

SUBMISSION BY IRELAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Dublin, 22nd April 2013

Subject: Steps necessary for starting 2013-2015 Review at SB38

The EU wishes to thank the Subsidiary Body co-Chairs for their request for views on the steps necessary for starting the review of the adequacy of the long term global goal and overall progress made towards achieving it, (referred to as the 2013-2015 Review). The EU considers that the establishment of the long term goal of keeping the average global temperature increase below 2 degree Celsius (2C goal), was a major step forward in the development of a shared understanding of how to achieve the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC.

The 2013-15 Review

The EU welcomes the prompt start of the 2013-15 Review this year as agreed by Parties and the workshop to be held at the thirty-eight session of the Subsidiary Bodies. The EU considers that this Review is a very important area of work of the UNFCCC, which will help Parties in assessing the adequacy of the long term temperature goal and the progress made towards achieving it. The 2013-15 Review should be progressed in a focused, efficient, and timely manner. It should primarily focus on science issues related to the basis for the long term goal, its implications for future GHG emissions pathways consistent with keeping the temperature increase below 2C and it should consider *strengthening the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by science, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5°C..* Consideration of observed and projected impacts will also be an important part of the work of the Review, as well as assessment of current emissions pathways, their relationship to boundaries on emissions, and the steps being taken by Parties to achieve the long term goal.

The EU emphasises the particular importance of the forthcoming IPCC 5th Assessment Report in informing the 2013-15 Review as well as the wider development of actions under the UNFCCC. Its Working Group Reports and Synthesis Report will be published later in 2013 and during 2014.

The EU also considers that work relevant to the 2013-2015 Review is being carried out under other UNFCCC agenda items and that duplication of work should be avoided. The EU considers that the 2013-15 Review should focus on:

- Scientific analyses that are relevant to the long term global goal, e.g., climate sensitivity, carbon cycles and observed impacts of climate change
- Analyses of the projected impacts of climate change at different levels of greenhouse gas stabilisation, including tipping points and feedback processes
- Information on aggregate greenhouse gas emissions and removals as well as projections of these, including those reported to by Parties to the UNFCCC
- Analyses of emissions pathways that are identified as being in line with the long term global goal and analysis of the current global and regional emissions trajectory
- Consideration of strengthening the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by science, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5°C.
- Further information relevant to assessment of the progress to achievement of the long term goal and ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, including work by other international bodies

The EU considers that current key sources of relevant information include:

1. Information from National Inventory Reports, National Communications, and other reporting products
2. Information and analysis on emissions pathways that are consistent with the long term temperature goal provided by Parties and as assessed by other UN bodies and international organisations e.g. UNEP, the IEA and FAO
3. Information from systematic observations of carbon dioxide and other long lived Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) that are driving climate change and analysis of these e.g. from Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

The SB38 Workshop

The first workshop provides the opportunity to consider relevant material that was available to Parties when the long term temperature goal was adopted and which has been produced subsequently. In this regard the EU wishes to highlight the 2C report it produced in 2008, and subsequently updated, which provided an overview of the target, what it might entail and how it might be achieved¹.

¹These reports can be found via

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/future/docs/brochure_2c_en.pdf

http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Scientific_Perspectives_After_Copenhagen.pdf

We also suggest that it would be helpful for the Secretariat to either provide or facilitate the provision of the following information at the workshop:

- An inventory of data and information relevant to the 2013-2015 Review and analyses of these which have been carried out to date, including IPCC reports,
- An outline of key information from these analyses, e.g., a syntheses of information provided by Parties in relation to GHG emissions and removals,
- Details on changes and trends in GHG emissions including, if feasible, at regional and sectoral levels and in relation to the key GHGs, including, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide and industrial gases.

This analysis can assist Parties in identifying any gaps in these data and how they might be addressed in order to insure that the all relevant analyses are available for the 2013-2015 Review.

The workshop could also consider analyses of the pledges and new commitments to reduce GHG emissions, the gaps between related pathways and those required to achieve the long-term temperature goal.

In addition it would be helpful for the workshop to note where relevant analysis, which can inform the Review, is being carried out under other agenda items. For example, the EU considers that significant analysis of mitigation pledges under the UNFCCC is being addressed under other agenda items and the Review should not duplicate such efforts.

As part of the GCOS Parties are carrying out systematic observations of key greenhouse gases. In-order to consider progress in achievement of the long term goal, Parties and international organisations with long-term systematic observations of long life GHGs from background and remote locations should be requested to provide an analysis of observational data since 1990 and key trends and changes observed in these data.

Finally we suggest that key elements of the future work of the review should be:

- Consideration of relevant material in the AR5
- Identification of work required to address outstanding questions
- Workshops to agree on the key issues and conclusions
- Preparation of a Report for the COP.