

## Submission by Saudi Arabia

### *Sectoral Approaches for Enhancing Mitigation Activities*

Saudi Arabia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on enhanced action on mitigation, cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, in order to enhance the implementation of the Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the convention, (SBSTA).

Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector specific actions for enhancing implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the convention is an overarching initiative that touches all aspects of lives of all Parties, especially developing countries. It should be noted that the spirit of Article 4 paragraph 1(c) addresses the promotion and cooperation in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control reduce or prevent emissions. Thus the discussions should focus on how cooperative sectoral approaches can enhance technology transfer to developing countries.

Moreover, this cooperation aims primarily at addressing the objective of the convention, among other set of elements that are included in the Bali Action Plan, namely adaptation, finance, capacity building, and technology transfer. Therefore, sectoral approaches must be addressed under the guiding principles of the convention, which need to be clearly stated in a framework, considering the significant and direct impact it will have on developing countries, more so the potential detrimental impact on sustainable development, poverty eradication, and adaptation in general.

The agricultural Sector approach for reducing anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases, as stated in Article 4, paragraph 1(c), is inherently sensitive due to its direct impact on the sustainable development of most developing countries. Issues related to security of food and free trade of food and agricultural products are considered to be the most important to all developing countries, especially those who have severe scarcity of water supply and agricultural lands. Countries that are heavily dependent on import of food products to meet their domestic requirements are the most vulnerable to any policies that could create shortages or distortion to food markets. Therefore, cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in the agriculture sector should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade or used to gain competitiveness on agriculture trade.

Moreover, agriculture sector approach should not limit the ability of developing country Parties to pursue economic and social development and poverty eradication, hence, it is essential that cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in the agriculture sector are undertaken in a manner that is supportive of an open international economic system with specific focus on reducing the GHG emissions.

As such, Saudi Arabia looks forward to engaging in the intended discussions under SBSTA along with other Parties with the aim of addressing agricultural sector approach on the basis of the aforementioned. In this respect, after establishing the governing principles for agricultural sector approach, adequate exchange of views and knowledge sharing with other relevant international bodies, such as the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), IFAD

(International Fund for Agriculture Development) and WFP (World Food Programme) can be helpful to better identify the possibilities and opportunities for using agricultural sector to combat climate change.