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A compilation of questions to - and answers by – Portugal
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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Question from: United States of America at Tuesday, 28 October 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Double counting prevention

How do you plan to prevent double counting with the host countries of projects that generated CERs that your country plans to use towards meeting its pledge in the pre-2020 period?

If a host country refuses to adjust its reporting towards its progress to its targets to reflect CERs it exported, do you still plan to count them?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

Net international transfers from market based mechanisms should be appropriately deducted from or added to a pledge. That is, when a Party acquires mitigation outcomes from another Party to meet its commitments, these should be credited to the acquiring Party (additions) and debited from the originating Party (subtractions). In this way, the integrity of the pledge is maintained. Allowing for such additions and subtractions while respecting agreed standards is the fundamental purpose of an accounting system for flexible mechanisms.

Parties agreed on exactly such a system under the Kyoto protocol which provides a robust accounting framework for market based mechanisms including the generation and use of CERs. The PT will follow these rules from 2008 until the end of the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period in 2020. This means that all PT accounting towards UNFCCC commitments is underpinned by transparently measured, reported and reviewed emissions and supplementary information on transactions. The measurement, reporting, review, recording and tracking of this information is in accordance with UNFCCC agreed rules undertaken in UNFCCC certified registry systems.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Lack of quantification

Please, provide the reasons for the lack of quantified reduction of emissions regarding many planned actions that have been reported in Table 3 under the CTF.

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

Some of the policies and measures still in place and reported have been identified as early as 2004. Assessment of the quantified effect of such policies is in some cases not provided. Ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of policies, including quantification of

impact in terms of emission reductions has been in some cases introduced in our most recent policy developments and we will continue to work towards this aim.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Target and AR4

The national target was set using the IPCC AR2. Portugal is going to promote a new account regarding the target with a view to be consistent with the IPCC AR4 from 2015?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

From 2015 onwards Portugal will report its inventories using 2006 IPCC guidelines. From this moment on targets will be accounted and assessed against that background. Commission Execution Decision 2013/64/EU on effort sharing provides the basis for the shift from IPCC 1996 to IPCC 2006 Guidelines which will be applied from 2015. The national targets to be applied using IPCC2006 Guidelines are already established in Annex II of that Decision.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Expanding target from 20% to 30%

At COP-15, Portugal as a member of the EU placed a number of conditions to expand the target from 20% to 30%. In the biennial report there is not an explanation why or if such conditions have been fulfilled by the country.

Please, explain the reasons for keeping 20% as the target.

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

The EU and its Member States reiterated their conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990, as part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 and provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that more advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. The offers remain on the table.

Question from: Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures

Portugal has provided information on the assessment of the social and economic impacts of response measures in its NIR, but it did not do so in the BR; Could Portugal provide information if it encountered specific difficulty in reporting? Will Portugal provide information in its next BR?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

The information to be reported in the context of the BR would be the same as the one presented in the NIR. The issue was identified and resolved in the review process. Portugal will ensure full compatibility on this issue in the coming BR submissions.

Question from: Egypt at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Technology transfer

how can we build sustained technology transfer bridge to adopt MRVs system and GHG inventory between annex 1 and non annex 1 countries ?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

Constant sharing of good practices and capacity building between Annex I and non-Annex I Parties has happened during the past 20 years in the framework of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and also outside this framework. Some examples of capacity building in the framework of the UNFCCC would be the Consultative Group of Experts and also the knowledge sharing during the expert reviews of inventories under the Kyoto Protocol. The newly agreed International Consultation and Analysis is also expected to enhance the knowledge sharing between Annex I and non-Annex I Parties.

A solid MRV system is also about the institutional arrangements with other agencies and ministries which collect data in order to ensure that the information needed for the inventory purposes is available. For tracking progress with the actions, depending on the scale of the action (sectoral or cross sectors), more institutions can be involved but a coordinating entity would be needed.

A reliable MRV system is more about the technical expertise of the persons involved and less about the technologies to be used. In this sense, a relatively simple IT tool would be enough to manage and process the data needed for the compilation of

inventories or for tracking progress with relevant national mitigation actions implemented. The IT tools for GHG inventories developed by the UNFCCC secretariat can also support the compilation of inventory information.

Question from: Egypt at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: GHG inventory assumption

what are the normal assumptions in transport and agricultural sector related to GHG inventory related to ipcc 1996 guidelines or 2006 guidelines ?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

The information regarding all assumptions related to Transports can be found on Portuguese NIR 2014 in Chapter 3 – Energy 3.3.3; Transport (Pag. 3 -101); Civil Aviation (Pag. 3-101 - 3-122); Road Transportation (Pag. 3-123 – 3-142); Railways (Pag. 3-142 – 3-144); Water Borne Navigation (Pag. 3-144 – 3-154). For Agriculture it can be found in Chapter 6 – AGRICULTURE; Sub Chapter 6.1 – Overview (Figure 6.5); Sub chapter 6.3 – Source Categories (Table 6 -21; Table 6.40). All assumptions were related to IPCC 1996 guidelines, since IPCC 2006 will be applied from 2015 on in our national Inventory.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: LULUCF

Portugal has included LULUCF sector in its base year and target, which is different from the EU. Can Portugal provide further information on this issue?

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

There is indeed a difference in sectoral coverage between the European Union's internal climate mitigation targets (which exclude LULUCF) and the targets assumed at international level under the Kyoto Protocol (which include LULUCF).

All Member States are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and, as such, are bound by Decision 2/CMP.7, which makes LULUCF 3.3 ARD and 3.4 FM activities mandatory for accounting under the 2nd Commitment Period. In addition, the same decision stipulates that if there were elected activities in the 1st Commitment Period they should remain elected in the 2nd Commitment Period. As a consequence of that decision, and for the purpose of KP accounting, Portugal will account for activities under article 3.3 ARD and activities under article 3.4 FM, CM and GM.

The EU decided to leave Member States to develop and implement LULUCF mitigation policies and not to cover this sector under the 2009 Climate and Energy package.

LULUCF is part of the joint binding commitment of the EU, its Member States and Iceland under the second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol. The EU and its Member States apply all the relevant rules related to LULUCF under the Kyoto Protocol.

Furthermore, the EU adopted EU legislation in 2013 related to the accounting rules on emissions and removals on LULUCF.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: clarification on national target

As an EU member, Portugal has not pledged a national mitigation target under the UNFCCC. According to the TRR, for sectors not covered by the EU-ETS, the emission limitation target is 1% increase compared to 2005. However, it is not clear how much effort Portugal is going to make on sectors covered by and not covered by the EU-ETS, or the efforts as a whole, compared with its base year level. Additional information is needed in order to make its effort transparent.

Answered by: Portugal at Thursday, 27 November 2014

For the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, the EU, its 28 Member States and Iceland have inscribed a commitment of reducing average annual emissions by 20 % during the 2013-2020 period, as compared to base year, to be fulfilled jointly.

The 2009 'Climate and Energy package' provides an integrated package of policies and measures to implement the international obligations of the EU and its Member States under the Kyoto's second commitment period. The Climate and Energy Package sets a 20% GHG emission reduction target for EU-28 by 2020 compared to 1990. This effort is divided between EU ETS and non-ETS sectors as follows:

- a) A 21% reduction in EU ETS sector emissions by 2020 compared to 2005: the EU ETS Directive provides an EU-wide cap: the EU ETS is a market based mechanism setting a EU-wide cap on the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by operators. As a result, emissions cannot exceed this cap.
- b) A reduction of around 10% by 2020 compared to 2005 for the sectors that are not covered by the EU ETS.

In the EU as a whole, in 2013, total verified emissions under the EU ETS were 182 Mt CO₂ eq below the cap for that year. Verified 2013 emissions decreased by 4 % compared to verified emissions in the year 2012. Compared to 2005 verified emissions (scope-corrected), the reduction achieved in 2013 was about 19 %.

For the non ETS sector, EU legislation (the Effort Sharing Decision) sets for each Member State binding annual emissions allocations from 2013 to 2020. The emissions reduction target for Portugal in 2020 is [+1%]. According to the latest projections an in the context of the Green Growth Compromise that is currently under public consultation, Government has proposed that the national emissions for 2020 would be in the range of 68-72 Mt in 2020 which would represent around 18% to 22% below 2005 levels. For the non-ETS sectors this would represent around 10%-15% below the 2005 levels. For the ETS sectors this would represent around 30-35% below the 2005 levels.