

Response Measures Pre-Sessional Workshop - Work Programme – Australian presentation

- Thank you to the co-facilitators and Secretariat for giving Australia the chance to provide an ice-breaker during this workshop.
- Australia is especially grateful to be able to give an ice-breaker on the work programme for the forum as it will serve the Paris Agreement.
- Australia sees the work programme of the Forum as the core of its work and believe that all else we have to decide flows from these decisions.
- We welcome all submissions received on the issue and look forward to hearing more information about those submissions, as well as from all other Parties here today.
- Many of you have read the joint submission Australia prepared with Japan and New Zealand on the Forum.
- Today I plan to speak in more detail about Australia's understanding of what should drive our collective work programme.
- For Australia, a successful work programme will deal with three key principles that, if met, can give the Forum its most powerful possible role in delivering on the promise of the Paris Agreement.
- The first principle, is how can the Forum drive greater mitigation ambition by Parties?
- Secondly, how can the Forum help Parties make the necessary economic transition to meet both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, in the most economically efficient manner?
- And finally, how can the forum best help Parties meet these tasks while providing confidence to our populations that governments are doing all they can to provide quality jobs.
- A work programme which is designed to answer these questions can help bring together economic and climate challenges and solutions, can allow countries to share their experiences, successes and difficulties, and can lead to better policy outcomes.
- It can be a positive forum where countries can work together to meet the goals, and the spirit, of the Paris Agreement.

- In Australia's view the Forum is best served with a work programme that is focused on economic diversification and just transition of the labour force.
- These themes provide a broad and dynamic work programme which gets to the heart of Paris Agreement implementation.
- As the Paris Agreement increasingly turns from words to national policy actions, dealing with these issues will, in turn, become increasingly important.
- More broadly we are already seeing these issues play a key role in domestic economic and political debates - they are central to economies from across the development spectrum.
- Just within the Umbrella Group of countries, many member countries are either major producers or major exporters of fossil fuels who are grappling with the question of how to make the maximum possible mitigation efforts while achieving economic growth.
- Many other countries are energy importers who will also have to manage an energy transition while previously predictable energy flows become more volatile.
- In Australia this has created opportunities for an increasingly diverse economy in which resources and agriculture are complemented by tourism, education and services.
- More generally there are examples of successful economic diversification at the national level from across all continents and all levels of development, and we hope to see a Forum which allows stories to be shared and lessons to be learned – thus giving Parties the skills necessary to best manage this transition.
- Successful economic diversification can also encourage climate-friendly investment from the private sector that will be crucial to drive the global transition to a lower emission economy.
- Sources of employment and income will shift between economic sectors, and cooperation between countries through the sharing of success stories and lessons learned could be crucial to help Parties address barriers for implementing diversification strategies.

- But even when economic diversification delivers a larger economy at the national level, the benefits are often spread unevenly.
- Regions that were previously dependent on resources fall behind; segments of the work force lose jobs and never recover the wages and job security they once had.
- These changes can be difficult to pick up through economic modelling but their effects are easy to see in changes in political dynamics rippling through much of the world.
- This goes to the second theme I propose: just transition of the labour force.
- As with economic diversification, quality employment is an issue with causes and implications that go beyond the Paris Agreement but which can help drive its implementation.
- In Australia, our young people are regularly told that they will have multiple careers across their careers.
- As automation becomes more and more crucial to the global economy, countries will have to develop policies which ensure their workforces have secure and economically viable employment.
- Governments can't stop this change but they can manage it to ensure workforces know they have their best interests at heart.
- Many governments are putting policies in place but some of the problems are not yet known – let alone their solutions.
- Once again this is an issue broader than climate change but it is one where disruptions caused by climate action will be at the forefront of the transition.
- Obviously, economic diversification and just transition are the current issues the Forum is discussing.
- However they remain central to managing the economic impacts of climate action and, more broadly, to national political and economic issues.
- Therefore Australia believes a Forum which continues to delve into these issues is the best way of meeting the principles which would allow the

Forum to play a real and significant role in helping Parties meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

- I look forward to discussing the work programme of the Forum with all of you this afternoon and over the next fortnight.
- Thank you.