

Intervention by India

Workshop on Para 1(b)(i) of BAP

5th Session of the AWG-LCA, Bonn, 1st April 2009

Mr, Chairman,

The Bali Action Plan provides a framework for global Long-Term Cooperative Action to address climate change, and sets out four pillars for this purpose. The mitigation pillar, as we agreed at Bali, consists of two very separate parts: one addressing the mitigation actions of developing countries, and the other, the subject of discussion here, para 1(b)(i), addressing the enhanced mitigation actions of the Annex-1 Parties.

The overarching and all-encompassing nature of the mitigation requirements of Articles 2.2 (a) and (b) of the Convention, as well as Para 1(b)(i) of the BAP, indicate that they apply across the entire economies of Annex-1 countries, and consequently, Mr. Chairman, we believe that the nationally appropriate actions of para 1(b) (i) must have an economy-wide scope as well. It may be recalled that the individual economy-wide mitigation contribution of the Annex-1 Parties who are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol is being addressed in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol, and so what we are doing here are two things: one is to

discuss and reach agreement on the overall quantified emission reduction commitment for the Annex-1 as a whole; and the second is to discuss and reach agreement on the economy-wide quantified emission reduction commitments of the non-Kyoto Annex-1 Parties.

As we initiate discussions on the economy-wide quantified emission reduction commitments, it is important to remember that the comparability requirement of the Bali Action Plan requires us to ensure that the national commitments under para 1(b)(i) are comparable to the national commitments of the Annex-1 Kyoto Parties. We believe this comparability requirement to be a fundamental building block of the global architecture to address climate-change, and it is important to get this right for the credibility of the architecture.

Mr. Chairman,

We suggest that there are four elements to ensure comparability. The first is the baseline year. We believe that consistency, continuity and comparability demand that we continue to use 1990 as the base year from which we measure quantitative emission reductions.

The nature of the action is the second commitment. As we have stressed a few moments ago, economy-wide quantitative emission reduction commitments are the only feasible nationally appropriate commitment in this regard.

The quantitative emission reduction commitment is the third element of comparability. We believe that these must reflect historical responsibility for climate change, as well as national capacities to address it. At the same time, the overall quantitative emission reduction commitment of all the Annex-1 Parties as a group must be at least 40% below their 1990 levels in 2020, and must be accompanied by norms for sustainable production and consumption.

MRV criteria are the fourth element of comparability. Again, we believe that MRV applies to compliance with an economy-wide quantified emission reduction commitment, and would cover, inter alia, articles 5 (estimation of emissions and removals), 7 (information on compliance with commitments), and 8 (review by expert teams) and associated guidance by the CoP.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for this opportunity to share our views on Para 1(b)(i).