2013-2015 Review

Submission on behalf of Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America

Views on the future work of the SED, including the further use of different sources of information

March 2014

This submission is written on behalf of Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America. This submission responds to the invitation from the SBSTA and the SBI at their 39th session to submit views on the future work of the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) to the 2013-2015 Review, including the further use of different sources of information.[1] This submission should be read alongside our submission containing views on how the Review will inform the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) which is being submitted concurrently.

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a key input for the Review[2], particularly given the role of the IPCC in providing a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of climate change science and the fact that the release of AR5 coincides with the 2013-2015 Review. Additional sources may be useful to assist the work of the Review if they are relevant to the mandated scope, and are scientifically and technically robust.

We would like to recall that the SED is mandated to ensure the scientific integrity of the Review, and should focus on considering the most relevant and robust scientific and fact-based information and literature. As such, the co-facilitators of the SED should ensure the content of the SED is focused solely on expert presentations, questions by Parties and follow-up dialogue based on expert-to-Party exchanges. We suggest the following guiding questions, themes and inputs could usefully assist the work of the SED in 2014 and 2015:

I Adequacy of the long-term global goal, in light of the ultimate objective of the Convention

Suggested Inquiries

1. Observed trends in extreme events and projected changes to those extremes under a 1.5°C, 2°C and higher warming scenarios, including regional experiences, responses and variability;
2. Observed and projected changes, including regional variability in: freshwater resources; terrestrial and inland water systems; oceans; polar systems; coastal systems and low-lying areas; urban areas; human health; energy resources and systems; and food production systems and food security under various warming scenarios;
3. Key climate-related vulnerabilities, risks, and benefits to natural and managed ecosystems (and their related services) and human settlements under various scenarios of future change.

Suggested Inputs

1. AR5 WGII
2. AR5 WGIII

[1] Document FCCC/SB/2013/L.1 paragrpah 9.
[2] Decision 1/CP.18 paragraph 82.

3. AR5 Synthesis Report (when it becomes available in Oct 2014)

II Overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention

Suggested Inquiries

1. What are the global trends in historical, current and future GHG emissions and ambient concentrations including mitigation pathways for meeting the long-term global goal?
2. What are the key drivers of trends and projections of global GHG emissions and subsequent radiative forcing – by sector, region and gas?
3. What are the existing commitments, actions and plans and their aggregate mitigation potential, and what is the uncertainty around the mitigation potential?
4. What are the sector-specific emissions trends, mitigation potentials, technologies and investment patterns (energy, AFOLU (agriculture, forestry and other land use), industry, transport, buildings)?
5. How can we maximize climate policy co-benefits and reduce adverse side effects?
6. What have been the most cost-effective and efficient low cost abatement opportunities to date?
7. Based on technology development trends, a) what are the low-cost abatement opportunities that can be pursued in the near term? b) What are currently the higher-cost opportunities that are not yet commercially viable but could hold significant abatement potential over the longer-term?
8. What policies and measures appear to be driving emissions reductions or show success/promise that should be emulated?
9. What role can be played by sub-national authorities (e.g. commercial sector, cities and states, etc.) in reaching the long-term global goal and creating enabling environments?
10. How can long-term policy effects, such as investments in innovation technologies, be evaluated?

Suggested Inputs

a. AR5 WGIII
b. AR5 Synthesis Report (when it becomes available in Oct 2014)
c. Biennial Reports and Biennial Update Reports (discussed together in June 2015)
d. National Communications from Parties
e. ADP Work Stream 2 technical paper "*Updated compilation of information on mitigation benefits of actions, initiatives and options to enhance ambition*."
f. Publications from other relevant international bodies (such as IRENA's *Global Renewable Energy Roadmap 2030 (REMAP2030)* and the International Energy Agency's *World Energy Outlook)*