

Elements paper. Norway and Australia

Mitigation outcome, Durban and beyond

The mitigation outcome in Durban should be the starting point for anchoring mitigation pledges more firmly (eventually in a legally-binding way) and stepping up ambition on mitigation to achieve the 2 degree or lower target. As a first step, towards this outcome, it is important to have clarity on what the mitigation effort currently envisaged means in terms of emission reductions.

Developed country Parties have submitted their economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020. These targets need to be further clarified and developed into quantified emission reduction outcomes with clarity on accounting for this outcome. This process could begin at Durban and conclude in 2013/14 after the first biennial report. It would be a step towards increasing ambition over time, firstly through the 2013-2015 review process.

Non-Annex I Parties have submitted pledges for nationally appropriate mitigation actions by 2020. As a first step, there is a need for more complete and consistent information about these pledges, in order to estimate the expected emission reduction outcome. It would underpin options to enhance implementation and increase ambition over time. The pledges put forward by non-Annex I Parties vary in nature. A more systematic and standardized description is possible, based on the main types of mitigation pledge (although care would have to be taken not to close off mitigation actions that fell outside these types). This process could begin at Durban and conclude after the first biennial report in 2013/14.

This approach would help move Parties towards a legally-binding outcome over time, where developed country Parties committed to the outcome of their mitigation target and developing country Parties committed to implement actions. It would provide a clear and robust framework for mitigation efforts in the meantime.

This paper outlines the steps that should be taken for building a solid climate agreement on mitigation, starting with the Durban outcome.

AIMS

1. Have clear, complete and standardized information on all pledges for mitigation actions and targets by Durban
2. Establish international guidelines and rules for accounting of quantified emission reduction targets and actions.
3. Quantify emission outcomes by 2013-2014, based on additional information in the first biennial reports:
 - a. Quantified emissions outcomes for developed countries
 - b. Estimated emission outcomes for developing countries
4. Set out legally-binding commitments in relation to emission reduction outcomes for developed country Parties and implementation of mitigation actions by developing country Parties in 2015
5. Begin a process for scaling up the mitigation ambitions in context of the 2013-2015 review.

TIMEFRAME

Process up to Durban and outcomes in Durban

1. Invite further submissions of information related to mitigation targets and actions in INF. documents. Information should be related to the type of mitigation pledge put forward, and would cover:
 - Actual mitigation pledge
 - Base year or reference year, baseline if relevant
 - Sectors and gases included
 - GWP values
 - Use of LULUCF and flexible mechanisms
 - Averaging or commitment period.
 - Other relevant information and assumptions, e.g. GDP trajectory for intensity targets

It would be preferable to have submission of information in standardized format as much as practicable. For developed country Parties, it would be mandatory to include all gases and sectors, whether LULUCF is included and in what way.

2. Decision in Durban that reflects mitigation actions or targets in updated INF document or other format, with new information included.
3. Adoption of guidelines for first biennial reports.
4. Develop principles, guidelines and rules for accounting towards targets and actions, drawing upon the rules of the Kyoto Protocol.
5. Guidelines for ICA and IAR.
6. Decision to negotiate a new treaty under the Convention

2012

7. Develop modalities of process where the accounting approaches are subject to a process of international scrutiny.

2013-2015

8. Submission of first biennial report.
 - Developed country Parties include relevant accounting information.
 - Developing country Parties include new or additional information on mitigation pledges, and include information accounting, where appropriate.
9. Based on information in first biennial reports, calculate:
 1. Quantified emissions outcomes for developed country Parties
 2. Estimated emission reductions for developing country Parties.

REVIEW

10. Take into account the information on emission reduction estimated from biennial reports
11. Scaling up process for increasing ambition
12. Embed mitigation efforts in a new legally binding Protocol for all Parties