



AUSTRALIA

Submission under decision 8/CP.1 | October 2012

Forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures | SBI, SBSTA

I. Overview

This submission contains the views of the Australian Government, as requested under the agreed work-plan for the Joint Subsidiary Bodies Forum on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures (the Forum).¹ Australia also draws attention to its previous submission on response measures.²

The decision at Durban to establish the Forum was an important step forward. The Forum aims to promote greater understanding of the positive and negative impacts of response measures, and has four main features:

- It consolidates all related discussions under the Convention, allowing for more efficient and targeted discussions than has been the case previously.
- It provides a place for discussions on response measures to be carried forward, beyond closure of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Collaborative Action (AWG-LCA) at the eighteenth Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, November – December 2012 (COP18).
- It allows for specific technical inputs from Parties, experts, practitioners and relevant organisations, to build an evidence base on the impacts Parties may face in the future, which has been missing previously.
- It allows for decision making, as its work will be reviewed by the subsidiary bodies with a view to providing recommendations to COP19.

II Input on areas of the Forum's work plan

Parties were invited to submit information on areas A, F and H of the Forum's work plan. Australia's input on these items is set out below.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.18 and FCCC/SBI/2012/L.25.

² Australia's previous submission on response measures from September 2011 is available online at: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/unfccc/submissions.aspx>



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Area A: Sharing information and expertise, including reporting and promoting understanding of positive and negative impacts of response measures.

All Parties must prepare for the changes we face as we move to a low-carbon world, and take advantage of the opportunities these changes will create for sustainable growth. Some Parties are better equipped than others to meet this challenge. With that in mind, the Forum's work should focus on how to best assist the poorest and most vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States, to diversify their economies and build economic resilience.

The Forum should provide an opportunity for best practice exchanges on what countries are doing, and can do, to diversify and transition their economies and workforce's for a sustainable future. Given the relatively abstract nature of discussions on this topic in the UNFCCC to date, a more scientific approach is needed to enhance understanding of the nature of the impacts Parties may face in the future.

Australia's national inventory reports provide information on response measures issues under the UNFCCC, and are submitted in April each year. Reporting on inventories and actions builds knowledge and confidence in the actions of other Parties, and strengthens the global response to climate change. To maximise coherence and efficiency, we should endeavour to coordinate discussions and reporting on impacts of the implementation of response measures, and leverage work undertaken elsewhere. Reporting structures and procedures on response measures should be streamlined and effective to ensure that limited reporting resources are allocated effectively.

When considering cooperation on response measures, we must have regard for the appropriate forums to address response measures issues. The mitigation of climate change is the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, while the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the competent body to make and enforce global trade rules, including their application to policies addressing climate change.

The WTO has the formal mandate, relevant expertise and formal structures to appropriately deal with a broad range of issues relating to trade and environment, including in making trade and climate change as mutually supportive as possible.

Area F: Relevant aspects relating to the implementation of decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13, and 1/CP.16, and Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol.

Important progress has been made across a range of areas on implementation of decisions under the mandate of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Collaborative Action. Dedicated bodies have been established to progress technology transfer, climate finance, adaptation, capacity building, and impact of response measures.

These include the Transitional Committee and the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Adaptation Committee, and the Joint Subsidiary Bodies Forum on Response Measures. These bodies have substantive work programs and it will be important to allow them sufficient time to conduct their work.

During 2011, Parties shared information and expert views on ways developing countries can undertake economic diversification, for example to manage the risk of economic overdependence on greenhouse gas intensive exports.

Area H: Building collective and individual learning towards transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society

Australia is taking strong action to tackle climate change including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy efficiency, working to adapt to climate change impacts, and helping to shape a global solution.

Australia will unconditionally reduce its emissions by 5 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020 and by up to 15 or 25 percent per cent by 2020, based on strict conditions relating to the extent of global action. By 2050, Australia will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent compared with 2000 levels³.

Australia's Clean Energy Future Legislation includes a price on carbon, promotes innovation and investment in renewable energy, encourages energy efficiency, and creates opportunities to cut pollution in the land sector.

³ Australia's submission on clarification from May 2012 sets out further information on Australia's targets: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/unfccc/submissions/20120504-clarification.aspx>