

Submission: Japan's view on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition as follows, as requested by paragraph 8 of the decision at the COP17 "Establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action".

1. Setting a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050 and identifying a time frame for the global peaking

According to the agreements at Cancun and Durban, Parties recognize that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are required according to science, as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal.

The next step is to agree on a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050 and a time frame for the global peaking among all Parties. In that context, it is important to take into account the proposal made by the G8, achieving at least a 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050 and as a part of it developed countries reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in aggregate by 80% or more by 2050 compared to 1990 or more recent years. .

These objectives for reducing global emissions and slowing down the increase of global cumulative emission should be agreed based on the latest scientific knowledge, and in this regard, inputs from the 5th Assessment Report by the IPCC (AR5) should be fully taken into consideration in the review of the long-term global goal undertaken in 2013 to 2015.

2. Increase transparency of mitigation efforts of respective Parties and share best practices through MRV

It is also necessary to understand how much GHGs are emitted, what mitigation actions are made by each Party and how effective they are. For this purpose, the decisions at Durban set up detailed procedures for MRV of GHG emissions and mitigation actions by both developed and developing countries. MRV process is useful not only for quantifying amount of emissions and removals but for mutually understanding effects of various mitigation actions taken by each Party. It is important to enhance transparency of mitigation actions in order to identify good practices of policies and measures of Parties and effective technologies and measures in various sectors. Such good practices and examples of effective approaches could be shared among Parties through holding workshops or developing an analysis report. IAR and ICA should be implemented to be able to create effective mutual-learning opportunities and hence lead us to further increase global ambition.

It is also important for Parties to review and to update their targets or actions for 2020 noted by

the Cancun Agreements utilizing the information that respective Parties learnt from MRV process.

3. Consideration of various types of approaches and measures for enhancing mitigation actions and increasing the level of ambition

In designing a new framework for the post-2020 climate regime applicable to all Parties, level of ambition should be considered in a global context. In this sense, it is necessary to consider various types of approaches regarding our emission reduction targets. So far our targets have mainly focused GHG emissions in each Party, such as quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives under the Kyoto Protocol and quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets noted by the Cancun Agreements. In addition to emission reduction targets at global or Party level, other approaches that are more concrete and directly attached to actual actions of governments and private sector players (e.g. setting targets and action plans to increase penetration of best available technologies for major sectors, sharing globally applied efficiency standards on specific products, identifying roadmap of technology development and periodically check the progress) could be utilized comprehensively in order to enhance mitigation actions and increase the level of ambition in setting emission reduction targets.

4. International cooperative actions for achieving low-carbon development globally

International cooperation is necessary in order to realize low-carbon growth all over the world. In this regard, Japan has proposed “Japan’s Vision and Action towards Low-Carbon Growth and Climate-Resilient World” at CO17. National low carbon development strategies (LCDSs) should be established and implemented in all countries, through initiatives by developed countries to formulate their LCDSs, to share their experiences with other countries and to support the development of LCDSs in developing countries financially and technically. It is important that LCDSs in developing countries are implemented as the mainstream under their national development plans in the context of sustainable development. It is also important that LCDSs should include not only a list of mitigation actions but a long-term strategy to direct countries to low-carbon society taking into consideration a long-term goal of GHG emission reductions in 2050.

It is also indispensable to make efforts on technological innovation from a long-term perspective in addition to promoting efforts on the utilization of existing low-carbon technologies. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation among developed countries and between developed and developing countries should be enhanced for the development and deployment of new low-carbon technologies.

Support for mitigation actions of developing countries should be seamlessly provided via financial support, technology transfer and support for capacity building. Various approaches, including opportunities for using markets should be further utilized to promote mitigation actions in both developed and developing countries in a cost-effective manner.