

Submission by the Government of Japan

Implications of the implementation of decisions 2/CMP.7 to 4/CMP.7, as well as those of decision 1/CMP.8, on the relevant decisions adopted for the first commitment period
(12 March, 2012)

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the implications of the implementation of decisions 2/CMP.7 to 4/CMP.7 as well as those of decision 1/CMP.8, on the relevant decisions adopted for the first commitment period, in response to the invitation in paragraph 9 of Decision 2/CMP.8.

Methodological issues relating to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol such as accounting methodologies, reporting requirements and review procedures are effective tools to tackle climate change. It is important to carry on the discussions for the continued functioning of these valuable tools in the second commitment period.

In order to implement fully functional and legitimate methodological rules for the second commitment period, Japan expects that SBSTA will build on the achievements at CMP8 on this issue and further proceed the work to make relevant CMP decisions operational.

1. Japan's comprehension of the Kyoto Protocol and CMP Decisions

- Article 7, paragraph 1 states that supplementary information shall be incorporated into the annual inventory of an Annex I Party “for the purposes of ensuring compliance with Article 3.” Therefore, Japan is of the view that, during the second commitment period, the Annex I Parties, which do not have a quantified emission limitation and reduction commitment (QELRC) inscribed in the third column of Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, are not obliged to submit supplementary information required under Article 7, paragraph 1.
- Nonetheless, with regards to LULUCF rules, it was decided at CMP8 that during the second commitment period, all Annex I Parties including Japan will continue to incorporate supplementary information in their annual inventories, in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Protocol.
- On the other hand, under Article 7, paragraph 2, supplementary information is to be incorporated by a Party included in Annex I in its national communication “to demonstrate compliance with its commitments under this Protocol.” In Japan's view, as long as a country is a Party to the Kyoto

Protocol, even an Annex I Party that does not have a QELRC for the second commitment period is obliged to submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 2 incorporating in its national communication. Japan is also of the view that all Annex I Parties are also subject to review of this information under Article 8 of the Protocol.

2. Review of supplementary information regarding LULUCF activities to be included in annual greenhouse gas inventories according to Decision 2/CMP.8, paragraph 4
 - Japan will account and report its emissions from and removals by the LULUCF sector based on Decision 2/CMP.7 and be ready to be reviewed on the reported information for 2013 and onwards. In Japan's view, it is important that this review is conducted in such a way that avoids duplication with other review processes (reviews for biennial reports and national communications) for the purposes of ensuring efficiency.
 - With regard to consideration of supplementary reporting tables required for the reporting of land use, land-use change and forestry activities as requested in paragraph 8 of decision 2/CMP.8, Japan supports initiation of the work at the earliest opportunity. As Parties will need to use any supplementary reporting tables in their preparation of GHG inventory reports starting from 2014, this work needs to be completed in time for such tables to be adopted at CMP9. Thus, the SBSTA is expected to allocate enough time to conclude the task as requested.

3. Submission and review of supplementary information other than that regarding LULUCF activities to be included in annual inventories
 - As a Party to the Kyoto Protocol, Japan intends to adhere to the rules of the Kyoto Protocol to the extent possible for the purposes of ensuring transparency. With regard to the submission of supplementary information other than that concerning LULUCF activities as part of annual inventories, there is no legal obligation for Parties who do not have a QELRC for the second commitment period, as already noted above. However, as a Party to the Kyoto Protocol, Japan is willing to voluntarily submit information, for the purposes of ensuring transparency.

Japan looks forward to engaging on these issues with other Parties, and reaching practical solutions with legal clarity at subsequent workshops, SBSTA38, and COP19/CMP9.