

Submission by China on 2013-2015 Review

30th May, 2015/5/30

China is pleased to make this submission in response to the invitation by the SBSTA and the SBI in their conclusions of SB41, and to express our views on the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention and the overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, as well as information gaps relevant to the 2013–2015 review.

China recognized the importance of the Review process, and welcomed the work done under the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) and the final factual report that includes a compilation and a technical summary of the summary reports on the meetings of the SED prepared by the co-facilitators of the SED, with the assistance of the secretariat. This factual report, together with the submissions from Parties shall be further considered in SBSTA 42 and SBI 42 with a view to complete the work of 2013-2015 review.

(1) Views on the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention

China is mindful of the scientific information delivered through the SEDs that “Assessing the adequacy of the LTGG implies risk assessments and value judgments.” and “The science on the 1.5 °C warming limit is less robust than for the 2 °C warming limit or warming beyond this limit. Consequently, assessing the differences between the future impacts of climate risks for 1.5 °C and 2 °C of warming remains challenging.” In the meantime, the evidences presented to the SEDs confirmed that “keeping the global temperature increase below 2°C relative to pre-industrial temperatures is consistent with the objective of the Convention expressed in its Article 2”. In this regards, China would like to reiterate the importance to retain the 2°C goal as the LTGG while continuing the considerations on strengthening the long-term global goal to 1.5 °C in a periodic way as more scientific findings may likely to become available in the future.

(2) Views on the overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal

China is aware of that evidences to the SED from the IPCC showed that:

- ✓ “The availability of key technologies and improvements in the cost and performance of these technologies will have important implications for the challenge of achieving concentration goals...Limited availability of technologies can increase the difficulty and narrow the options for limiting warming to 2°C and greatly increase mitigation cost.”——Since in a real world, most of the low carbon technologies are not yet available for developing countries. Developing

countries are facing barriers on development, deployment, and transfer of climate sound technologies, which imply the need for technology cooperation and transfer.

- ✓ “Without transfers across regions, cost effectively allocating emissions across countries would yield an uneven distribution of mitigation costs. Scenarios indicate this would lead to higher relative costs in developing economies as well as to many fuel exporters. ”——Thus, financial support from developed countries to developing countries is critical to ameliorate this asymmetry.

China also learned from the SEDs that more coherent support for the development, diffusion, and transfer of climate-related technologies and climate-relevant capacity building under the Convention as well as more financial support for developing countries are key to enhance progress towards achieving the Long Term Global Goal. Although some progress has already been made by UNFCCC bodies in scaling up financial, technology and capacity building support, significant gaps still exist both in scale and speed of such progress.

(3) View on information gaps relevant to the 2013–2015 review

China recognize that a balanced consideration of inputs between two themes as defined in paragraph 79, decision 1/CP.18 and among six elements of 2015 agreement (including mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance, capacity building and transparency), to the Review is of great importance and should be maintained throughout the whole process of the 2013-15 review.

China also notice that information gaps exist with respect to both themes of review, especially the ones related to the adequacy of mitigation efforts of AI countries and adequacy of financial, technology transfer and capacity building support from developed countries. Such information gaps shall be addressed by additional inputs and studies, especially from non-IPCC sources and national sources.

(4) Final Thoughts on concluding the work of the 2013-2015 review

Decision 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 1/CP.18 provide clear mandate for 2013-2015 Review. The purpose of the review is to allow the COP, through the subsidiary bodies, assisted by the SED, to address the two themes.

Paragraph 166, decision 2/CP.17 requested the subsidiary bodies “to report on their considerations and findings to the Conference of the Parties, which should address those considerations and provide any further guidance, as appropriate.” Paragraph 139(c), decision 1/CP.16, states that “the Conference of the Parties shall take appropriate action based on the review.”

In light of the above, the preparation and finalization of final outcome of review shall be conducted in a party driven manner. The final factual summary of the SED should be reported to the JCG and be fully discussed and consulted within the JCG. And the final outcome of review shall be considered and endorsed by Parties before submitting to COP.

