

SUBMISSION BY SAUDI ARABIA

Feb 6, 2008

FULFILLMENT OF THE BALI ACTION PLAN AWG-LCA

REFERENCE

The AWGLCA, at its 4th session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 6 Feb 2009, their views on the fulfillment of the Bali Action Plan and the component of the agreed outcome to be adapted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session. FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/L.10 para 2(a) Work programme for 2009 - Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair. Also FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/8, para 25 Report of the AWGLCA second meeting held in Bonn.

GUIDING FRAMEWORK

Saudi Arabia emphasizes that the UNFCCC is and will continue to be the main guiding framework for all climate change actions for now and into the future. Therefore, all its principles, rights and obligations, as well as existing annexes shall remain valid for any agreed outcome at Copenhagen. In particular,

- Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (as outlined in the Annexes to the Convention):
 - Attempts by developed countries to amend the UNFCCC to impose new obligations on developing countries to undertake mitigation commitments are counter-productive and will only delay the achievement of a positive outcome by the end of 2009;
 - Saudi Arabia is very concerned about the ideas that started surfacing lately regarding differentiations among developing countries. This is not within the scope of the convention nor the Bali Action Plan, nor will it help in building confidence among Parties.
- Based on the principle of comprehensiveness
 - Dealing with climate change should include equal treatment of all GHGs and all sources;
 - The idea of adopting the sectoral approach in setting targets is not acceptable.

FULFILLMENT OF THE BALI ACTION PLAN.

Shared Vision

- The Shared vision is for the enhancement of implementation of the convention. A shared vision on the four building blocks (Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, and Technology) will construct the shared vision for the enhanced implementation.
- The enhanced implementation should be for the present, as well as up-to, and beyond 2012.
- The shared vision should not include a binding global goal.

Adaptation

- Adaptation is more urgent for all developing countries including Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia views adaptation as encompassing two components:
 1. Adaptation to the adverse impact of climate change, to which our vulnerability is high, resulting from desertification, water scarcity, low-lying coastal areas, among others.
 2. Adaptation to the impact of response measures, and the need to build resilience to the expected fluctuations in government revenue, through measures such as adaptation planning and economic diversification. Saudi Arabia's revenue is dependent on oil; other countries have different dependencies and economic vulnerability.

Mitigation

- A clear separation and distinction must be maintained between mitigation measures for developed and developing countries, taking fully into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
- Industrialized countries have mitigation commitments that are subject to specific targets, timetables, and compliance review.
- Developing countries can take mitigation actions, in line with their sustainable development objectives. These mitigation actions are contingent upon providing the financial support and technology transfer (no specific commitments or targets on developing countries).
- All mitigation commitments and mitigation actions must take into account the adverse impacts and spillover effects on developing countries including countries that are highly dependent on the export of fossil fuels.
- The mitigation actions should be comprehensive in addressing all greenhouse gas sources in all sectors, including greenhouse gas sinks.
- MRV: in order to provide for MRV for the mitigation action as well as MRV for the support, a system needs to be designed to where all pledges for mitigation action by developing countries are registered; also all pledges for financial support and technology transfer are also registered. The system will then pair the support with the action and tracks the flow of resources as well as the mitigation action and thus provide for the MRV on both sides.

Finance

- The need for new and additional finances to address the challenges of climate change must be emphasized
- There is an apparent need for a new financial structure under the COP supervision to focus the efforts, channel all the resources, avoid fragmentation, and facilitate the flow of finances in a fair manner.
- Saudi Arabia supports the proposal by the G77 & China in this regard

Technology

- There is a need for a new institutional body under the COP to address all issues related to technology research, development, transfer, and diffusion, as well as capacity building for the different technologies;
- Saudi Arabia support the proposal by the G77 & China for an executive body for technology
- Promotion and emphasis carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a key technology for mitigation, and support its inclusion under the CDM
- Promotion of cooperation in the technological development of cleaner fossil fuels, and non-energy uses of fossil fuels (such as petrochemicals).

FURTHER ELABORATION

Saudi Arabia remains concerned with the adverse impacts of the policies and measures taken by Annex I parties to achieve their emission reduction targets. Higher targets will only compound that concern.

- Any agreed outcome must enhance the implementation of the provisions on the impact of response measures through the inclusion of a comprehensive framework and a new system to address these impacts: the new system can be a Forum for addressing the impact of response measures. A Forum that brings together all expertise, including from the economists and experts from the modeling community to help Parties in providing continuous analysis and modeling of the impacts of policies and measures. The Forum should:
 - Include a strong mechanism to understand these impacts and help all Parties in selecting effective policies and measures that do not hinder the sustainable development process.
 - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capabilities in developing countries to the unavoidable spillover effects of policies and measures.
 - For developed countries, there is an urgent need to conduct gap analysis and enhance implementation through inclusion of agreed methodologies, reporting, review, assessment and compliance.

- In addition, the agreed outcome shall not involve the introduction of any trade barriers, explicit or implicit, on fossil fuel exports from developing countries under the pretext of achieving energy security or energy independence.

It is important to fulfill the mandate to reach a decision in Copenhagen by the end of this year to include Carbon Capture and Storage projects under the CDM, based on the recommendation of the CDM Executive Board.

- Since the world will continue to be dependent on fossil fuels for decades to come, inclusion of CCS under CDM is crucial. It will speed up the development and transfer of technology and support its diffusion and wider application to greatly reduce GHG emissions from fossil fuels.
- It will also be beneficial for the carbon market and opens up opportunities for fossil fuels producers and many other developing countries to contribute to the global effort in combating climate change.