

Government of India Submission to UNFCCC on MRV – BAP 1 (b) (i)

“measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them...”

Paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the Bali Action Plan sets out the mitigation commitments of the developed countries in conformity with Article 4.2 of the Convention. Two elements of the formulation merit attention.

First, the term “nationally appropriate” may be reasonably interpreted as meaning “nationally determined”, as contrasted with an internationally negotiated commitment. However, in this sub-paragraph of the Bali Action Plan, the term “nationally determined” is subject to an important qualification. The “nationally determined” commitments or actions must reflect comparable efforts among all developed country Parties. This can be ensured only through negotiations. Hence, though the commitments or actions of a developed country may, in the first instance, be nationally formulated, they must be finalized on the basis of UNFCCC negotiations, in order to ensure comparability of efforts among Annex I Parties.

Second, the paragraph requires ALL developed country Parties to adopt quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, regardless of whether a Party chooses to describe this as a “commitment” or an “action”. The paragraph requires that the “commitments” or “actions” of any developed country must include a quantified emission limitation and reduction objective.

The Convention requires the developed countries to “take the lead” in climate change mitigation. Regrettably, they have yet to fulfill this pledge. It was envisaged under the Convention that greenhouse gas emissions of Annex I countries would be ‘returned’ to 1990 levels by the year 2000, after which they are to be progressively reduced. It is a matter of great concern that, instead of registering a sharp decline, after 2000, emissions of developed countries actually

increased by 2.6 % from 16, 527 Tg CO₂ eq in 2000 to 16,748 Tg CO₂ eq in 2005 (without LULUCF). Statistics including LULUCF show a similar trend **though at a lower level. The anthropogenic nature of the increases are furthermore underscored in that increases in Annex I emissions have been led by CO₂. Their per-capita emissions, too, have continued to increase.** A sharp decline in the level of economic activity in the Economies in Transition (non-Annex II developed countries) between 1990 and 2000 resulted in an involuntary reduction of CO₂ emissions in these countries during the first decade of the Convention. This initially masked the rising emissions from other developed countries (Annex II). However, by the end of the decade, the Economies in Transition (EITs) had succeeded in rehabilitating their economies and their emission trends, too, began to exhibit a rising trend. Thus, in the current decade, ghg emissions of the Annex I countries, have shown an alarming rising trend.

While the total emissions of the Annex II countries (excluding LULUCF) rose by 11% between 1990 and 2005, the increase was significantly higher in the case of the two Annex II countries that had not ratified the Kyoto Protocol by the latter date (2005). In their case, emissions increased by 25.3% and 16.3%, respectively.

Attainment of the ultimate objective of the Convention will be impossible unless these alarming trends are speedily reversed. The developed countries must sharply reduce their emissions so as to release atmospheric space for the development of poorer countries, in a manner that is consistent with achievement of stabilization of the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

IPCC scenarios suggest that, in order to achieve the stabilization goal, Annex I countries must reduce their emissions by **more than** 25-40% by 2020, from the 1990 baseline. In addition, over and above these reductions, policies and measures must be introduced by them to significantly further reduce their emission through lifestyle changes. **It is important that the real effort continue to focus on reduction of CO₂ emissions. Moreover, the Annex I country**

targets should also be noted and reported in per-capita terms. Changes in the suite of gasses and/or LuLuCF rules should not be used to circumvent the climate imperative for reducing anthropogenic emissions. Such a target by 2020 is an essential component of any meaningful outcome of the Bali Action Plan.
