

Provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol relating to the means to reach emission reduction targets of Annex I Parties

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This note lists provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that directly relate to the means that may be available to Annex I Parties to reach their emission reduction targets, including: emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms; rules to guide the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry; and greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories covered. It also lists some of the most important elements addressed by each of these decisions.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG), at its resumed fourth session, decided to initiate, at the first part of its fifth session, work on the analysis of means that may be available to Annex I Parties to reach their emission reduction targets. It requested the secretariat to prepare an information note on the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) relating to those means, including: emissions trading (ET) and the project-based mechanisms; rules to guide the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF); and greenhouse gases (GHGs), sectors and source categories covered.¹

2. At its third session, the AWG invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2008, information and views on the means to achieve mitigation objectives of Annex I Parties referred to in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2006/4, paragraph 17 (b).² These submissions are contained in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/MISC.1.

B. Scope of the note

3. In developing this note, the secretariat has made every effort to consider all relevant decisions while avoiding unnecessary detail.

C. Possible action by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol

4. The AWG may wish to use this document as a reference tool in its analysis of possible means to achieve mitigation objectives and in its work to identify options to enhance the effectiveness of the means to reach emission reduction targets and their contribution to sustainable development.

II. Provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol relating to the means to reach emission reduction targets

5. Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol specifies provisions relating to the core commitment under this instrument, that Annex I Parties shall, individually or jointly, ensure that their aggregate GHG emissions do not exceed their assigned amounts in the commitment period from 2008 to 2012. The Protocol also establishes a number of mechanisms and other means to assist these Parties in meeting this commitment, as elaborated in the following paragraphs.

A. Emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms

6. Three mechanisms have been established under the Kyoto Protocol: ET, the clean development mechanism (CDM) and joint implementation (JI). The principles, nature and scope of the mechanisms are defined by decision 2/CMP.1, which, inter alia, specifies that their use shall be supplemental to domestic action and sets the basis for the eligibility requirements for Annex I Parties with a commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol to participate in these mechanisms.

¹ FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/5, paragraph 19 (b) (iii).

² FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/2, paragraph 24.

1. Emissions trading

7. Emissions trading is established by Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol. Annex I Parties may participate in ET for the purposes of fulfilling their commitments under Article 3. ET is closely related to the accounting of assigned amounts under the Kyoto Protocol, the modalities of which are defined under the following Articles of the Kyoto Protocol:

- (a) Article 3: paragraphs 7 and 8 deal with the establishment of assigned amounts;
- (b) Article 3: paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 deal with the transfer and acquisition of some types of units;
- (c) Article 7: paragraph 4 deals with the modalities for accounting assigned amounts.

8. A summary of decisions by the CMP relating to the above Articles is presented in the annex, table 1.

2. Clean development mechanism

9. The CDM is established by Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol to assist non-Annex I Parties in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention, and to assist Annex I Parties in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments under Article 3.

10. The CDM is supervised by the Executive Board which, inter alia, recommends modalities and procedures for the CDM to the CMP and performs operational functions under the authority and guidance of the CMP.

11. A summary of decisions by the CMP relating to the CDM is presented in the annex, table 2.

3. Joint implementation

12. Joint implementation is established by Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol to assist Annex I Parties in meeting their commitments under Article 3.

13. A host Party of an Article 6 project that meets all the eligibility requirements for participation may verify its own emission reductions by sources or enhancements of removals by sinks from JI projects and issue the resulting emission reduction units (so-called Track 1). If a Party does not meet those requirements, such verification takes place through the verification procedure under the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) (so-called Track 2). The JISC operates under the authority and guidance of the CMP.

14. A summary of decisions by the CMP relating to JI is presented in the annex, table 3.

B. Land use, land-use change and forestry

15. The Kyoto Protocol contains several provisions to address GHG emissions and removals resulting from direct human-induced LULUCF activities:

- (a) Article 2: paragraph 1(a)(ii) refers to the protection and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of GHGs, and to the promotion of sustainable forest management practices, afforestation and reforestation;
- (b) Article 3: paragraph 3 deals with emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from afforestation, reforestation and deforestation;

- (c) Article 3: paragraph 4 deals with modalities, rules and guidelines for eligible additional human-induced LULUCF activities other than afforestation, reforestation and deforestation;
- (d) Article 3: paragraph 7 refers to when LULUCF is taken into account in the establishment of assigned amounts.

16. Decision 16/CMP.1 provides general guidance for LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol, including under the CDM. The provisions within this decision apply only for the first commitment period. A summary of elements from this decision is presented in the annex, table 4. CMP decisions on LULUCF that are relevant to the CDM and to reporting are presented in the annex, tables 2 and 5, respectively.

C. Greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories to be covered

17. The GHGs, sectors and source categories covered by the Kyoto Protocol are specified in its Annex A. Annex A lists GHGs (carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)); and sectors (energy, industrial processes, solvent and other product use, agriculture, and waste).³ GHG emissions and removals from LULUCF are not covered under Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol; as stated in paragraphs 15 and 16 above, the accounting of LULUCF is subject to specific provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

18. This selection of GHGs, sectors and source categories is reflected in the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol relating to the reporting and review of information provided by Annex I Parties. These provisions build upon the reporting of national GHG inventories and national communications under the Convention:⁴

- (a) Article 5 includes provisions for national systems for the estimation of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol; methodologies for estimating these emissions and removals; methodologies for adjustments; and the global warming potentials to be used in calculating CO₂ equivalence of emissions and removals;
- (b) Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 7 refer to the reporting of supplementary information relating to annual GHG inventories and national communications for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with Article 3, including guidelines for such reporting;

³ Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol states that Annex I Parties shall pursue limitation or reduction of GHG emissions from aviation and marine bunker fuels working through the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, respectively. Annex I Parties have to report these emissions in their annual GHG inventories and are also requested to provide information, within their national communications, on steps taken towards the implementation of Article 2 of the Kyoto Protocol.

⁴ Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties are contained in decision 4/CP.5 for national communications, and in decisions 18/CP.8 and 14/CP.11 for annual inventories.

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(c) Article 8 refers to the review of information reported under Article 7 and the guidelines for such review.

19. A summary of decisions by the CMP relating to the above provisions is presented in the annex, table 5. In addition, decision 13/CMP.1 also contains elements that are relevant to national GHG inventories.

Annex

Decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol relating to the means for Annex I Parties to reach their emission reduction targets

Decision	Main elements	
11/CMP.1: Modalities, rules and guidelines for emissions trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Modalities, rules and guidelines for emissions trading under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol: Definitions for Kyoto Protocol units^a Participation requirements Authorization of legal entities Commitment period reserve 	
12/CMP.1: Guidance relating to registry systems under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol	 Adopts requirements for the technical standards for data exchange between registry systems (contained in the annex to decision 24/CP.8) Endorses the role and activities of the administrator of the international transaction log contained in decision 16/CP.10 	
13/CMP.1: Modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol: Definitions Calculation and recording of assigned amounts Additions to, and subtractions from, assigned amounts Basis for the compliance assessment Carry-over National registry requirements Modalities for the issuance of Kyoto Protocol units Modalities for other transactions and transaction procedures International transaction log Compilation and accounting of emissions and assigned amounts 	
14/CMP.1: Standard electronic format for reporting Kyoto Protocol units	 Annex: Standard electronic format for reporting of information on Kyoto Protocol units: Reporting instructions Reporting tables 	

Table 1. Decisions relating to emissions trading

^a Kyoto Protocol units refers to emission reduction units, certified emission reductions (including temporary certified emission reductions and long-term certified emission reductions), assigned amount units and removal units.

Decision	Moin alementa
	Main elements
3/CMP.1: Modalities and procedures for a clean development mechanism as defined in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Modalities and procedures for a clean development mechanism: Executive Board Accreditation and designation of operational entities Participation requirements Clean development mechanism project cycle (validation and registration, monitoring, verification and certification, and issuance of certified emission reductions) Appendix A: Standards for the accreditation of operational entities Appendix B: Project design document
	 Appendix B: Project design document Appendix C: Terms of reference for establishing guidelines on baselines and monitoring methodologies Appendix D: Clean development mechanism registry requirements
4/CMP.1: Guidance relating to the clean development mechanism	 Annex I: Rules of procedure of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism Annex II: Simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale clean development mechanism project activities: Eligibility criteria Clean development mechanism project cycle Appendix A: Simplified project design document for small-scale clean development mechanism project activities Appendix B: Indicative simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for selected small-scale clean development mechanism project activity categories Appendix C: Decision tree for determining the occurrence of debundling
	 paragraph 41 of the modalities and procedures for a clean development mechanism Annex IV: Procedures for review referred to in paragraph 65 of the modalities and procedures for a clean development mechanism

Table 2. Decisions relating to the clean development mechanism

Decision	Main elements
5/CMP.1: Modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism: Definitions for forest and for eligible land use, land-use change and forestry activities Role of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol Executive Board Accreditation and designation of operational entities Participation requirements Clean development mechanism project cycle Issuance of temporary certified emission reductions and long-term certified emission reductions Addressing non-permanence of afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism Appendix A: Standards for the accreditation of operational entities under the clean development mechanism Appendix B: Project design document for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism Appendix C: Terms of reference for establishing guidelines on baselines and monitoring methodologies for afforestation and reforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism Appendix D: Additional requirements for the clean development mechanism
6/CMP.1: Simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and measures to facilitate their implementation	 and reforestation project activities Annex: Simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism: Eligibility criteria Validation and registration Monitoring Appendix A: Project design document for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism Appendix B: Indicative simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for selected types of small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism Appendix C: Criteria for determining the occurrence of debundling

Decision	Main elements
7/CMP.1: Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism	 General: designation of operational entities Governance: services provided by the secretariat to the clean development mechanism Methodologies and additionality: programme of activities Regional distribution and capacity-building
8/CMP.1: Implications of the establishment of new hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22 (HCFC-22) facilities seeking to obtain certified emission reductions for the destruction of hydrofluorocarbon-23 (HFC-23)	• Definitions and general guidance
1/CMP.2: Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism	 General: designation of operational entities Governance Methodologies and additionality: revision of definitions for small-scale clean development mechanism project activities Regional distribution and capacity-building
2/CMP.3: Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism	 General: designation of operational entities Governance Methodologies and additionality: small-scale baseline and monitoring methodologies for afforestation and reforestation project activities Regional distribution and capacity-building
9/CMP.3: Implications of possible changes to the limit for small-scale afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities	Revision of the limit for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities

Decision	Main elements	
9/CMP.1: Guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol: Definitions Role of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee Participation requirements Verification procedure under the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee Appendix A: Standards and procedures for the accreditation of independent entities 	
10/CMP.1: Implementation of	Appendix B: Criteria for baseline setting and monitoring	
Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Establishment of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee and its work programme Role of designated operational entities and approved methodologies under the clean development mechanism in the joint implementation process 	
2/CMP.2: Implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Adopts the: Rules of procedure of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee Joint implementation project design document form Joint implementation project design document form for small-scale projects Joint implementation land use, land-use change and forestry project design document form 	
3/CMP.2: Guidance on the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Governance Threshold for small-scale project activities Resources for the work on joint implementation: fees for accreditation 	
3/CMP.3: Guidance on the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol	• Governance	

Table 3. Decisions relating to joint implementation

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Decision	Main elements	
16/CMP.1: Land use, land-use change and forestry	 Principles governing the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry activities Annex: Definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use, land-use change and forestry under the Kyoto Protocol: Definitions for forest and eligible land use, land-use change 	
	 and forestry activities Rules, modalities and guidelines for land use, land-use change and forestry under Articles 3, 6 and 12 Appendix: Numerical values for forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4 	

Table 4. Decisions relating to land use, land-use change and forestry

Decision	Main elements
15/CMP.1: Guidelines for the preparation of the information required under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Guidelines for the preparation of the information required under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol: Applicability, general approach and objectives Greenhouse gas inventory information Changes in national systems
 17/CMP.1: Good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol 18/CMP.1: Criteria for cases of failure to submit information relating to estimates of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks from activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol 	 Application of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry for activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 Reporting of supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, for activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 Criteria Annex: Calculation of the magnitude of adjustments
19/CMP.1: Guidelines for national systems under Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Guidelines for national systems for the estimation of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks under Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol: Applicability Definitions Objectives Characteristics General and specific functions
20/CMP.1: Good practice guidance and adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol	 Endorsement of and decision on the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change good practice guidance Definition for application of adjustments Annex: Technical guidance on methodologies for adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol: Objective General approach (procedures, applicability) Methods and conservativeness Sector-specific elements Appendix I: List of inventory review resources relevant for the calculation of adjustments Appendix II: Provisions for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol that relate to adjustments Appendix III: Tables of conservativeness factors

Table 5. Decisions relating to greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories

Decision	Main elements
22/CMP.1: Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol	 Annex: Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol: Part I: General approach to review Part II: Review of annual inventories Part III: Review of information on assigned amounts, emission reduction units, certified emission reductions, assigned amount units and removal units. Part IV: Review of national systems Part V: Review of national registries Part VI: Review of information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14 Part VII: Review of national communications and information on other commitments under the Kyoto Protocol Part VIII: Expedited procedure for the review for the reinstatement of eligibility to use the mechanisms
25/CMP.1: Issues relating to the implementation of Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol	Confidentiality and exception to the technical guidance on methodologies for adjustments
6/CMP.3: Good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol	 Tables for reporting supplementary information on activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, in the national inventory report Tables of the common reporting format for reporting activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4

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