

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION UNDER THE CONVENTION

Fifteenth session

Bonn, 15-24 May 2012

INFORMAL SUMMARY OF THE AWG-LCA WORKSHOP

In-session workshop on quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties

Summary by the Chair of the workshop on issues raised by participants

Version of 22 May 2012 @ 10:00

Presentations were made by representatives of the European Union, the United States of America, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, the Alliance of Small Island States and the secretariat on updates to the technical paper (FCCC/TP/2012/2).

The summary of substantive points raised by Parties in the presentations and discussions include the following:

- In relation to the nature and level of economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties and associated assumptions and conditions, Parties provided further clarity on:
 - Their targets as reflected in document FCCC/SB/2011/INF.1/Rev.1, the diverse set of assumptions and conditions associated with those targets and the relationship between the targets and national circumstances;
 - The conditions associated with the ambition of the targets, such as the level of ambition of the targets of other Parties and access to more options to use carbon credits from market-based mechanisms and the comprehensive coverage of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF);
 - Their commitments to attain their targets, and the steps taken and effort made to that end, as shown in the latest emission projections by 2020 presented by some Parties.
- On links between economy-wide emission reduction targets and the ambition gap, Parties provided their views on:
 - The mitigation efforts that are needed to close the global ambition gap in the lead up to and beyond 2020 in relation to the goal of keeping the temperature rise below 2 °C;
 - The call for developed country Parties to make higher pledges or to move to the higher ranges of their pledges;
 - The importance of collective and individual contributions to global emission reductions by developed country Parties;
 - The contribution of ex-ante understanding of targets, accounting rules and expected emission reductions to the increase in the level of ambition;
 - The potential impact of the lack of mitigation ambition on vulnerable States;
 - The lack of clarity from developed country Parties with regard to providing feedback on whether their conditions associated with some of their higher possible targets have been satisfied (i.e. Kyoto Protocol rules, efforts by others) and whether they are ready to move to the higher range of the targets.
- On clarification of targets in relation to accounting rules, Parties highlighted:
 - Comprehensive information relating to the base year, the global warming potential values, the coverage of gases and sectors, and the greenhouse gas emission inventory methodologies used for the calculation of the targets;

- The importance of accounting and, in particular, of robust and transparent common approaches to accounting rules for adoption of comparable and transparent targets and to measure progress towards these targets;
 - The importance of consistency of such accounting rules for the provision of confidence and avoidance of double counting, in order to assure that a tonne of emission reductions in one country is equal to a tonne in another country;
 - That common accounting rules important for measuring the progress towards the targets;
 - That the progress towards the targets is assessed through following the reporting guidelines under the Convention. This can be achieved provided that carbon credits from international market-based mechanisms are not used for attaining the targets and a comprehensive land-based approach for LULUCF is used in defining the targets;
 - The role of biennial reports by developed country Parties and their consideration under international assessment and review to ensure transparency of efforts towards achieving targets and creating confidence that Parties are implementing the necessary measures to that end;
 - The importance of consistency with the Kyoto Protocol accounting framework.
- On clarification in relation to the role of carbon credits from market-based mechanisms and LULUCF, Parties highlighted:
 - The relationship between the expected contribution of domestic mitigation actions and efforts, LULUCF and complementarity of the use of carbon credits from international market-based mechanisms;
 - Qualitative information on the expected role of market-based mechanisms and LULUCF in the attainment of the targets and increasing the level of ambition;
 - The need for further clarity regarding the use of market-based mechanisms and LULUCF and for the provision of more consistent long-term incentives for the LULUCF sector;
 - The importance of environmental integrity in the use of carbon credits and LULUCF in achieving the targets.
- On relevant policies and measures to support the targets and experience with low-emission development strategies, Parties provided an overview of:
 - Policies in place or under development to support the achievement of the targets, including progress in domestic binding legislative and regulatory frameworks as well as domestic policies at the national, sub-national, regional and local levels and international initiatives;
 - Quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties and related mitigation actions within a range of sectors, including energy, industry, transport, agriculture and waste, and the expected long-term mitigation impacts of policies and measures in relation to the targets;
 - The variety of cross-cutting and sectoral policy instruments and incentives, including legal, financial, economic and technological measures and measures related to carbon pricing;
 - Targets in the context of overall economic development strategies and progress in decoupling of emissions and economic growth through the implementation of effective policies and measures;
 - Pathways, actions and programmes identified for a move to low-emission development and the status of their implementation, emphasizing the multiple benefits to society from a transition to low-emission economies.

Some takeaway points and possible way forward:

- Parties welcomed the presentation by the secretariat on the update of the technical paper on developed country Parties' targets and proposed to further elaborate the technical paper by strengthening the analysis on comparability based on the same metrics.
- The different presentations and discussions showed diverse views among Parties on the emission reduction targets, including the assumptions and conditions related to accounting for LULUCF and

the coverage of sectors and gases, as well as the policies and measures to attain their targets and the expected levels of emission reductions and highlighted their national circumstances.

- Parties expressed their commitment to the goal of substantial reduction of global emissions in order to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and stated possible contributions to this goal.
- Parties suggested a way forward to continue the process of clarifying targets by requesting further workshops, submissions and analytical work by the secretariat using inputs from Parties and keeping in mind the work under other bodies under the Convention.