

SUBMISSION BY THE STATE OF QATAR

Decision -/CMP.6: Carbon dioxide capture and storage in geological formations as clean development mechanism project activities

(21 February 2011)

1. The State of Qatar welcomes decision -/CMP.6 which sanctions carbon dioxide capture and storage in geological formations (CCS-GF) as project activities under the clean development mechanism (CDM) provided that the outstanding issues referred to in decision 2/CMP.5 (section 29) are properly addressed. These issues which continue to constrain and limit the use of CCS-GF under the CDM include: (a) Non-permanence, including long-term permanence; (b) Measuring, reporting and verification; (c) Environmental impacts; (d) Project activity boundaries; (e) International law; (f) Liability; (g) The potential for perverse outcomes; (h) Safety; (i) Insurance coverage and compensation for damages caused due to seepage or leakages.
2. Qatar is pleased to respond to the invitation contained in decision -/CMP. 6 to submit views on how to address the issues, referred to in the above section, in the modalities and procedures stated in paragraph 2 of the decision.
3. Qatar understands that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice will consider the Parties' views while elaborating the required modalities and procedures needed to include CCS-GF as project activities under the CDM.
4. Despite the climate change mitigation potential and the possible contribution to sustainable development in developing country Parties as CDM project activities, CCS-GF deployment at the present, is best suited for Annex 1 Parties and few developing countries, particularly those who already managed to establish the needed legal and regulatory CCS framework. Moreover, CCS-GF deployment in host countries requires capacity and know-how to assess the various issues listed above, some of which are detrimental to human health, safety and environmental protection for most developing countries. These constraints constitute significant barriers to host CCS-GF projects particularly for some developing countries such

as Qatar. The challenges include: (i) ability to use tier 3 methodologies for monitoring, accounting and verification of GHGs; (ii) capacity to use modeling and inherent uncertainty of models to assess project boundary, project emissions, leakage and adequacy of infrastructure including long term permanence of carbon dioxide storage, and the capacity of the geological formation to trap CO₂ physically and chemically; and (iii) support to develop needed CCS technology.

5. Qatar remains committed, in principle, toward CCS as a useful instrument to mitigate emissions in the coming decades.
6. Currently, Qatar supports a number of research and technology initiatives to investigate and understand the major challenges relating to deployment of CCS-GF locally.