

Cuba submission
Elements of the 2015 Agreed Outcome

1. General considerations.

- As a vulnerable developing country, already suffering the impact of climate change, Cuba is deeply committed with UNFCCC and welcomes as well as supports all the efforts on enhancing the implementation of the Convention.
- Accordingly, and in the context of its national priorities and circumstances, Cuba has developed during decades, ambitious actions in addressing climate change, including, adaptation and mitigation supported by science.
- Adaptation is a matter of the highest priority for Cuba. Consequently, the Cuban government has devoted considerable efforts to the development of knowledge, strategies and actions to continue enhancing the quality of life of all its citizens, while reaching a social and economic sustainable development, in a changing and challenging environment.
- Although Cuba's contribution to global GHG emissions is not significant, it has developed considerable actions on mitigation. Increasing energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy are priorities of the Cuban energy and climate policy.
- On developing its national climate policy, Cuba faces great and increasing challenges associated, in particular, to:
 - The economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the United States, which have a deep impact in terms of constraining national sustainable development, including the efforts on fighting climate change.
 - The limited access of financial resources and technology to address climate change, determined in a significant part by the unfulfilled commitments of developed countries under UNFCCC, and on the unfavorable international economic environment
 - The national circumstances of a vulnerable developing country engaged in building a sustainable developed society.

2. Our vision of the international process for enhancing the implementation of the UNFCCC.

- All COP decisions are under the Convention and part of its architecture. Consequently, the work of the ADP “shall be guided by the principles of the Convention”, as stated by

Decisions 2/CP.18 and 1/CP.19.

- Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) has to be at the centre of future decisions on enhancing the implementation of the Convention, according to its provisions and annexes.
- The process for enhancing the UNFCCC implementation, resulting in a new agreement on 2015, should be meaningful for developing countries, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change, as part of addressing the special circumstances of SIDS.
- The process should fully respect and not compromise the right to development, as well as the right to survival.
- There must be a positive, comprehensive, substantive, and balanced treatment of all the elements of decision 1/CP.17 in the draft negotiating text that should be based on the Convention. These elements are mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building, and transparency of action and support.
- All elements of the expected 2015 agreed outcome should have the same legal nature and status, consistent with any other related legal instruments that the COP has adopted, and may adopt under the Convention.
- Closing the mitigation ambition gap during the pre-2020 period by developed countries is critical for ambition and equity in the post-2020 period. It's unacceptable; to redistribute this task to developing countries.
- The Agreement should not impose onerous reporting burdens or any kind of conditionality to developing countries for accessing necessary support.
- There is a need to understand socio-economic aspects, taking into account poverty alleviation, adequate access to energy and related issues, in order to determine how current societies and pathways can be transformed to address climate change.

3. Elements of the agreement.

3.1 On the principles of the Agreement.

- The Agreement shall be fully consistent with:
 - Article 3.1 of the Convention which states that in accordance with their common **but** differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.

- Article 3.2 which provide that “the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties should be given full consideration ... especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effect of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention”.
- Article 3.4 which recognizes the right to sustainable development as well as measures to address climate change, should bear in mind “the specific conditions of each Party and be integrated with national development programmes”.
- Article 4 which reflect equity in the commitments of Parties by providing for differentiation between developed and developing countries.
- Article 4.7 which states that “the extent to which the developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention, related to financial resources and transfer of technology, and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities by developing country Parties.”

3.2 Enhanced Action on Mitigation.

- Enhanced mitigation commitments under Article 4.2 by developed countries are key to the effective implementation of the Convention after 2020. Annex I Parties, in accordance with Article 3.1, shall take the lead through emission reductions undertaken domestically.
- Annex I parties should have “nationally determined” economy-wide mitigation commitments (based on Art. 4.2, linked to meeting the Art. 2 objective of the Convention, and sufficient to show that they are taking the lead in reducing emissions).
- There shall be comparability of efforts among all Annex I Parties with respect to their mitigation commitments, on the basis of common units such as timeframe, gases, base year and other parameters that enable effective comparability.
- Non-Annex I actions will be “nationally determined” and their ambition levels will depend on the extent of the finance, technology and capacity building support by Annex II Parties.

3.3 Enhanced Action on Adaptation

- Enhanced action on adaptation shall focus on reducing the adverse impacts of climate change of the developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable to climate change,

supported by enhancing the provision of assistance by Annex II Parties to meet the costs of these countries to address the adverse effects of climate change, and enable them to enhance their actions to adapt to climate change in order to achieve sustainable development.

- Existing adaptation-related institutions under the Convention should be strengthened and fully financed. National and regional institutional arrangements should be supported and strengthened to address the specific context and needs of developing countries.
- Annex II Parties shall also address the historical imbalance in the provision of financing between mitigation and adaptation, by having a significant share of their assistance under Art. 4.4 flow through the Green Climate Fund that shall overcome this imbalance.

3.4 Enhanced Action to Address Loss and Damage.

- The Loss and Damage mechanism established at COP19 should be integrated into the institutional architecture of the 2015 agreed outcome separate from the adaptation-related mechanisms and institutions. Annex II Parties shall provide support for the financing and operationalization of the Loss and Damage mechanism.

3.5 Means of implementation.

- The 2015 Agreement will have to identify ways to access and deliver adequate, predictable and sufficient financial and technical support to the vulnerable developing countries to meet their adaptation needs.
- Finance, technology and capacity-building – as all elements of decision 1/CP.17 – are to be treated independently and equally.
- The Convention's financial mechanism under Art. 11 shall be made more robust, with new, additional, adequate, sustained and predictable funding going towards its operating entities, particularly the GCF on a very significant scale.
- Annex II parties shall provide clarity and a defined pathway for public climate financing to developing countries from developed countries with specific targets, timelines and sources, as recognized under COP decision 3/CP.19.
- A mechanism for the measurement, reporting and verification of financing provided to developing country Parties by Annex II Parties shall be established and made operational.
- Enhanced action on technology development and transfer from Annex II Parties to developing countries under Art. 4.1(c) and 4.5 of the Convention, in order to support enhanced mitigation and adaptation actions by developing countries, shall be undertaken

through the removal by Annex II Parties of financial, technological and policy barriers in their own countries for this purpose, as well as the provision of new, additional, adequate, and sustained financial support through the Green Climate Fund for technology development and transfer to developing countries through a specific window for technology development and transfer under the GCF.

- Enhanced action on capacity building in developing countries under the Convention shall be undertaken through specific and quantified commitments from Annex II Parties to provide adequate and predictable financing and technology for capacity building for developing countries that require it, with the financing to be channeled through the GCF.

3.6 Enhanced Action on Transparency of Action and Support

- Enhanced actions of non-Annex I Parties shall build on existing procedures developed under the Convention and shall be operationally linked to the MRV of the provision of support by Annex II Parties.
- Procedures with respect to the measures, reporting and verification of the provision by Annex II Parties of support to developing countries, including financing and technology transfer, under Art. 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 shall be enhanced through more frequent reports that provide for comparability in the form of, inter alia, standardized reporting formats, common metrics and detailed information on the source and recipient of support.
- The 2015 Agreement must avoid imposing onerous burdens on developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable to climate change, with respect to reporting on emissions and on support received for adaptation, capacity building as well as access and adoption of appropriate technology. It must not shift responsibility for adaptation costs and burdens to developing countries themselves by creating new obligations.