

Ad hoc working group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action:
Submission by the Gambia on behalf of the Least developed countries on views
on options and ways for further increasing the level of ambition.

The least developed countries (LDCs) group welcomes the invitation to submit their views on the range of actions to be explored to increase the level of ambition. The LDCs consider that addressing the ambition gap and ensuring the level of ambition is increased is one of the fundamental issues that need to be resolved in 2012 to safeguard the most vulnerable countries and avoid any further increase in adaptation needs. The LDCs stress that action to increase ambition must be agreed “as early as possible” as set out in the ADP text and ahead of and independently of the final conclusions of the ADP in 2015.

The ~~fourth~~ fourth assessment report of the IPCC estimated an emission reduction by developed countries to 25-40% below 1990 by 2020, and a substantial deviation from business as usual in parts of the developing world in order for global warming not to exceed 2°C above preindustrial levels. Also, according to the IPCC, an emissions pathway consistent with keeping global temperature increase to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels with any likely probability would require global emissions to peak by 2015 at the latest.

Enhancing mitigation ambition is essential in order to minimize adverse and irreversible impacts of climate change on LDCs. In the first ten years of the twenty-first century, Least Developed Countries experienced a 44% increase in the number of droughts as compared to the previous decade and a 40% increase in the frequency of severe storms. The number of flood events more than doubled—from 170 to 369—killing over 200,000 citizens, disrupting the lives of 200 million, and causing billions of dollars in damages. Since 1980, LDC countries have collectively endured 1,146 climate-related disasters—close to a quarter of which have occurred in the last five years alone.

However, the current pledges proposed by Annex I countries in aggregate add up to 13-18% below 1990. Compared to the 25-40% range estimated by the IPCC to be required, this aggregate reduction is insufficient to achieve the 1.5 and 2°C climate goals mentioned in the Cancun Agreements. There is significant gap between emissions expected from the pledges for 2020 and emission levels to achieve the 1.5°C and 2°C limit above pre-industrial levels.

In December 2010, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published “The Emissions Gap” report confirming that that a large gap exists between the emission levels in 2020 which are implied by current Party pledges, and the 2020 emission levels that are consistent with staying below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. A year later, in November 2011, UNEP launched a follow-up “Bridging the Emissions Gap” (BTG) report that updates the 2010 gap assessment and provides options to close the gap.

The 2011 BTG report found that the gap has widened slightly from 5-9 GtCO₂e in last year’s “The Emissions Gap” report to **6-11 GtCO₂e**. Since the 2010 report

there have been no increase to the emission reduction pledges by countries, but the gap has gotten bigger, mainly due to higher estimates of global emission growth through to 2020.

The report also highlights that the 2020 emission levels of emission trajectories consistent with the 2°C and 1.5°C (supported by over 100 countries in the UNFCCC) goals are similar and, crucially, that the gap in 2020 to get to such trajectories can be bridged. Furthermore, the emissions reduction potential is larger than the estimated emissions gap.

However, the most recent scientific literature shows that it is technically and economically feasible to reduce the emission levels in 2020 consistent with 1.5°C and 2°C. For example, the BTG Report looks at options to close this gap and finds that technologically and economically feasible options exist. Options range from strategic actions in the energy generation sector, in particular with regard to renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as in other sectors like buildings, transport, international shipping and aviation and agriculture.

In addition, the “World Energy Outlook 2011” (WEO 2011) from the International Energy Agency (IEA) gives a perspective on how the global energy system could change given different groups of assumptions for future policy:

- (1) A reference scenario which incorporates the “current policies” (no new policies as of mid-2011),
- (2) A “new policies” scenario which assumes that all recent commitments by governments are implemented in a “cautious manner”,
- (3) A “450 Scenario” pathway which attempts to limit global temperature increase to below 2°C relative to pre-industrial through important additional, new policies.

The WEO 2011 found that the “new policies” scenario would lead to a 3.5°C temperature increase, rather than the targeted 2°C, and the “current policies” scenario would lead to temperature increases of more than 6°C above pre-industrial levels. These scenarios put the world in a dangerous pathway of climate change and threaten the lives of people in all countries, in LDCs in particular.

The BTG and the WEO 2011 reports present consistent messages. This is important for the LDC group while Parties are considering ways and options to raise the level of ambitions, under the ad hoc working group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced actions (ADP). Both reports outline that:

- It is feasible to reduce emissions to limit warming to below 2°C, and mention that a delay of action strongly increases overall costs;
- Staying below 2°C warming will be significantly more expensive when 2020 emissions are higher; and
- Energy efficiency improvements are essential to achieving a transition towards a global low-carbon 2°C pathway.

Requirements to raise the level of ambition

The LDCs believe that achieving the level of ambition to stabilize the temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C is still possible. LDCs call on all Parties, in particular Annex I parties to show the political commitment, leadership and willingness to explore a range of options to increase the level of ambition.

The work plan on enhancing mitigation ambition under the ADP must identify a series of short term activities in 2012 including a series of in-session workshops, ministerial conferences and meetings to ensure high-level engagement for enhancing mitigation ambition, submissions and discussions. The work plan of 2012 should lead to exploration, and the early adoption, of more ambitious economy wide emission reduction targets and actions by Parties as anticipated in paragraph 7 of the ADP text. Developed countries should provide financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building support consistent with the principles and provisions of the Convention including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

In terms of specific activities, LDCs:

- Call upon the Annex I Parties to remove the conditionalities around their pledges, and convert their pledges into binding commitments.
- Encourage development and implementation of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) in all countries.
- Call upon all Annex I parties to set renewable energy targets and comply to them.
- Call upon Parties to remove fossil fuel subsidies.
- Ensure the work plan of the ADP is consistent with continuity of the Kyoto Protocol
- Engage non-Kyoto Protocol Annex I Parties into a comparable agreement under the ADP
- Encourage ways to explore adoption of new, more ambitious economy-wide emission reduction targets for all developed countries;
-
- Encourage all developing country Parties to engage in concerted, global emissions reduction efforts with differentiation for emerging economies, middle income countries, the most vulnerable and the least developed countries based on agreed criteria
- Ensure the ADP's work on markets complement the continuity of the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms with the view to help Annex I parties comply with their obligations. Ensure new markets mechanisms learn from experience under the Kyoto Protocol and are well defined, to ensure environmental integrity, do not lead to double counting and have robust international units, which can be verified.
- Organize a high-level Ministerial session to help facilitate discussions on the level of ambition including countries moving to the higher range of

their targets and presenting new targets in collaboration with Rio+20 or another event

- Ensure effective, new, additional financial support as well as technological and capacity building to design and implement NAMAs in developing countries.

To support Parties in their considerations for more ambitious national pledges, the LDCs invite Parties to consider the specific options that have been assessed in the BTG and WEO 2011 reports. The LDC group believes that the ADP should address the following actions to help Parties to jointly close the gap presented in these reports and conclude with ambitious targets in line with the global goals of staying below 2°C and 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels at COP18:

Action 1: Introduce changes to the energy system, which is key to closing the gap.

A broad analysis show that pathways in line with 2°C are economically and technologically feasible, and the 2020 gap can be closed by a mix of the following options:

- Use of primary energy can be decreased by up to 11 per cent from business-as-usual projections in 2020; the amount of energy used per unit of GDP can decrease 1.1-2.3 per cent each year from 2005 to 2020.
- Up to 28 per cent of total primary energy could come from non-fossil sources in 2020 (up from 18.5 per cent in 2005).
 - More than 50% increase of biomass share in total primary energy from 2005 to 2020: Up to 17 per cent of total primary energy in 2020 would come from biomass (up from about 10.5 per cent in 2005).
 - Almost fourfold increase of non-biomass renewables share in total primary energy from 2005 to 2020: Up to 9 per cent of total primary energy in 2020 might come from non-biomass renewable energy (solar, wind, hydroelectricity and the like, up from 2.5 per cent in 2005).
- Non-CO₂ emissions, representing roughly a quarter of total emissions, could fall by up to 19 per cent relative to business as usual by 2020.

Action 3: Introduce sector-by-sector changes

By examining the technical potential for emissions reductions of various economic sectors by 2020, the UNEP BTG report found the following feasible sectoral potentials to help close the gap:

- Electricity production: 2.2 to 3.9 GtCO₂e per year through more efficient power plants, and by introducing non-fossil energy sources, carbon capture and storage and fuel shifting.

- Industry: 1.5 to 4.6 GtCO_{2e} per year through improved energy efficiency, fuel switching, power recovery, materials efficiency, product change and substitution and carbon capture and storage.
- Transport (excluding aviation and shipping sectors): 1.4 to 2.0 GtCO_{2e} per year through improved fuel efficiency, adoption of electric drive vehicles, shifting to public transit and freight rail and use of low-carbon fuels.
- Aviation and shipping: 0.3-0.5 GtCO_{2e} per year through improved fuel efficiency, low-carbon fuels, and other measures.
- Buildings: 1.4 to 2.9 GtCO_{2e} per year. In particular through improved efficiency of heating, cooling, lighting and appliances.
- Forestry: 1.3 to 4.2 GtCO_{2e} per year through reduction in deforestation rates and changes in forest management that increase above and below ground carbon stocks.
- Agriculture: 1.1 to 4.3 GtCO_{2e} per year through changes in cropland and livestock management practices that reduce non-CO₂ emissions and enhance soil carbon.
- Waste: about 0.8 GtCO_{2e} per year through improved waste water treatment, and waste gas recovery from landfills as well as technologies such as composting, anaerobic digestion and reuse/recycling.

A similar series of activities will be required beyond 2012 to continue to identify ways to further increase the level of ambition.

The LDC group is fully committed for fruitful engagement with all the Parties for a successful 2012 negotiations not only to find the ways and options, but to take all the necessary actions needed, to ensure the level of emissions will follow the path that the best available scientific knowledge commend. The group is prepared to engage in Bonn in the discussion of the work plan and contribute to the idea on how Parties can structure their work to enable enhance mitigation action to progress substantially this year and be agreed in the four years we have till 2015.

The LDC group is firmly of the view that the majority of actions and options identified above can be agreed and implemented in a step wise manner as early as possible as set out in the ADP text and must not be deferred to 2015.