

Decision -/CMP.7

Greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories, common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and other methodological issues

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,

Recalling Article 3, paragraph 9, and Articles 5, 7, 8, 20 and 21 of the Kyoto Protocol,

Also recalling decisions 1/CMP.1, 1/CMP.5 and 1/CMP.6,

Having considered proposals made by Parties relating to greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories, common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and other methodological issues,

Taking into account proposals made by Parties for elements of the draft decisions contained in the annex to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol at its tenth session,

A. Greenhouse gases¹

1. *Decides* that, for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, actual emissions of the species of hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons listed in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,² and of sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride, should be estimated where data or methodologies are available to Parties and reported, and included in the coverage of the quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments for that period;
2. *Recognizes* that there are other new greenhouse gases with high GWPs listed in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that are not yet produced in significant quantities but which should be further monitored to identify whether it is necessary to address them as part of mitigation commitments;
3. *Encourages* Parties in a position to do so to report the emissions of such gases in their greenhouse gases inventories;
4. *Agrees* that in deciding whether to add additional greenhouse gases to those listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol, the following considerations would be relevant:

¹ Some of the paragraphs in this section may require a corresponding amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

² The list of gases and species of gases in table 2.14 of the Errata to the contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

(a) The current contribution and projections of future contributions to global warming of anthropogenic sources of a gas, expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent;

(b) Practical considerations regarding the availability of data or agreed estimation methodologies, and additional resource needs for data collection and development of common methodologies;

(c) Potential for, or early recognition of trends in, substitution of greenhouse gases already listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol;

B. Common metrics

5. *Decides* that, for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the global warming potentials used by Parties to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol shall be those listed in the column entitled “Global Warming Potential for Given Time Horizon” in table 2.14 of the Errata to the contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, based on the effects of greenhouse gases over a 100-year time horizon, taking into account the inherent and complicated uncertainties involved in global warming potential estimates;

6. *Notes* that alternative common metrics and the shortcomings in the use of GWPs are still being assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the context of its work on the Fifth Assessment Report;

7. *Notes* that GWP is a well-defined metric based on radiative forcing that continues to be useful in a multi-gas approach; however, the GWP was not designed with a particular policy goal in mind and, depending on the specific policy goals, alternative metrics may be preferable;

8. *Notes* the limitations in the use of GWP based on the 100-year time horizon in evaluating the contribution to climate change of emissions of greenhouse gases with short lifetimes;

9. *Notes* with appreciation the request of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice that the secretariat organize, subject to the availability of resources, a workshop on common metrics to be held in the first half of 2012;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to conduct an assessment, based on the work of, inter alia, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, of the implications of the choice of metrics used to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of the greenhouse gases listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol for the third or subsequent commitment periods;

11. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to initiate such an assessment no later than 2015 and to present to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol its recommendations on the most appropriate metric and related values to be used by Parties with a view to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopting a decision on the metric and related values;

12. *Decides* that any decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to change the metric or revise the values used by Parties to calculate carbon dioxide equivalence shall apply only to commitments under

Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol in respect of any commitment period adopted subsequent to that change or revision;

13. *Encourages* Parties to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and any related legal instruments to strive for a consistent approach in relation to the metric and related values used by Parties to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases;

C. Application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

14. *Acknowledges* that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its thirtieth session, agreed to launch a work programme in 2010 to revise the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines) and to address the methodological issues related to reporting when using the *2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*), with a view to recommending a draft decision on revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, for regular use starting in 2015, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Decides* that, starting with the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the methodologies for estimating anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol for the greenhouse gases and sectors/source categories listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol shall be consistent with the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* as implemented through the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, to be adopted through the process referred to in paragraph 14 above;

16. *Also decides* that for the estimation and accounting of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol shall agree on supplementary methodologies, referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 of decision -/CMP.7, at its tenth session at the latest, which shall be based on, inter alia, chapter 4 of the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*;

17. *Further decides* that the time series of emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases, including base year emissions, shall be recalculated for the second commitment period.