What are the best activities to engage stakeholders from private, public, research and scientific bodies in the work of understanding the impact of response measures?
- How to cooperate on continuous bilateral and multilateral dialogue on findings from assessment and modeling tools on the response measures and their adverse impacts on developing Countries?

This continuation of cooperative action in area (b) significantly captures the essence of the partnership and the global action needed to create such an effective effort and build mutual understanding between Parties that will enable them to go forward. This vital concept of cooperation is an actual fulfillment for Articles of the Convention and decisions that were adopted by the Conference of the Parties; Article 4.1 of the Convention underscores cooperation on scientific, technological, technical and socio-economic research, systematic observation and data archive as comprehensive set of informative tools to understand, reduce and eliminate the economic and social consequences of response strategies. There is no doubt that Articles of the conventions place social and economic research as equally important to environmental research in order to reduce uncertainties and aid the process of understanding the effect on the overarching sustainable development of developing Countries; Promotion of and cooperation in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the climate system and climate

change, and to the economic and social consequences of various response strategies will continue to be an implementation of the Convention.

We also expect to continue engaging members from the scientific, research community and related international organizations on the actual discussion and future work, in which they will share their experiences to address the questions on how Parties can cooperate, for instance to develop and improve the effectiveness of existing tools used for research and data collection. Such organization could include IPCC and United Nations bodies, International organizations and NGOs. It is of the utmost importance that agencies and bodies from developing Countries become equally involved and supported to provide their perspectives and experiences. Experts can be also invited to discussion with Parties to explore and identify existing programs that look into all elements of the sustainable development of Non-Annex I Countries, and how it's affected by various response measures. How to communicate the findings of such programs and initiatives to the process are amongst the questions that are also expected to be addressed in the forum. We also look for recommendations on how to create such data archive related to assessment of the impact of response strategies and how to facilitate and improve the wide global access to it.