



UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Fact sheet: The UN Climate Change Talks Bonn, 2009

Background information

The UN Climate Change Talks Bonn, 2009 (29 March to 8 April) constitute the first in a series of four to five major UN negotiating sessions this year, designed to culminate in an ambitious and effective international climate change deal in Copenhagen in December.

The first round of talks will be attended by more than 2000 participants, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions.

The talks comprise the 5th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 5) and the 7th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP).

Parties meeting under the Convention in Bonn will discuss a key document that describes areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals from Parties, explores options for dealing with areas of divergence, and identifies any gaps that need to be filled in reaching an effective and ambitious climate change deal in Copenhagen in December. This document can serve as a basis for the negotiating text of the Copenhagen agreed outcome, to be tabled at the next round of UN Climate Change Talks in Bonn in June.

Discussions under the Kyoto Protocol during the March/April Bonn session on emissions reductions to be achieved by industrialised countries after 2012 will be a further key issue at the first Bonn session in 2009. In addition, discussions will take place on how to improve emissions trading, the Kyoto Protocol's so-called "project-based mechanisms" and on options for the treatment of and use, land-use change and forestry.

Work under the AWG-KP in Bonn

At the UN Climate Change Conference 2008 in Poznań, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) considered all the elements of its work programme and agreed on its activities for 2009.

The group agreed that further commitments for Annex I (industrialised) Parties under the Kyoto Protocol should, for the next commitment period (post-2012) principally take the form of quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs). The AWG-KP took note of the pledges for emission reduction targets made by some Parties and invited other Annex I Parties to submit information on their possible QELROs before the first Bonn session.

On potential environmental, economic and social consequences of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties, the AWG-KP agreed that work on this issue should be guided and informed by the best available scientific, social, environmental and economic information, and be based on evidence of actual impacts and consequences. It was acknowledged that tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to industrialised countries could have potential consequences for all Parties, and that attention should be given to the negative consequences for developing countries.

The issues under discussion at AWG-KP at its first session in 2009 in Bonn:

- Scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I (industrialised) Parties in aggregate
- The contribution of Annex I Parties, individually or jointly, to the scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties in aggregate
- Duration of the commitment period(s)
- How QERLOS could be expressed
- Mitigation potential of Annex I Parties
- Improvements to emissions trading and the project based mechanisms
- The definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines for the treatment of LULUCF in the second commitment period
- The coverage of greenhouse gases (GHGs), sectors and source categories
- Common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalent of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks
- Legal matters arising from its mandate pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol
- Potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties
- Possible approaches targeting sectoral emissions
- How approaches to limit or reduce emissions of GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol from aviation and marine bunker fuels could be used by Annex I Parties as a means to reach their emission reduction targets
- Emissions of GHGs from aviation and marine bunker fuels
- Analysis of efforts and achievements to date, including during the first commitment period

Work under the AWG-LCA at the Bonn Talks

The AWG-LCA will have before it a document prepared to further focus the negotiating process on the fulfilment of the Bali Action Plan and on the components of the agreed outcome to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session, describing areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals of Parties, exploring options for dealing with areas of divergence and identifying any gaps that might need to be filled in reaching an agreed outcome.

Three mitigation-related workshops will take place as part of Bonn March/April session. The topics will be:

1. Subparagraphs 1 (b) (i) and 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan
2. Economic and social consequences of response measures (para. 1 (b) (vi) of the Bali Action Plan
3. Opportunities and challenges for mitigation in the agricultural sector

The workshop on subparagraphs 1(b) (i) and 1(b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13) will focus on measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, and taking into account differences in their national circumstances. It will equally look at nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

All three workshops will be Party-driven, meaning that substantive discussions will rely primarily on inputs from Parties.