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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention**

**Fourth workshop**

**Vienna, 27–31 August 2007**

**Dialogue working paper 12 (2007)**

## **Submission from Canada \***

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**CANADA'S SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

**Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change By Enhancing Implementation of the Convention**

Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the Dialogue on Long-term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change by Enhancing Implementation of the Convention (Convention Dialogue) and the process moving forward to establish a future international agreement on climate change, as invited by the co-facilitators.

The risks associated with climate change are increasingly apparent throughout the world. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is significant economic potential for the mitigation of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the coming decades. However, even under the most optimistic mitigation scenarios atmospheric GHG concentrations will continue to rise before they stabilise. The adverse effects of climate change are therefore not entirely avoidable. This could have significant implications for water resources, ecosystems, agriculture, forests, coastal zones, societies and human health worldwide. There is therefore an urgent need for international cooperative action to mitigate GHG emissions and take action on adaptation to climate change.

The foundation for future international action on climate change within the UNFCCC was laid in Montreal with the establishment of two tracks: the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (AWG) and the Convention Dialogue. The valuable work of the AWG, including the analysis of Annex I Parties' mitigation potential, possible ranges of commitments and their contribution to the global effort needed to address climate change, is well underway. However, the outcomes of the AWG can only represent one possible component of a future framework, given that emissions from Parties with commitments in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol account for less than 30% of global GHG emissions.

The Convention Dialogue provides a useful venue to discuss further action by all Parties on climate change. Good progress has been made in sharing views and exchanging information. Contributions made to the workshops of the Convention Dialogue underscored the urgency with which we must address climate change and clearly highlighted the need for further international cooperative action on climate change.

In Canada's view, an effective and comprehensive global framework on climate change must include the following elements:

- Participation by all developed countries and major emitting developing countries;
- Reflection of national circumstances in the approaches taken to reduce GHG emissions;
- Further action on adaptation;
- Circumstances that support acceleration of the deployment of existing and new technologies for mitigation and adaptation;
- Consideration of emissions from deforestation in developing countries; and
- Least cost and market solutions compatible with sustainable economic growth.

Discussions in the Convention Dialogue workshops reinforced the importance of each of these elements in the design of an effective and comprehensive international response to climate change. Parties had promising discussions on adaptation, technology, market-based opportunities and sustainable development in a future international climate change agreement at the Convention Dialogue workshops. Canada is encouraged by the broad range of actions and ideas presented. Further consideration of how the ideas expressed could operate in practice is warranted, particularly how they could fit into an effective and comprehensive global framework.

With the conclusion of the Convention Dialogue in Bali, it will be important to put in place a process within which all Parties to the Convention can continue to discuss issues related to long-term cooperative action on climate change, and work to develop an effective and inclusive framework to address climate change. The process could take the form of a formal work programme, building on existing structures within the UNFCCC process, with the explicit aim of developing a broad and comprehensive framework. Regardless of the precise nature of the process, it must provide a road map for the development of a new global agreement. COP13 in Bali should establish this road map.

In Canada's view, all relevant input at our disposal should be considered in the development of a future agreement. This includes consideration of the work of the AWG, the Second Review of the Kyoto Protocol under Article 9, the work pursuant to the Russian proposal on voluntary commitments under the Protocol and the Convention, as well as outcomes of outside processes such as the U.S. Major Economies Initiative, those arising from the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development and the G8 process itself. As an example, G8 countries recently committed to work under the Major Economies Initiative towards setting a global long-term goal for emissions reductions and agreed it vital that major economies agree on a detailed contribution to a new global framework by 2008, which would feed into a new global agreement under the UNFCCC by 2009.

It is important that we build upon the momentum generated by the Convention Dialogue and other processes. Canada hopes to see the ideas expressed above reflected in the co-facilitators' report on the Convention Dialogue to COP13, which in our view will be instructive for the development of a new effective global framework to address climate change under the UNFCCC. Canada looks forward to working constructively with other Parties in Bali toward that end.

Ottawa, Canada  
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