



**Climate Action Network - International
Submission to Ad Hoc Working Group
on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties
under the Kyoto Protocol
Regarding Response Measures**

24 April 2009

The Climate Action Network International (CAN) welcomes the opportunity to provide input on discussions under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. CAN is a coalition of more than 450 environmental and development non-governmental organizations worldwide, committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

Minimization of Adverse Effects of Response Measures

Mitigation policies and measures are being, and must dramatically be, put in place and acted upon in order to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate change is already impacting the poorest and most vulnerable disproportionately. These impacts will increase unless strong mitigation action is taken; the greater the mitigation action taken the more likely that adaptation measures will be manageable, or even achievable. Thus strong, transformative mitigation action is needed for the fulfillment of the Convention's ultimate objective of "prevent[ing] dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system" while minimizing adverse social, environmental and economic effects.

Annex 1 countries should fulfill their Kyoto Protocol obligation "to implement policies and measures under this Article [3] in such a way as to minimize adverse effects, including the adverse effects of climate change, effects on international trade, and social, environmental and economic impacts on other Parties, especially developing country Parties", the measures taken in response to the climate change threat, through taking a pathway to achieve a low-carbon economy that respects the ultimate objective of the Convention. Knowing that environmental and social positive impacts are harder to assess than negative economic impacts, makes the debate around response measures biased by nature.

Reduced use of fossil fuels

The wholesale reduction in the use of fossil fuels, and in the emissions of the associated GHG reductions, are essential and *intended* consequences of the battle against climate change, as their emissions damage the planet and people. CAN sees that current subsidies on fossil fuels are creating negative 'spill over effects' by increasing climate change impacts and energy dependency, which is an issue raised by some country delegates. CAN thinks a discussion of compensation for lost oil, or other fossil fuel, revenues is absolutely not acceptable to negotiate.

However, CAN believes a more positive and productive discussion could occur on ways to support the sustainable diversification of the economies of fossil fuel producing countries, through the sharing of experiences of economies that have already undergone significant transformations, and through the development and deployment of sustainable technologies. This would provide the best policy against any negative spill over effects.

Other vulnerable sectors

Concerns raised on issues including food miles and other international trade, and impacts on tourism can be addressed through the appropriate design of the UNFCCC modalities for the inclusion of emissions from international aviation and shipping in the post 2012 deal. With emissions from these sectors currently greater than the total emissions of Japan, and growing rapidly, it is essential that these are included in the post 2012 agreement.

It is clear that there is a lack of information on the impacts of response measures, and there is a need to exchange experience and provide evidence of actual consequences.

CAN sees value in exchanging experience and providing robust evidence of actual consequences. In CAN's opinion, the path to reaching safe levels of GHG concentrations should ensure such adverse impacts are minimized. Essentially the best method to avoid adverse impacts is for countries affected to diversify their economies towards a greener, more environmentally sustainable pathway. For those kind of NAMAs Least Developed Countries should get MRV support to do so.

Focusing on those who have the least capacity to cope

Some countries from the developed and developing worlds could be vulnerable to adverse impacts of mitigation policies. However, CAN strongly advocates that those with the least capacity to cope with the unintended impacts should be supported in developing a low carbon sustainable society, achieving sustainable economic, and assisted in social and environmental development through technology transfer and economic diversification.

Forum for negotiations

A single forum should be established to implement a work programme that consolidates all work on this issue under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. The issue of response measures is part of the mitigation building block of the Bali Action Plan. CAN firmly advocates that negotiations on the impacts of response measures are distinct from adaptation negotiations, and must not be discussed in that context. Adaptation funding should in no way be used to address response measures. Both the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP are debating many similar issues in relation to spill-over effects and response measures. In addition, the issue has been raised under multiple agenda items under the SBSTA and SBI. CAN wishes to ensure that duplication across the negotiating tracks is minimized to ensure coherence in the discussions on this issue.