

Seminar of Government Experts (16-17 May, 2005)
Abstract of a presentation by Canada

Canada's Efforts to Address Climate Change

Canada has released a new national Climate Change Plan called *Project Green*. *Project Green* is a comprehensive plan setting out the policies and measures designed to allow Canada to meet its Kyoto target in full. This plan is comprised of six key elements, each of which is structured to assist Canada to capitalize on the opportunities associated with addressing climate change.

Need for International Cooperation

The international community is becoming increasingly aware that much more needs to be done to address climate change. If we are to stabilize GHG concentrations at a level that is not associated with dramatic disruption of the climate system, emissions need to be reduced to a fraction of their current levels. This cannot be done without international cooperation. The international community must work together to address climate change long after the end of the Kyoto Commitment Period and Canada is committed to pursuing a multilateral approach.

The Future

The international community is collectively entering an important stage in the international effort to address climate change. We have the opportunity to design the next generation of international climate change policy, one that builds on our efforts under the Kyoto Protocol. Many new ideas are emerging and more discussion of them amongst Parties is required.

Laying the Foundation in Montreal

COP11, COP/MOP1 can lay the foundation for effective and inclusive international cooperation on climate change for the long term that will achieve the deep reductions in global emissions necessary to avoid the dangerous environmental impacts of climate change as well as adapting to the climate change that is inevitable; and fairly and equitably reflects the diverse circumstances of the many countries of the world and promotes sustainable economic growth.

Starting the Dialogue

In order to stimulate discussion on the path forward, incoming COP President, Minister Dion has been meeting with Parties to discuss what central questions need to be addressed if the international community is to collectively move ahead

in addressing the threat of climate change. Based on initial discussions the following questions have been identified:

- What type(s) of climate change goals would best ensure the necessary deep reductions of emissions while securing sustained economic growth for both industrialized and developing countries?
- How could the global climate change regime more strongly promote the development and deployment of the needed technologies?
- How can a global climate regime make the most effective use of market forces, including promoting a robust and efficient international carbon market?
- How should the global climate regime balance the need for adaptation to a changing climate with global emissions reduction?

The incoming COP President will be seeking the views of Parties on the appropriate questions that can stimulate discussion about the most effective means of working together to address climate change and national perspectives on potential answers to these questions.

Informal consultations will continue to explore these questions over the coming months.

Other Critical Steps in Montreal

There is much that needs to be accomplished in Montreal. The draft decisions needed to be adopted to bring the Marrakech Accords to life. Important steps for operationalizing the Kyoto Protocol, such as electing the members of the compliance committees and the JI supervisory committee must be completed. The potential exists for finalizing some long-standing funding issues under the Convention. CoP11/MoP1 could also have other deliverables that would build confidence and a sense of progress, such as an agreement to strengthen the operation of the CDM through administrative improvements that would be possible within the existing Marrakech framework.