

Report from spin-off group on

Section I - transparency for action and support (accounting/accountability)

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Parties were requested to clarify the terms 'accounting' and 'accountability' with the intention to improve the mutual understanding and to unpack the meaning of these terms.

Areas of commonality in the views expressed by Parties related to the term **accounting** were:

- Accounting refers to the calculation of quantitative elements with regard to the tracking of progress with contributions and is related to the question of what elements are counted and how are they counted in the tracking of progress.
- The term accounting is broader than the addition and subtraction of units from market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol.

Some Parties stressed the notion that:

- Accounting includes rules/ guidance that ensure environmental integrity or guide against double counting.
- Accounting is the technical process to make an assessment of the commitments versus a political process that determines compliance.
- Methodologies and metrics are related issues and serve the purpose of defining how something is accounted as part of contributions.
- Accounting is important for transparency and promotes common understanding
- Accounting is equivalent to MRV
- Accounting is tracking the results of action.
- Accounting refers to the way INDCs are formulated.

The term '**accountability**' seemed to be more difficult to define and different notions were stressed that were looking at this term from different perspectives, while they were not necessarily contradicting:

- Accountability refers to the broader MRV framework in which accounting rules are part of the MRV of contributions.
- Accountability includes an element of responsibility to explain what a country is doing and has achieved.
- Accountability is something that needs to be defined when we are taking commitments, which we have to each other and that lends credibility and integrity to the agreement.
- Accountability is equivalent to transparency.
- Accountability includes the steps a Party would take to implement mitigation contributions, namely the definition of INDCs, the tracking of the results, the reporting and the review of information
- Accountability includes the notion of confidence and clarity as it expresses that countries did what they said they would do and it enables to understand what each Party did.

Parties mentioned the following four areas in which the term accounting may be applied:

- Accounting related to commitments/ contributions (tracking progress, finalization of NDCs)
- Accounting related to carbon markets (tracking of mitigation outcomes/ units and calculation of mitigation outcomes/ units as part of a contribution)
- Accounting related to the land sector (use of accounting approaches and principles)
- Accounting related to support (tracking progress in delivery of support)