

SUBMISSION BY SAUDI ARABIA

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Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action Views on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition

Saudi Arabia welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition as contained in the document [FCCC/CP/2011/L.10, paragraph 8](#) of the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

At the outset, it is important to emphasize that the need to increase the level of ambition originated from Cancun COP16 decision. The analysis of the emission reduction goals that have been pledged by developed countries at Copenhagen COP15 clearly showed that the total of these goals amounted to reduction of 12-18%. This was recognized as being far below the required reduction to achieve the goal of a 2 degree limit on temperature rise.

The Cancun COP16 decision however was clear in that raising the level of ambition is required from developed countries, where the decision *urged* developed country Parties to increase the ambition of their economy-wide emission reduction targets, with a view to reducing their aggregate anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol to a level consistent with the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

Hence, raising the level of ambition is not a requirement from all parties. It is thus important to maintain that clarity about the need for developed countries to increase the level of ambition in their reduction goals.

Following the clear development of the discussion on the need to increase the level of ambition, it is important to address and reach understanding on important factors that will contribute to such efforts, and advance discussion and objective of the workshop on this matter,

1. The efforts to address the climate change cannot be evaluated in the absence of clear recognition that the fundamental cause of the problem is the fact that the largest share of historical global emissions of greenhouse gases has been caused by Annex I countries. Accordingly, Annex I countries have the obligation to take the lead in the efforts to mitigate climate change. It may be essential to define and understand what is meant by taking the lead. As specified in the Convention, and acknowledged by Parties, there is a clear understanding taking the lead means that:
 - Annex I countries have to reduce emissions, and provide assistance to non-Annex I countries to help them contribute the climate change combating efforts and address the social and economic challenges faced by climate change.

- Following from the origins of this discussion, the efforts should aim at meeting certain climatic objectives. According to IPCC Fourth Assessment Report published in 2007, in order to limit the temperature increase to 2°C, Annex I countries are required, by 2020, to reduce their emissions by 25-40% from 1990 level, while non-Annex I countries need to show deviation from baseline. However, according to several reports, the reduction targets for 2020 that were submitted by Annex I countries average between 12 to 18%, which is far below even the minimum level as recommended by IPCC. In addition, according to a study¹ of several reports, Annex I pledges were consistently lower than non-Annex I pledges.
2. Parties have also agreed in the Convention that it is imperative to acknowledge that the share of global emissions originating in non-Annex I countries will have to grow in order to meet their developmental needs. Nonetheless, and while meeting their developmental needs, there may be opportunities in non-Annex I countries to contribute voluntarily to global emission reduction efforts, with the understanding that these contributions and actions are within the context of their sustainable development and based on their national priorities. This can be achieved where such contributions and actions are conditioned on receiving financial support, technology transfer and capacity building from Annex I countries.

Based on the above important points, it is important that the workshop that will be held in May 2012 builds understanding, discusses and elaborates on the following questions in order to allow a further discussion on increasing, or even setting a level for, “emission reduction ambition”:

- How to address historical responsibility?
- Building on historical responsibilities, how to integrate the climatic objectives within the context of sustainable development along with the short and long term goals?
- How much more is expected from developed countries, to meet their historical responsibility?
- How to address developing countries sustainable development goals?
- What is the expected type and level of enablers (means of implementation) to facilitate contributions from developing countries to reaching the desired level of ambition? (in terms of financing, technology transfer and capacity building)
- Is there a gap between the required enablers (means of implementation), and the enablers that are pledged? If so, what is being done to address this gap?

¹ SEI, Comparison of Annex I and non-Annex I pledges under the Cancun Agreements, S. Kartha and P. Erickson, 2011.