

February 28, 2012

Views on the Durban work plan on ambition

Submission of the United States of America

- As part of the agreement to launch the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, Parties agreed to launch a work plan on enhancing mitigation ambition. The purpose of such a work plan should be to gain a shared understanding of the potential of various global, regional and national options for enhancing mitigation action. Additionally, opportunities to facilitate cooperation among Parties to make the most of the potential identified through the work plan could be addressed.
- To achieve the most ambitious mitigation potential, activities under the Convention and complementary actions outside the Convention should be assessed for mitigation opportunities.
- Although the work plan should seek to encourage all Parties to enhance their mitigation efforts to the greatest extent possible, the work plan should also respect the integrity of Parties' nationally derived targets and actions and limitations inherent in taking economically sound mitigation policies at a national level.
- The following is a list of potential options that a work plan on ambition could assess:
 - Encourage those Parties that have not yet done so to formulate and list mitigation pledges;
 - Consider how initiatives, programs and activities outside of the Convention can support the objectives of the Convention and deliver scaled-up emission reductions, for example, by:
 - addressing HFC emissions (for example, through expanded opportunities under the Montreal Protocol (including an amendment to the Montreal Protocol));
 - addressing aviation and maritime emissions under ICAO and IMO, respectively; and
 - removing subsidies for fossil fuels.
 - Consider how coalitions of interested Parties under the Convention might increase their ambition through partnership among Parties or groups of Parties with similar emissions-profiles, mitigation opportunities, or interests, in accordance with Article 7.2(c) of the Convention;
 - Consider how the improvement of enabling environments and institutional structures, including reducing regulatory and policy risks and supporting sound fiduciary practices, can mobilize private sector investment in clean technology and further enhance mitigation efforts;
 - Consider opportunities to leverage future mitigation action, including through research and development (R&D), long-term planning and strategies for low emission growth, among others.
- In terms of where the work plan should be developed and carried out, although it could be argued that the ambition work plan is distinct from the negotiation of the new protocol/legal instrument/agreed outcome with legal force (at least in terms of its focus on an earlier timeframe), it nevertheless appears that the appropriate forum for the work plan is the new AWG-DPEA. At the same time, the work plan on ambition, in order not to conflict with or detract from discussion on commitments from 2020, should not run in parallel but could instead be held as a full-day stand-alone session at the first meeting in May.
- The session on the ambition work plan should be conducted as a forum for sharing ideas among Parties as well as observers. The session could include presentations, including reports from Parties and coalitions of Parties that are participating in efforts to scale up ambition, whether through activities under the Convention or those that fall outside the Convention.