

**SUBMISSION BY SINGAPORE TO THE
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURBAN PLATFORM FOR
ENHANCED ACTION – WORKSTREAM 1**

1 This submission has been prepared in response to the conclusions adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) at the second part of its second session¹, which invited Parties and accredited observer organisations to make further submissions, by 1 September 2013, building on the conclusions of the ADP at the second part of its first session.

2 This submission builds upon, and should be read with Singapore's earlier submission to the ADP on Workstream 1 dated 26 February 2013.

3 Decisions 1/CP.17 and 2/CP.18 define the mandate of the ADP. In accordance with these decisions, the ADP process and its outcome of “a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force” (the 2015 agreement) will be “under the Convention”. Accordingly, the Convention and its Annexes provide the foundation for enhanced actions under the 2015 agreement.

Principles of the Convention

4 The Convention is designed to facilitate enhanced action by all Parties based on a set of agreed and established principles. We do not see the need to discuss or design indicators, formulae or frameworks to provide guidance for enhanced action as the Convention and its Annexes provide the necessary guidance. There should be no re-writing of the Convention. In our view, indicators, formulae, or new frameworks would lead to a selective operationalisation and re-writing of the Convention. Such an approach would be divisive and detract the process from the shared goal of enhanced action by all Parties in the post-2020 period. The ADP should instead focus on discussing how we can incentivise actions by all Parties, with developed countries taking the lead, in accordance with Article 3.1.

¹ FCCC/ADP/2013/2, paragraphs 29-40.

Universal Participation

5 Article 4.1 of the Convention requires that all Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall undertake a series of actions to attain the objectives of the Convention. In our view, an approach based on nationally-determined actions, taking into account national circumstances, is essential to facilitate the participation of all Parties in making a contribution under the 2015 agreement.

6 In our view, universal participation is an essential ingredient for greater ambition. The lower the level of participation, the lower the level of ambition.

7 It is important to ensure universal participation in the 2015 agreement by designing a structure and process that is inclusive, facilitative and supportive.

Rules

8 Another key ingredient of ambition in the 2015 agreement is rules. In our view, a robust set of rules is essential to deliver higher ambition, and to promote certainty and transparency in the implementation of agreed action.

9 In order to strengthen the multilateral, rules-based regime, agreement on key ground rules will be an important first step needed to provide mutual assurances to all Parties. In Singapore's view, the following are essential ground rules for all Parties:

- (a) First, all Parties agree that they will make a mitigation contribution to the 2015 agreement, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, taking into account their specific national circumstances.

- (b) Second, mitigation contributions to the 2015 agreement will be nationally-determined.
- (c) Third, nationally-determined mitigation actions submitted under the Convention will have the same legally-binding character. Actions cannot be legally-binding for some Parties but not for others.
- (d) Fourth, clarity of action and transparency of implementation will be applicable to all Parties. In this regard, the new agreement should build on the existing framework of rules relating to MRV to build clarity, transparency and mutual confidence.
- (e) Fifth, the structure and process for the 2015 agreement will facilitate and incentivise universal participation and contribution.

Next steps

10 In view of agreed deadlines set for 2014 and 2015, it is important to build consensus as early as possible on key issues in order to allow Parties to consider their mitigation contributions under the 2015 agreement. These issues include the following:

- (a) The primacy of the Convention;
- (b) The imperative of facilitating universal participation;
- (c) The importance of recognising national circumstances of Parties, in particular the circumstances of developing country Parties;
- (d) The need for clarity on the ground rules in order to allow Parties to consider their mitigation contributions to the global effort.