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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FURTHER COMMITMENTS
FOR ANNEX I PARTIES UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Second session

Nairobi, 6–14 November 2006

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Further commitments for Annex I Parties and the duration thereof

Topics for the in-session workshop

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the five submissions contained in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2006/MISC.2, one further submission has been received, on 14 September 2006.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, the submission is reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

SUBMISSION FROM SOUTH AFRICA

On topics for the in-session workshop at AWG 2, including on ‘how to determine further emission limitation and reduction commitments’

At its first session, the AWG invited Parties to submit to the secretariat information on topics that they would wish to present at the workshop. The AWG considered that its work during its second session could be enhanced by an in-session workshop providing for the presentation and exchange of relevant information. The in-session workshop at AWG2 will include a presentation by the IPCC on its work relevant to the AWG, and presentations by Parties on the topics outlined in paragraph 6 above and on how to determine further emission limitation and reduction commitments.

South Africa wishes to submit its initial views on ‘how to determine further emission limitation and reduction commitments’ and the following information:

South Africa is of the view that the Convention principle of taking a precautionary approach should be applied to this process, being a principle guiding the Convention and its Protocol. In particular, the precautionary principle is applied to climate change in the sense that “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures ...” (FCCC Art 3.3).

The scientific basis for carrying out the particular measure at the core of Article 3.9, namely the consideration of further commitments by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), starts from the realisation that indeed there are threats of serious or irreversible damages. If the further commitments of Annex I Parties were to lack ambition, the adverse impacts of climate change will affect all, but most particularly the Least Developed Countries, the largest number of whom are in Africa. In this context, emission trends in Annex I Parties are a matter of grave concern for developing countries. Meeting in Africa for COP12 and COP/MOP2, the millions of lives at risk if climate change is not averted are ample grounds for taking urgent action. In this context, this means concluding the work of the AWG by 2008.

A second key reason why action is urgent is the need to secure carbon markets. The effective operation of carbon markets is critical for ensuring that the needed action is cost-effective, ensuring global benefits at the lowest possible cost. In this regard, South Africa wishes to call to the attention of Parties a recent report on the carbon market, entitled Carbon 2006. The CDM 397 did an estimated Mt CO₂e, the EU ETS 362 Mt CO₂, and JI did 28 Mt. By volume, then, the CDM was the largest carbon market. South Africa would be interested to learn to what extent the CDM has already assisted Annex I Parties in achieving their goals for the first commitment period.

The carbon market is important for adaptation, with a share of proceeds flowing to the Adaptation Fund. Two percent of the 1.9 billion of CERs transacted according to Carbon 2006 amounts to € 38 million. This is larger than contributions to the Special Climate Change Fund as of April 2006.

Given the already-present risks of climate change and the urgency of action, lack of full certainty on all issues should not be a reason for postponing urgent action. South Africa believes that it must be possible to draw on what we already know, to gather other information within the time-frame set by decision 1/CMP.1, without raising other issues that are not necessary to come to a decision.

South Africa welcomes the tabling of specific numbers by some Annex I Parties and regional economic integration organizations. We look forward to understanding the information that supported the range of possible future commitments. We would welcome learning more about the information that was used to set determine quantified emission reductions by Annex I Parties for subsequent periods. We would

encourage other Annex I Parties to follow this example, and even where there may be uncertainty, provide specific numbers.

On scenarios for stabilisation, Annex I Parties have been asked to provide information about “scenarios for the stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and on the implications of these scenarios”. South Africa has been listening carefully to information previously supplied by Annex B Parties, and notes a recurring theme that annual emissions covered are a small share of global emissions. South Africa believes that this valid observation needs to be put into perspective, for example by comparing relative contributions in cumulative rather than annual emissions. This could be done both in historical terms and looking forward. More generally, scenarios of emissions in the future will depend on what is measured – annual or cumulative, absolute or relative emissions; which sources; which gases; etc.

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