



High-level Ministerial Round Table on Increased Ambition of Kyoto Protocol Commitments

Thursday, 5 June 2014, Bonn, Germany

INFORMATION NOTE¹

Background

Under the Kyoto Protocol, many Parties included in Annex I (Annex I Parties) have taken on legally binding quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments. The first commitment period under the Protocol started in 2008 and ended in 2012 and included binding targets for Annex I Parties with a view to reducing their overall greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 per cent below the 1990 levels.

In Doha, Qatar, on 8 December 2012, the CMP² adopted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which stipulates changes to the Protocol for the second commitment period – from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020. For this second commitment period the Protocol sets out targets for Annex I Parties that took on commitments, which aim to reduce overall emissions by at least 18 per cent below the 1990 levels. As at 30 April 2014, the Doha Amendment had been ratified by nine Parties. It is important that the ratification process advance rapidly in order to expedite the entry into force of the Amendment.

Cognizant of the need to increase the level of mitigation ambition, the CMP in Doha requested each Annex I Party taking on commitments in the second commitment period to submit information³ on its intention to increase the ambition of its commitment by 30 April 2014, and for this information to be considered at a high-level ministerial round table to be held during the first sessional period in 2014.⁴

Objectives

The high-level ministerial round table to be held on 5 June 2014 in Bonn, Germany, provides an opportunity for ministers to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the second commitment period and to discuss how to increase the ambition of emission reductions for that period. It may also be useful to discuss how lessons learned in implementing the Protocol can positively influence the level of mitigation ambition, including for the negotiations under the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

Key issues

Urgency of action. The working group contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), now available, emphasize the need for urgent action and confirm that anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise to unprecedented levels, highlighting the inadequacy of current efforts to reduce emissions.

Substantial reductions of greenhouse gases are needed to limit the global temperature increase to below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. This target was adopted by the international community based on the threshold for avoiding dangerous climate change identified in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. Findings from the AR5 working group on mitigation indicate that global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 40 to 70 per cent compared with 2010 levels⁵ by 2050 if the 2 °C target is to be met. Without additional mitigation effort, emissions will continue to rise owing to the growth in the global economy and population. Projections indicate that this can lead to temperature increases by 2100 of between 3.7 and 4.8 °C – well beyond the 2 °C target.

Increasing the level of ambition. The call for increasing global ambition for mitigation action and boosting the global mitigation effort, including by strengthening the mitigation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, is underpinned by science. The implementation of the Protocol's first commitment

¹ Issued on behalf of the President of COP 19 and CMP 9.

² The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

³ The information submitted can be found at

<http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_parties/items/7967.php>.

⁴ Decision 1/CMP.8, paragraphs 9 and 10.

⁵ Global emissions in 2010 were 31 per cent above 1990 levels.

period has resulted in substantial reductions of emissions. For example, total greenhouse gas emissions of Annex B Parties⁶ from sources listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol were 22.3 per cent lower in 2011 than in the base year defined under the Protocol.⁷ Most of these reductions were achieved in countries with economies in transition at a high economic and social cost. It can also be observed that after 2009, emissions in some Annex B Parties increased once the recovery from the economic crisis of 2008-2009 set in.⁸

At the time of the adoption of the Doha Amendment, some Annex I Parties indicated that under certain conditions they could move to a greater emission reduction commitment. Exploring whether conditions for strengthened commitments can be met and identifying policies and measures that can harness untapped mitigation potential can help to stimulate an increase in the global mitigation ambition.

Guiding questions

While the focus of the discussion is on increasing the ambition for mitigation of Annex I Parties with commitments under the Protocol, all Parties will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Annex I Parties that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will be initially invited to highlight their efforts to increase their current commitment under the Protocol. Following that, contributions will be invited from all Parties on ways to increase the mitigation ambition based on lessons learned from the implementation of the Protocol.

The following questions are proposed to assist Parties in their preparations and help to focus the discussion:

First set of issues

- What is the status of implementation of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol? How can the ambition of mitigation commitments for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol be increased? What policies and measures have been deployed or are planned in this regard?
- What is the status of ratification of the Doha Amendment? How can the entry into force of the Amendment be expedited?

Second set of issues

- What lessons can be learned from the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in order to increase the level of mitigation ambition?
- Based on lessons learned, how can domestic mitigation action and mitigation through international market-based mechanisms be combined to best facilitate future reductions in global emissions?

Logistical information

The ministerial round table will be convened on Thursday, 5 June, in Plenary I of the Hotel Maritim and will be chaired by the COP 19/CMP 9 President, H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec (Poland) and the incoming COP 20/CMP 10 President, H.E. Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Peru).

The agenda for the round table is as follows:

11.30 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	Welcome and introduction
11.45 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Introductory presentation by the secretariat summarizing the submissions received and providing an update on the status of ratification
12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Ministerial interventions and discussion, initially inviting Annex I Parties that are Party to the Kyoto Protocol and subsequently opening the floor to all Parties
3.30 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.	Continuation of the discussion by ministers
5.45 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Wrap-up by the Co-chairs

Outcome

A report will be prepared by the secretariat for consideration at CMP 10, to be held in December in Lima, Peru.

⁶ Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol with commitments inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol.

⁷ FCCC/KP/CMP/2013/6, paragraph 18 and figure 1. 2012 emission data was received by 15 April 2014. The data are being analysed and a summary will be presented at the round table.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2013/19, figure 2 and paragraphs 14 and 15.