

New Zealand Submission to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Clarifying mitigation pledges and associated work programme

March 2013

1. This submission responds to the invitation to provide additional information to clarify targets, associated assumptions and conditions as outlined in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 5 and for views on the work programme referred to in paragraph 8 of FCCC/CP/2012/L.14/Rev.1.

New Zealand target in the transition period

2. This year, the New Zealand Government will announce a firm, binding, unconditional, emissions target to apply during the transition to the new legal agreement being negotiated under the Durban Platform. This commitment will be tabled in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New Zealand remains a party to the Kyoto Protocol and will meet its first commitment period target. New Zealand intends to apply a broad framework of Kyoto Protocol rules to its Convention commitment.
3. New Zealand's conditional offer is to reduce emissions between minus 10% and minus 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. We have stated previously that:

New Zealand is prepared to take on a responsibility target for greenhouse gas emissions reductions of between 10 and 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, if there is a comprehensive global agreement. This means:

- a) That the global agreement sets the world on a pathway to limiting temperature rise to no more than 2 °C;*
 - b) That developed countries make comparable efforts to those of New Zealand;*
 - c) That advanced and major-emitting developing countries take action fully commensurate with their respective capabilities;*
 - d) That there is an effective set of rules for LULUCF;*
 - e) That there is full recourse to a broad and efficient international carbon market.*
4. Some important progress has been made towards meeting these conditions. New Zealand remains committed to working constructively through the transition period and within the Durban Platform negotiations to ensure the above considerations are fully met.

Work programme

5. Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 5 lists elements that have guided discussions on clarifying mitigation pledges. The objective of this exercise has always been to understand the assumptions and conditions related to individual targets, in particular in relation to the base year, global warming potential values, coverage of gases, coverage of sectors, expected emission reductions, and the role of land use, land-use change and forestry, and carbon credits from market-based mechanisms, and associated assumptions and conditions related to the ambition of the pledges.
6. New Zealand has previously submitted information under the AWG-LCA, including a template that highlighted methodological and accounting elements that promote comparability. This information remains relevant but is without prejudice to the New Zealand Government taking final decisions on its commitment in the transition period. New Zealand intends to provide further information on the themes listed in paragraph 5 above when it tables its firm, unconditional target this year.
7. The SBSTA may like to consider the following thematic topics as workshop themes under this work programme:
 - Identifying common elements that may be “applicable to all” parties post 2020;
 - The role of land use, land-use change and forestry; and
 - Use of carbon markets.
8. Exploration of these issues can help inform parties of what others are undertaking to 2020 and help shape the post 2020 agreement that will be applicable to all parties.