

Increasing Ambition Level under Durban Platform for Enhanced Actions

1. The CoP 17 decided at Durban to launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties through an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. The CoP 17, inter alia, requested the Parties to submit their views by February 28, 2012 on 'options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition and possible further actions'. India welcomes this opportunity.
2. As the outcome of the process under Durban platform is to be applicable to all Parties and this outcome is to be reached under the Convention, all principles and provisions of the Convention will apply in totality to both the process and its results. Accordingly, the efforts for increase in the level of ambition must be made, inter alia, in accordance with the principle of equity and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities of the Parties.
3. India believes that question of 'the highest possible mitigation efforts by all parties' has to be addressed in the light of the decisions of CoP 16 at Cancun on 'Enhanced action on mitigation' relating to 'nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions by developed country parties' and 'nationally appropriate mitigations actions by developing country parties'.
4. The above CoP decisions on mitigation taken at Cancun recognize that developing country Parties are already contributing and will continue to contribute to a global mitigation effort in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and could enhance their mitigation actions, depending upon provision of finance, technology and capacity building support by developed countries Parties.
5. Developing country Parties including India have already put forward their domestic mitigation goal in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, particularly its article 4, Paragraph 7 which is being implemented accordingly. This can be achieved as envisaged, on provision of support and enablement in terms of finance and technology as per the principles and provisions of the Convention, like Article 4, paragraph 3.
6. Besides, the question of raising the ambition level has to be understood in the context of the paragraph 6 of the decision relating to the establishment of the Durban Platform which states that the process of raising the ambition level will be informed, inter-alia, by the 5th assessment report of the IPCC, the outcomes of the 2013-2015 review and the work of the subsidiary bodies.
7. Paragraph 5 of the decision on Durban Platform, envisaging the work of increase in ambition level based on the work of the subsidiary bodies is also very relevant. The work of subsidiary bodies includes the work done by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), as also the two Ad Hoc

Working Groups under the Convention and its Kyoto protocol in relation to the various pillars as enumerated in paragraph 5 of the decision.

8. Having regard to the fact that the work plan envisaged in paragraph 7 of the decision on Durban Platform follows the work envisaged/done under paragraph 5 and 6 of the decision, India is of the view that the work plan for enhancing mitigation ambition of Parties relates to the post-2020 period.

9. Considering the fact that the results of the peer-reviewed comprehensive scientific assessments under AR5 and the work of 2013-15 review will be available only in the time frame of 2015, and the work of the AWG-LCA for enhancing the long term cooperation of the Parties under the Convention will not be completed before CoP 18, the only available time frame for making scientific assessment of the 'mitigation efforts by all Parties' is the post-2020 period.

10. To the extent that the decision, in its preambular recital, makes a reference to the gap between the mitigation pledges until 2020 and emissions pathways consistent with achieving the 2°C goal, the question of ambition in the time frame of 2012-2020 under the Durban platform relates to the commitments of Annex I Parties who have an obligation to take deep and ambitious emission reduction targets consistent with science and the principles of equity and CBDR.

11. It is notable that the paragraphs 7 and 8 of the decision (relating to the Durban Platform) are derived from the text under negotiation in the AWG-LCA relating to the mitigation commitments of the Annex I parties. These paragraphs are now part of the decision on Durban Platform applicable to all parties and have been placed sequentially after the paragraphs 5 and 6, whose import is described above. This confirms the conclusion that the increase in ambition level in the short term is based on the actions of the Annex I country Parties.

12. As the work plan relating to the increase in ambition level mentioned under the Durban Platform is directed at closing the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible 'mitigation efforts,' and not mitigation results, the increase in ambition levels of Annex-I Parties should be consistent with the findings of science, and the corresponding levels of emission reduction targets needed to stabilize the climate, especially in accordance with the principles of equity and CBDR.

13. In view of the fact that the only accepted scientific basis for determining the level of ambitious actions in the short term is the AR4, the work of the Annex I Parties for increasing the level of ambition in the time frame of 2012-2020 should be informed by the IPCC assessments under AR4. AR4 has recommended that Annex I Parties should reduce their emissions at least by of 25-40% in the short term by 2020. As the current pledges made by Annex I Parties fall short of the required emission reduction levels, they should raise, in the minimum, their ambition to the level indicated by the AR4. This should be indicated timely and a decision taken thereupon at Doha (CoP 18).

14. Further, the increase in ambition level can be achieved only if the Annex I countries clarify that their commitments/targets in the time-frame of 2012-2020 are without any conditions. This is important to ensure that the pledged actions are clear, ambitious and effective.

15. To facilitate the process of assessing the implementation of commitments of Annex-I Parties towards closing the mitigation gap in the time frame of 2012-2020 in accordance with the findings of science, and the principles of equity and CBDR, a review of the adequacy of the mitigation commitments during this time frame should be launched in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention. The review should be carried out in the light of the best available scientific information and assessment on climate change and its impact as well as relevant technical social and economic information. The results of such review should be an essential part of the 2013-2015 review of implementation of the Convention. The assessed gap in the efforts as compared with the results/assessment of the Annex-I Parties under Article 4, paragraph 2(d) should be the basis for increasing the level of ambition.

16. In case of Annex-I Parties that are Party to KP, a parallel process should be initiated to determine compliance with their commitments to achieve the economy wide emission reduction targets. The assessed gap in achieving their targets under the first commitment period should be added to their targets in light of above submissions, under the relevant rules applicable to KP Parties. This should apply to all developed country Kyoto Protocol Parties including those that have announced that they will not participate in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Similarly, non-KP Parties would also need to increase their targets/actions in light of the review/assessment of their commitments/targets.

17. The Secretariat, in its message vide ODES/CoP17/11 of January 20, 2012 has indicated April 16, 2012 as the date for submission of views of Parties on 'work plan of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Enhanced Actions including, inter alia, on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of actions and support, and capacity building. India's submission thereto will contain further elaboration and/or clarification of the submissions made above.