



Response to Joint Message: Workstream on Enhancing pre 2020 Mitigation Ambition

Dear Messrs Mauskar and Dovland,

Thank you for your joint message of 24 September 2012. On behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, we would like to respond to your invitation to provide additional inputs on how to best advance the work of the ADP workstream on pre 2020 mitigation ambition in Doha and beyond. Making progress on this workstream is a critical element of a balanced outcome in Doha. We are responding separately to you on the 2015 Agreement workstream.

Below we address the points you raise. We refer you also to previous inputs the EU has provided - namely our submission of 1 March 2012 setting out our views on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition¹, and our letter to you on 16 July 2012 providing additional information on how to advance the work of the ADP.

1. Introduction

In Durban, Parties noted with "grave concern" the gap in mitigation ambition. Urgently enhancing pre-2020 ambition must be at the heart of our work. The EU, like others, considers it vital that we deliver concrete progress under this workstream in Doha.

Parties' submissions introduced initial ideas on enhancing ambition as required by the Durban decision. The ambition Roundtables in Bangkok built on these submissions and allowed for a useful exchange of views, highlighting promising ideas to be taken forward in Doha.

¹ FCCC/ADP/2012/MISC.1 at page 8

2. Outputs of the ADP workstream in Doha

Building on the elements identified in the co-chairs' summary note, Doha needs to deliver the following outputs:

- Substantive discussions in informal roundtables, to be captured in conclusions of the ADP.
- High level political engagement through early ministerial level discussions that kick-off some concrete initiatives to close the mitigation gap. The discussions should be captured in a summary report and give guidance to the work of the ADP in Doha and beyond. That summary should be referred to in the report of the session.
- An ADP decision including elements on pre 2020 ambition: political guidance on pre 2020 pledges; recognising the role of international cooperative initiatives (ICIs) in raising ambition before the new 2020 agreement comes into force; agreeing to Ministerial discussions on a regular basis; and capturing agreed next steps for the work of the workstream, with a focus on 2013.

Substantive discussions:

COP18 must confirm the mitigation ambition work as a key international process that creates political momentum and sends a clear signal of the importance of increased mitigation ambition before 2020. It is essential that in Doha we continue having substantial discussions around the key pre 2020 workstream elements: 2020 pledges and international cooperative initiatives.

Building on elements of convergence in your summary note of the Bangkok discussions, and noting your reflections of 5 October, the work in Doha must be focused and to deliver on:

1) 2020 Pledges

- How to help Parties that have not yet come forward with their own pledges to overcome barriers to them doing so and encourage the wider political conditions to those that have already pledged to be more ambitious.
- Sharing experience of how 2020 pledges are being implemented with a view to ensuring that existing commitments are fully met so that the gap does not widen, as well as to explore how efforts could be further supported and expanded. Continuing the clarification of pledges will be essential in order to assess collective progress towards achieving the 2°C objective. This should continue under the Subsidiary Bodies.

2) International Cooperative Initiatives

- We should discuss, and Ministers will need to give guidance on, elements for a decision in Doha that recognises and supports development of ICIs that have demonstrable potential, in addition to existing pledges, to close the emissions gap between now and 2020.

- There also needs to be a discussion of the potential role of the UNFCCC in relation to ICIs, including: (i) incentivising and giving visibility to ICIs, for example by providing a platform to share information on successful experiences; (ii) providing a transparent overview of major initiatives and assessing their contribution to staying below 2°C; and (iii) ensuring that the contributions of ICIs to closing the emissions gap is quantified.
- In addition, there could be scope to consider and give guidance on specific ICIs. For instance, the EU would welcome a discussion on how to promote further the global phase out of F-gases, and how to support this work under the Montreal Protocol.

The ADP should focus on the following initiatives:

- Enhancing energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy
- Reducing production and use of HFCs
- Reducing GHG emissions in the transport sector, including international aviation and maritime transport by ICAO and IMO
- Reducing subsidies of the production and consumption of fossil fuels
- Addressing short lived climate pollutants through domestic and international action
- Enhancing action on REDD+
- Exploring the role of public and private finance

In conjunction with discussions on 2020 pledges and ICIs we will also need to consider how to mobilise the means of implementation for ambitious mitigation action. Actions to bridge the pre-2020 mitigation gap and means of implementation are intrinsically linked. The link needs to be better articulated and understood in the context of enabling environments, national plans and the generation of finance from a number of sources including own contributions by developing countries and contribution from the private sector.

A decision in Doha reflecting progress in discussions on pre 2020 ambition:

Doha must deliver a decision to promote and take steps towards closing the ambition gap and reiterate the urgency of this workstream.

Elements for a Doha decision on pre 2020 ambition:

On 2020 pledges

- Recall the urgent need to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions given the significant gap between actions pledged and our common objective to limit temperature increase to below 2°C
- Recognise current efforts by Parties in reducing emissions and encourage all Parties to raise their ambition for emission reductions up to 2020, including inviting more Parties to present their mitigation actions to the UNFCCC
- Emphasise importance of full implementation of pledges.

On international cooperative initiatives:

- Acknowledge the need to stimulate and catalyse mitigation actions at all levels and through all possible channels

- Recognise that ICIs have an important role to play in closing the emissions gap, and that they must enhance and not distract from the implementation of existing commitments and the completion of a 2015 Agreement
- Acknowledge that these efforts should be transparent and the importance of assessing the impact of these ICIs on bridging the gap and identifying which of these initiatives have the greatest potential to do so
- Agree to further consider those ICIs with a large quantified potential to bridge the ambition gap
- Note the role of the UNFCCC to support such initiatives, and to serve as a forum to recognise and increase visibility of such initiatives
- Provide recognition, support or encouragement for promising initiatives, both within and outside the Convention. This should include a compilation of initiatives with the greatest potential to close the gap into a document to serve as basis for discussions in ministerial roundtables in 2013
- request ICIs to report annually on how much they contribute to closing the ambition gap

On next steps for the ADP

- Agreed next steps including concrete milestones and inputs in particular for 2013:
 - Submissions early in 2013 from Parties and UN/international bodies as well as non Government actors covering key substantial issues, including on ICIs at the national or international level
 - Secretariat synthesis paper on ICIs (a summary report of views or a technical paper on the potential, scope, implementation challenges related to the initiatives proposed) to inform the ADP ambition process.
 - Secretariat to compile the submissions and to publish the summary report of the ministerial discussions as a useful basis for the ADP discussions (and future ministerial roundtables)
 - Opportunities to take forward, in between formal negotiating sessions, themes emerging from the synthesis report and from the roundtables in Doha

On Ministerials

- Agreement to hold regular Ministerial discussions on how to raise mitigation ambition

3. Organisation of work in Doha

Informal roundtables

We support the continuation of the informal roundtables in order to take forward substantive discussions. The roundtables should consolidate areas of convergence, address outstanding questions and delineate the scope of the elements to be captured in a Doha outcome and in that context they should prepare the ground for a focussed Ministerial discussion at the beginning of the second week.

Contact groups

In Bangkok you indicated that the informal setting of the roundtables has its limitations in procedural terms. Whilst we would like to see the informal roundtables remain the focus of substantive discussions at the technical level, we are content to be guided by you as to whether contact groups would need to be formed in Doha in order to deliver the outcomes for this workstream set out in this letter. If contact groups are deemed necessary, two should be formed – one for each of the two workstreams of the ADP.



Ministerial roundtables

Many Parties have called for a Ministerial roundtable on raising pre 2020 mitigation ambition in Doha and we support this as a means of giving political momentum to this vital workstream. The Ministerial roundtable should take place early enough to give the needed political guidance to the negotiations. The primary aim of the Ministerial discussions should be to give clear guidance to the ADP on elements to include in a decision on pre 2020 mitigation in Doha, as well as on priorities for work with a particular focus on 2013. Specifically, guidance by Ministers on principles enabling work to focus on the most promising ICIs with the most significant potential to deliver clear additional benefits in terms of mitigation and sustainable development would be extremely useful.

It will be important that the ministerial considerations are fed back into the ADP pre 2020 ambition workplan to ensure coherence and allow the ADP to have a more informed discussion. A summary report of the Ministerial discussions should be produced. Finally, the EU would like to see Ministers agree in Doha to meet on a regular basis to discuss pre 2020 mitigation ambition.