

Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

Fourteenth session, part four

Durban, 29 November 2011—*

Agenda item 3.2.1

**Nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions by developed
country Parties**

Agenda item 3.2.2

Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties

Submission from the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

1. On 1 December 2011, the secretariat received a submission from Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The secretariat was requested to issue a conference room paper containing this submission.
2. This submission is attached and reproduced** in the language in which it was received and without formal editing. The submission has also been posted on the UNFCCC website.¹

* The fourth part of the session will be held in conjunction with the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) will present the results of its work to the COP for consideration as per decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 143. The closing date of the session of the AWG-LCA will be determined in Durban.

** The 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.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/4578.php>>.

AOSIS
Proposed Durban Decision on Further Mitigation Ambition
Durban, 1 December 2011

Mitigation action in line with the pledges made in Copenhagen and listed in INF documents in Cancun would put the world on a pathway to approximately 3.5°C or more of global warming.

These pledges deliver only 10 to 50% of the mitigation action required to get on an emissions trajectory consistent with the ‘below 2°C’ long-term goal agreed in Cancun, let alone the 1.5°C goal advocated by AOSIS as critical to the survival of all small island developing States.

Approaches that will help to peak emissions as soon as possible are urgently needed. Given the importance of this issue, AOSIS proposes the following draft decision text for consideration by Ministers and adoption by the COP in Durban.

AOSIS Proposed Durban Decision on Further Mitigation Ambition

Decision X/CP.17

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 1/CP.16, which recognizes that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all Parties [decision 1/CP.16, preamble]

Recognizing that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, and as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above preindustrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal, consistent with science and on the basis of equity; also recognizes the need to consider, in the context of the first review, as referred to in paragraph 138 of decision 1/CP.16, strengthening the long-term global goal on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5 °C [decision 1/CP.16, para. 4]

Reaffirming that scaled-up overall mitigation efforts that allow for the achievement of desired stabilization levels are necessary, with developed country Parties showing leadership by undertaking ambitious emission reductions and providing technology, capacity-building and financial support to developing country Parties, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention [Decision 1/CP.16, para 2(a)]

Noting with grave concern the UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2010) and Chapter 2 of the UNEP Bridging the Emissions Gap Report 2011, which have evaluated the emission reduction proposals of individual countries for 2020, as referenced in decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 36 and 49, and concluded that there remains a significant gap of approximately 6 to 11 GtCO₂e between the aggregated effect of countries' pledges in terms of global annual emissions of GHG by 2020 and aggregate emissions pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding warming below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels

Noting with particular alarm that the scale of this gap may be as much as 11GtCO₂e in 2020 with lenient accounting rules for Annex I Parties and with the least ambitious pledges of all Parties (the 'ambition gap')

Recalling that the workshops held in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 38 and 51, considered a range of options and ways to increase the level of mitigation ambition of developed country Parties and to address the diversity of nationally-appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties and support needed for their implementation

Noting the IPCC Special Report Renewable Energy Sources (SRREN) (2011) and its findings that renewable energy technologies have a large potential to mitigate climate change, and that where renewable energy deployment is limited, mitigation costs increase and low stabilization levels may not be feasible

Noting also the UNEP Synthesis Report on HFCs (2011)

Noting with particular interest the findings of the UNEP Bridging the Emissions Gap Report (2011), which highlight a series of ways to close this ambition gap that it assesses to be technically and economically feasible, which including, inter alia:

- Increasing the share of renewable energy as a proportion of total energy supply;
 - Scaling up non-fossil-fuel energy sources;
 - Enhancing and intensifying economy-wide improvements in energy efficiency;
 - Reducing emissions from international shipping and aviation; and
 - Implementing strong policies to reduce emissions of methane and HFCs
1. *Calls upon* Parties to consider and work cooperatively and urgently to implement the following actions:
 - Increase the **global share of renewables in energy** supply, noting that Increasing from roughly 10% at present to 15% by 2020 has the potential to reduce the ‘ambition gap’ by 4 GtCO₂e in 2020, while an increase to 20% by 2020 has the potential to completely close the ‘ambition gap’.
 - Reduce emissions from **international aviation and shipping**, noting that this has the potential to reduce emissions in 2020 by 0.3 to 0.5 GtCO₂e.
 - Reduce emissions by shifting the **mix of fossil fuels** used in energy production, noting that this has the potential to reduce the ‘ambition gap’ by 0.5 to 1 GtCO₂e in 2020;
 - Intensify **energy efficiency** improvements;
 - Reduce **subsidies for fossil fuels**, which could decrease global CO₂ emissions by 2 GtCO₂ by 2020 (IEA, OECD, World Bank, Joint Report, 2010); and
 - Take strong action to reduce emissions from non-CO₂ gases, such as methane and HFCs;
 2. *Requests* Parties and observer organizations to **submit their views** on options and ways to **further** increase the level of mitigation ambition, including with a specific focus on the options identified above, and what they can achieve from a quantitative perspective by 28 February 2012.
 3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a **synthesis / technical paper**, to be made available to Parties by April 2012, on information currently available relating to the scale of the ambition gap and the mitigation potential associated with various options and ways to increase ambition.
 4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare an **in-session workshop(s)** during the first negotiating session in 2012 to consider the various options and ways to increase ambition, and decides that this / these workshops shall be open to Parties, observers and other international organizations.
 5. Recognises the urgent need to address the ambition gap for 2020 through focused political attention at the highest levels of government, and with a coordinated effort by all Parties.
 6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary / Secretariat to convene a High-level Ministerial Event in [the first half of 2012] [during Rio+20] [in advance of COP18] to consider and take decisive

action on policies and ways to increase the aggregate level of mitigation ambition, guided by the work and documents outlined above.
