



Response to Joint Message: Workstream on the 2015 Agreement

Dear Messrs Mauskar and Dovland,

Thank you for your joint message of 24 September 2012. On behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, we would like to respond to your invitation to provide additional inputs on how to best advance the work of the ADP workstream on the 2015 Agreement in Doha and beyond. Making progress on this workstream is a critical element of a balanced outcome in Doha. We are responding separately to you on the pre 2020 mitigation ambition workstream.

Below we address the points you raise. We refer you also to previous inputs the EU has provided - namely our submission of 17 April 2012 setting out the EU's views on the workplan of the ADP, and our letter to you on 16 July 2012, in response to your joint message of 25 June 2012.

1) Organisation of work in Doha

Informal roundtables

We support the continuation of the informal roundtables in order to take forward substantive discussions. The roundtables should consolidate areas of convergence and delineate the scope of the elements to be captured in a Doha outcome particularly agreement on the next steps and work needed to make progress towards the 2015 Agreement - and in that context they should prepare the ground for a focused Ministerial discussion at the beginning of the second week.

Contact groups

In Bangkok you indicated that the informal setting of the roundtables has its limitations in procedural terms. Whilst we would like the informal roundtables to remain the focus of substantive discussions at the technical level, we are content to be guided by you as to whether contact groups would need to be formed in Doha in order to deliver the outcomes for this workstream as set out in this letter. If contact groups are deemed necessary, two should be formed one for each of the two workstreams of the ADP.

Ministerial roundtables

We would like to reiterate our proposal, in common with other Parties, to set up a Ministerial roundtable to discuss some of the emerging themes.

2) Outputs of this workstream in Doha

In summary we would like to see the following outputs from this workstream in Doha:

- Continued substantive discussions in informal roundtables, with these captured in report of co-Chairs/COP report
- Ministerial level discussions on emerging themes. The discussions should give guidance to the work of the ADP and be captured in a summary report
- An ADP decision that includes giving political momentum towards adopting an agreement in 2015 and capturing agreed next steps for the workstream, with a focus on 2013

Informal roundtables

Substantive discussions should continue in 2013 in informal roundtable settings, guided by facilitative questions that build on and take forward the emerging themes highlighted in your reflections report of the Bangkok meeting. Progress should be captured in a further note of the co-Chairs (as was the case after Bangkok) and also be reflected in the report to the COP.

The roundtables should identify key themes to be taken up by Ministers in discussions in the second week. The roundtables should also identify and seek convergence on next steps for the work of the ADP particularly in 2013.

Ministerial discussions

Adoption of a legally binding agreement in 2015 was an essential component of the package agreed in Durban and, to be clear, progress towards this goal remains an essential element of a successful package that all Parties, including the EU, can sign up to in Doha.

But time is limited between now and 2015 and we urgently need to initiate the substantive debate under the ADP at Ministerial level. This is not only important to provide negotiators with further guidance for their work under the ADP and the planning of our work, it is also a clear signal that Parties are prepared to make progress on all elements of the Durban agreement and stand by what they agreed a few months ago.

The Ministerial discussion should take place at the beginning of the second week, building on themes emerging from the informal substantive roundtables. The discussions should be captured in a summary report and reflected in the report of the COP.

Outcome of the ADP, including agreed next steps

It is important that the Doha outcome gives political momentum to delivering on the commitment Parties made in Durban to adopt a legally binding agreement in 2015 that applies to all Parties, including by identifying next steps that allow us to make substantive progress. This outcome should build on the Ministerial discussions, in a way that gives a clear political impetus to this workstream.

Decision 1/CP.17 instructed Parties to plan the work of the ADP in the first half of 2012. That still has not been done. It is therefore essential that under your guidance in Doha we agree clear next steps towards adopting in 2015 a legally binding agreement applicable to all Parties. This should be in the form of a streamlined workplan that focuses mainly on the work we need to do in 2013 and contains the following elements:

- A call for submissions early in 2013 on particular issues or themes to be identified by the Parties (see below)
- Opportunities to make progress on those themes and issues in between formal negotiating sessions, with inputs from non-Parties as well as Parties
- Agreement on a timeline and key milestones between now and the end of 2015. Ultimately we need to see the emergence of a single consolidated text produced by the co-Chairs, based on the inputs of Parties, at the latest in early in 2015
- Acknowledgment that the workplan will need to be reviewed and further elaborated at appropriate moments between now and 2015, giving the co-Chairs the flexibility to initiate and organise work, taking on board the views of Parties

3) Emerging themes and further work to be undertaken in 2013

In Bangkok you posed a number of questions that served to usefully guide our deliberations in the ADP. Your summary report sets out the range of views expressed and in your reflections of 5 October you identify themes and issues that would serve as a good basis for you to facilitate further substantive discussions in Doha. We would urge you to draw on the emerging themes when guiding us towards agreeing our workplan - in particular when identifying further work for 2013.

The EU, in common with other Parties, highlighted in Bangkok two areas that should be prioritised in Doha and also in 2013 through submissions and follow up informal discussions between sessions:

- How to design a spectrum of commitments, such that all Parties can take on binding, fair and ambitious obligations in accordance with their responsibilities and capabilities. Whilst the 2015 Agreement must have legally binding mitigation obligations for all Parties such that 100% of greenhouse gas emissions are addressed, those obligations could vary in substance. Those countries with the greatest responsibilities and capabilities would be expected to make the most ambitious contributions towards the 2°C objective in the form of absolute, economy-wide reduction targets. Further to that, as many Parties highlighted in Bangkok, we need to discuss the spectrum of commitments available to encourage and ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties, so we are on the path to achieve the 2°C objective in a way that is fair, efficient, transparent and takes into account evolving responsibilities, capabilities and circumstances.
- Cutting emissions and economic growth are not mutually exclusive and the transition towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy creates opportunities. It would be useful to explore how the 2015 Agreement could capture and facilitate ambitious mitigation efforts from all Parties in a way that helps Parties achieve sustainable development.