



AUSTRALIA

Submission under the Cancun Agreements | September 2011

Impacts of implementation of response measures | SBI | SBSTA

I. Overview

This submission contains the views of the Australian Government on impacts of the implementation of response measures, as requested under paragraph 94 of Decision 1/CP.16. Australia also draws attention to its previous submissions on the impacts of the implementation of response measures¹.

The Cancun Agreements delivered a balanced package of decisions across all UNFCCC bodies. Some items are ready for implementation, and others require further elaboration. Guided by the Cancun Agreements, it will be important to use the negotiating forums at our disposal to progress work in a coordinated way, utilising the bodies best suited and considering joint work programs where useful.

Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views under the Cancun agreements on elements for the development of a work programme and a possible forum on response measures. In summary, Australia considers:

- the joint forum and special event held in Bonn 2011 provided a valuable opportunity for Parties to share information on the actual and observed impacts arising from Parties' mitigation measures, including impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable countries that might be affected by such measures, and for best practice exchanges on facilitating economic transition to a low-carbon platform;
- we should continue to endeavour to coordinate proposed discussions on impacts of the implementation of response measures and leverage work undertaken elsewhere.
- Discussions should focus on both the negative and positive effects of the implementation of response measures with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and least able to adapt, in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

¹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/MISC.5/Add.2 (Part 1); submission under the Cancun Agreements on matters relating to Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol: impacts of implementation of response measures (February, 2011); submissions under the Cancun Agreements on matters relating to the *Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)*.



II. Forums and work programme on the impacts of the implementation of response measures

In Bonn 2011, Parties and relevant intergovernmental organisations were invited to submit further views to the secretariat on issues that could be considered at possible forums convened by the Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI at the bodies' thirty-fifth sessions to develop a work programme on the impacts of the implementation of response measures. Australia looks forward to participating in the forum at the thirty-fifth session.

As we stated in our submission in March 2011, any work programme and possible forum on response measures should focus on:

- (1) how to best assist the poorest and most vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States, to diversify their economies and build economic resilience. Discussions should provide an opportunity for best practice exchanges on what countries are doing, and can do, to transition their economies for a sustainable future.
- (2) sharing information on actual and observed impacts – both positive and negative – arising from Parties' mitigation measures. Given the relatively abstract nature of discussions on this topic in the UNFCCC to date, a more scientific approach to this topic is needed to enhance understanding of the nature of the impacts Parties may face in the future.
- (3) how existing channels, such as national communications, can be used to provide an evidence-based platform for understanding these potential impacts.
- (4) leveraging work undertaken elsewhere to best meet our objectives of deepening understanding of this topic and building consensus. The forums should coordinate with the discussions to be undertaken in the joint SBI/SBSTA workshop addressing matters relating to Article 2, paragraph 3 and Article 3, paragraph 14 of the Kyoto Protocol (SBI/2010/27, SBSTA/2010/13) and with the workshop to discuss the potential impacts of response measures agreed in paragraph 86 of the SBI conclusion (SBI/2010/27) on matters relating to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Convention (progress on the implementation of decision 1.CP/10). The issues for discussion at these workshops overlap heavily, and should be consolidated to maximise efficiency and coherence across negotiating streams.

