

2013-2015 Review

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

Views on how the outcomes of the Review will inform the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

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 how the outcomes of the 2013-2015 Review (the Review) will inform the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).¹ This submission should be read alongside our submission containing views on the future work of the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED), including the further use of different sources of information, that is being submitted concurrently with this one.

The Review will periodically assess the adequacy of the long-term global goal, in light of the ultimate objective of the Convention, and overall progress made towards achieving the long-term global goal, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention.²

Decision 1/CP.17 requires the ADP process to be informed, inter alia, by the outcomes of the Review. We believe that sound evidence and science provide an important platform for collective action and the next steps under the UNFCCC.

In order for the Review to effectively and efficiently inform the ADP process we offer the following views:

- Under the ADP, work is underway to negotiate a new global climate change agreement that is applicable to all and durable, and can address the long-term challenge of climate change. The ADP is also exploring ways to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period. Given that the Review is tasked with assessing the adequacy of long-term global goal and the overall progress towards achieving it, it is well placed to inform both work streams of the ADP.
- The Review should be organized and conducted in a manner that remains relevant and useful to the work of the ADP. This means staying abreast and informed of progress under the ADP, ensuring the Review complements but does not duplicate work in other bodies and ensuring the Review is conducted in a timely manner.
- The Review has been informing the broader UNFCCC process since it began its work in 2013. Its outputs such as workshops, discussions with experts, summary reports, the co-facilitators' reports to the COP, are informing Parties as they prepare their contributions for the post-2020 period and consider pre-2020 ambition. These outputs are available for the ADP to consider at any time. Moreover, we view it as each Party's responsibility to be mindful of the work done by the Review, particularly as they engage in the ADP process.

¹ Document FCCC/SB/2013/L.1 paragraph 10.

² Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 79.

- The joint contact group of the Subsidiary Bodies runs in parallel to the work of the SED. The joint contact group provides the appropriate forum for policy discussions and is tasked with providing key milestones and timeframes for the SED, while being cautious not to micro manage its work. The SED is mandated to ensure the scientific integrity of the Review, and should focus on considering the most relevant and robust scientific information. 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. The SED therefore needs to focus on fact-based discussion whereas policy discussions are properly conducted under the joint contact group.
- We suggest the final output from the Review be comprised of a compilation of summary reports from workshops of the SED as prepared by its co-facilitators. This would ensure a comprehensive and accurate representation of all the discussions and findings.
- We believe the Review will be able to provide the ADP with useful and necessary information for its consideration of a new global climate change agreement that is applicable to all Parties, as well as on enhancing the level of ambition in the pre-2020 period.