



AUSTRALIA

Submission under Decision 2/CP.17 | August 2012

Work programme on a common tabular format for the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” | SBSTA

I. Overview

This submission contains the views of the Australian Government on a common tabular format (CTF) for the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country parties” (hereafter the reporting guidelines), as invited under FCC/SBSTA/2012/L.11. Decision 2/CP.17 adopted the reporting guidelines (contained in annex I) on the preparation of biennial reports by developed country Parties. The decision also established a work program under the SBSTA on the development of a CTF for the electronic reporting of information, with a view to recommending the format for consideration and adoption at the eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP18). Australia strongly supports the building of a system consistent with the agreed guidelines.

Enhanced transparency is crucial for the future climate framework. Frequent and standardised reporting and review will increase understanding of all Parties’ efforts to achieve agreed actions and help to track progress towards our collective goals. In addition, a better understanding of each other’s actions is a crucial element in creating confidence and the conditions for ambition to grow. Australia supports a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system that balances flexibility with greater transparency. Enhanced transparency will in turn enable Parties to compare effort should they wish to. The system should enhance and consolidate information and make the information accessible and uncomplicated. To help achieve this, Australia supports a holistic system for MRV, with MRV of support systems operating concurrently with the broader MRV systems.

Annex I Parties currently provide extensive information to the UNFCCC through the annual National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and National Communications. It is important to recognise the extent of information that is already reported by Parties in formulating the CTF. Australia supports the use of such existing data in biennial reports so they complement and augment annual inventory reporting and national communications without unnecessarily duplicating existing information and effort. Where it is determined that additional or new information is required, the provision and timing of this information should be consistent with existing processes.

While the focus of the work program and this submission is on the CTF, not all of the required information in the identified paragraphs can be adequately reflected in tabular format alone. As such, tables should be supplemented by the submission of text that contextualises and makes accessible the information provided.



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II. Specific approach on common tabular format

Australia welcomes the positive and constructive work of the Parties at SBSTA 36 to commence work on the development of the CTF. Australia agrees that the CTF should include tables for information specified in paragraphs 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 22 and 23, to the extent possible, of the reporting guidelines.

Australia's preferred approach to each of the paragraphs outlined above is provided below, with specific table proposals included as required.

SBSTA 36 further identified a number of additional paragraphs of the reporting guidelines (13, 19 and 24) where a tabular format might be useful. Information required under paragraph 13 can usefully be incorporated in the tabular format for paragraphs 17 and 18, supplemented with text. Regarding flows from private finance sources (paragraph 19), Australia considers that it would not be feasible to report this information in a tabular format given the large variety of flows and rules and practice with regard to the commercial nature of information. Parties should ascertain what information can be provided in an accessible and uncomplicated manner. Given the wide and varied range of domestic arrangements that may exist for self-assessment with compliance with emissions reductions (paragraph 24), Australia believes that a CTF may not be appropriate to provide this information. Parties should be able to provide this information in the form they consider best captures their individual arrangements.

Paragraph 2

Australia proposes to use the Annex I National Inventory common reporting format (CRF) Table 10.S.5 as the basis of providing the information outlined in paragraph 2 of the reporting guidelines. There may be opportunities to rationalise the amount reported from this starting point, and this could be further explored at the CTF workshop, to be held 11-12 October 2012.

Paragraph 5

Australia notes that a combination of tabular and textual information will be necessary to address the specified components identified in paragraph 5 of the reporting guidelines. Australia's suggested CTF for tabular information is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Quantified economy-wide reduction target

Base year	
Gases covered	
Sectors covered	
Global Warming Potential values	
Accounting approach to emissions and removals from the LULUCF sector	
Source(s) of units/allowances from international market-based mechanisms to be used in achieving emission reduction target	
Expected contribution by source of international market-based mechanisms to be used in achieving emission reduction target	

Paragraph 6

Australia proposes to use a table format similar to Table 1 from “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part II: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” to provide this information for the biennial reports, with some consideration given to the presentation of measures that overlap with broad-based carbon pricing policies.

Reporting abatement by individual measure can be complicated by the existence of carbon pricing policies with broad coverage. Australia’s Carbon Pricing Mechanism covers multiple sectors and gases, and is the country’s main policy for meeting its emission reduction targets. A number of other measures that also achieve abatement exist in sectors covered by the carbon price, such as energy efficiency policies which target non-price barriers to abatement.

Estimating the abatement attributable to these policies in the presence of a carbon price is complex. Australia would welcome consideration of how abatement from overlapping policies could be presented in biennial reports, including how countries with carbon pricing mechanisms should seek to report the abatement generated by these schemes.

Paragraph 9

Australia proposes to use the Annex I National Inventory CRF Table 5 as the basis for providing any information outlined in paragraph 9 of the reporting guidelines that has not been captured under the preceding paragraphs (particularly paragraph 2). There may be opportunities to rationalise the amount reported from this starting point, and this could be further explored at the CTF workshop, to be held from 11-12 October 2012.

Paragraph 10

Australia proposes to use the Annex I National Inventory CRF Tables 5 and 10.S.5 as the basis to meet the information requirements of paragraph 10 of the reporting guidelines that refer to paragraph 9(a-c). As noted above, there may be opportunities to rationalise the amount of information reported from this starting point.

In regard to information on the use of units from market-based mechanisms for each reported year, Australia proposes table 2 below.

Table 2: Use of market-based mechanisms for progress towards emission reduction target

	Emissions Mt CO ₂ -e		
Year			
Net purchases of credits from international sources			

Paragraph 11

Australia supports maintaining the approach of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part II: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications” with regard to the information requirements of this paragraph. When reporting key variables and assumptions underlying the projections, the reporting

format should maintain scope for countries to select the most relevant key variables to reflect the different modelling approaches and country-specific models used in preparing projections.

Paragraphs 13, 17 and 18

Australia notes that a combination of tabular and textual information will be necessary to address the specified components identified in paragraphs 13, 17 and 18 of the reporting guidelines. The proposed tables (tables 3 and 4 below) would reflect the same financial data, but would be broken down differently as specified in the decision.

Table 3: Provision of financial support to developing country Parties (paragraph 17)

Institution/channel	Contributions			
	Year x		Year x+1	
	Dom currency	USD	Dom currency	USD
Global Environment Facility				
Least Developed Countries Fund				
Special Climate Change Fund				
Adaptation Fund				
Green Climate Fund				
Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities				
Other multilateral climate change funds				
Multilateral financial institutions, including regional development banks				
Specialised United Nations bodies				
Contributions through bilateral, regional and other channels				
Total				

Table 4: Provision of financial support to developing country Parties (paragraph 13 and 18)

	Amount		Type of support (for mitigation/adaptation activities)	Source of funding	Financial instrument	Sector
	Dom currency	USD				
Program 1						
Program 2						
Program 3						
Program 4						
Program 5						
Program 6						
Other						
Total						
Describe what new and additional resources have been provided and clarify how new and additional is determined:						

Paragraphs 22 and 23

The proposed tables for paragraphs 22 and 23 of the reporting guidelines (tables 5 and 6 below) would provide further detail on specific capacity building and technology transfer measures and can be accompanied by text as appropriate.

Table 5: Measures and activities related to technology transfer implemented or planned (paragraph 22)

Technology development and transfer measures:	Recipient:	Description:

Table 6: Provision of capacity building support in response to existing and emerging capacity building needs identified (paragraph 23)

Capacity building measures:	Description:
Information on the provision of capacity-building support:	

