

Submission by Japan
Information, views and proposals on matters related to the work of Ad Hoc Working
Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)
(12 March, 2013)

Japan fully supports and appreciates the Durban decision on the ADP as well as the planning of work as a basis for the future framework which will be fair and effective and applicable to all Parties. Japan welcomes with high appreciation the successful start of the work of the ADP last year, including adoption of its workplan at COP18 in Doha. It was also fruitful to conduct intensive brainstorming on the future framework in roundtables held in Bangkok and Doha last year. Japan is grateful for the leadership of the ADP Co-Chairs who have guided the whole process and discussions among Parties in a practical and constructive manner. The Co-Chair's informal note dated 18 February as well as their summaries of roundtables and the special event at Doha are also helpful in considering the way forward for the ADP this year. Japan is counting on continuous guidance of the ADP Co-Chairs for further fruitful work on the future framework and mitigation ambition.

This submission outlines Japan's basic philosophy, information, views and proposals on the two workstreams, in order to respond to the request in paragraphs 13 and 15 of the planning of work made at COP18. It also includes Japan's view regarding the work of ADP in the year ahead, taking into account the latest informal note by the Co-Chairs.

Japan appreciates the fact that Parties are given a few more opportunities to provide their views later this year as referred to in paragraph 6 of the planning of work. We fully support moving the discussion to a more focused mode within 2013. Japan would like to express its willingness to submit further views and proposals, especially for the post-2020 climate regime, building on discussions with other Parties and observer organizations in the ADP sessions to be held this year.

Workstream I

1. Information, views and proposals on matters related to four aspects as referred in the paragraph 13 of the planning of work of ADP.

(a) Application of the principles of the Convention

Japan considers it indispensable that the future framework will be “applicable to

all” Parties in order to effectively tackle climate change. Japan is eager to contribute to the discussions concerning what kind of framework would be acceptable and attractive towards participation of all Parties. Japan notes that the principles of the Convention are dynamic concepts which should appropriately reflect various evolutions since 1992 and the reality of the international community.

From this standpoint, the binary structure doesn’t suit the world in the twenty-first century and, therefore, will not allow us to effectively tackle climate change in order to realize the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The application of the principles of the Convention should be considered in a pragmatic way which allows differentiated substantive measures to be taken by each Party, taking into account each Parties’ national circumstances, rather than endless theological arguments on the definition and notion of the principles.

(b) Building on the experiences and lessons learned from other processes under the Convention and from other multilateral processes, as appropriate

Japan considers it important to mobilize the latest scientific analysis as well as knowledge, experiences, and lessons gained from inside and outside the UNFCCC for brainstorming the structure of the future framework.

Japan places importance on existing various elements and systems based on the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, such as GCF, CTCN, MRV system, and accounting rules including removals by sinks and flexible mechanisms, because the experiences of developing and running these mechanisms provide useful references in designing the future framework. Technical matters necessary to implement the Cancun Agreements are to be discussed under SBs or appropriate places, and such discussions will also provide good references for our consideration of the future framework.

From this perspective, Japan is of the view that a workshop could be held, for example, during the ADP sessions in April and June where experts will discuss lessons, challenges and possible improvements in relation to existing systems. The results of such a practical workshop will provide useful suggestions to arguments on the future framework. Japan also welcomes the proposal by the Co-Chairs in their recent informal note to invite Chairs of SBs and other relevant bodies to brief the ADP on their related work.

Collecting, sharing and analyzing experiences of various initiatives outside UNFCCC could be useful inputs as well. In this sense, discussions on concrete actions and initiatives outside UNFCCC for enhancing mitigation ambition will also contribute to brainstorming under both *workstream 1 and 2*.

(c) The scope, structure and design of the 2015 agreement

It is important that the future framework is something “legal,” as clearly stated in the Durban decision. However, Japan does not intend to dwell on discussions on the formality of the 2015 agreement at this stage as it believes that what we can agree on is much more essential than which form we can agree on. In addition to reflections on emissions reduction beyond 2020, the future framework should have a long-term vision in considering the ultimate objective of the Convention and the reality and potentiality of future emissions reduction.

An international framework which imposes emission reduction obligation only on a part of Parties, like the Kyoto Protocol, doesn’t lead to effective measures against climate change and broader participation. In order to ensure “applicable to all”, it is effective and pragmatic to take an approach similar to the Cancun Agreements, in which most Parties are participating. It is also necessary for the future framework to accommodate all kinds of schemes in order to significantly enhance mitigation ambition, including an effective international review system of each Party’s efforts and facilitative elements. This approach needs to be designed, so that each Party feels benefits of participation or losses in case of non-participation.

(d) Ways of defining and reflecting enhanced action

Japan considers it appropriate that each Party pledges its climate program including an emissions reduction target and all possible measures, while taking into account national circumstances. At the same time, it is necessary to incorporate, into the future framework, the mechanisms which will maximize Parties’ efforts and enhance their mitigation ambitions. Japan also considers those measures should be mobilized comprehensively through various tools and approaches such as promotion of energy-saving and renewable energy, innovation, development and transfer of technology, low carbon growth strategy, measures and actions in each sector, market mechanisms and so on. In order to assure the implementation of the pledges by each Party, a common and effective international review system must be built under the

future framework.

In addition to emissions reduction at national levels, it is also important to ensure worldwide GHG emissions reduction by supporting other Parties in their emissions reduction. Moreover, it is important to acknowledge efforts in supporting other countries' mitigation and various contributions towards adaptation and capacity-building in other countries within an MRV system to be established under the future framework.

Japan is promoting the Joint Crediting Mechanism/Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism (JCM/BOCM), which contributes to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC. Japan is confident that experiences of the JCM/BOCM would provide useful inputs to the discussion of market mechanisms under the future framework.

2. Views on the work of the ADP in this year

ADP sessions are to be held in April, June and November at COP19, and possibly in September. In order to shift to a more focused mode this year, Japan proposes the following milestones for intensive work this year. Japan appreciates the Co-Chairs' informal note that raises the issue of the establishment of a structure for effective and efficient decision-making, by considering the potential role of contact groups and informal consultations. Japan welcomes discussions on the structure of the ADP in the April session based on a more detailed proposal by the Co-Chairs to be issued in April. However, it is important not to devote our whole time in the April session to a discussion of ADP structures and the planning of work. It is desirable to continue substantive discussions in a roundtable format to conceptualize the future framework, while conducting parallel informal consultations to discuss structural and organizational matters. It will be appropriate to aim at reaching some of the possible ADP structures in the June session in order to start more detailed discussions under the leadership by the new ADP Co-Chairs after June.

Schedule

- ADP session in late April- early May
- Roundtable-style discussion to conceptualize the future framework based on guiding questions by Co-Chairs.
- Workshop(s) to learn from lessons and experiences from other processes under the UNFCCC and outside UNFCCC

- Informal consultation on ADP structures

- ADP session in June
 - Continue discussions in roundtable format, workshops, and informal consultation
 - Aim at reaching outcomes of the ADP structures
 - Develop a summary report, with support of the Secretariat, on discussions by the current Co-Chairs to hand over to new co-Chairs.

- After June session and the session at COP19 in Warsaw.
 - Shift progressively to a focused mode through a virtuous cycle; 1) summarizing discussions by Co-Chairs with support of the Secretariat, 2) submitting views by Parties, 3) preparing substantive questions by Co-Chairs and 4) discussing intensively in roundtables and workshops.
 - Discussion in clustered groups concerning key elements of the final product of the ADP.
 - Discuss in parallel the process of negotiations in detail up to 2015. At COP19, Parties should decide on a more detailed workplan for 2014-2015 including focused key issues which contribute to the acceleration of the negotiation process as well as the establishment of clustered groups.