Scenario note on the twelfth session

Note by the Chair

I. Introduction

1. By its decision 1/CMP.5, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) requested the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) to deliver the results of its work pursuant to decision 1/CMP.1 for adoption by the CMP at its sixth session.

2. At its eleventh session, the AWG-KP agreed\(^1\) to focus its work on the scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties in aggregate as well as on the contribution of Annex I Parties, individually or jointly, consistent with Article 4 of the Kyoto Protocol, to this scale. It also agreed to continue to work on other issues arising from the implementation of its work programme, as listed in paragraph 49 (c) of document FCCC/KP/2008/8.

3. The work of the AWG-KP has resulted in documentation to facilitate negotiations which includes draft decision texts on the various issues under consideration (see para. 10 below). These draft texts do not reflect consensus, as the AWG-KP still needs to agree on the wording of a number of paragraphs for which options have been identified. The main objective of the twelfth session of the AWG-KP will be to narrow down these options, with a view to carrying out more focused substantive work on the remaining issues.

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* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the short interval between the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

\(^1\) FCCC/KP/2010/3, paragraph 20.
II. Overview and organizational matters

A. Proposals for the organization of the session

4. The provisional agenda for the session2 contains one substantive item, namely item 3, “Consideration of further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol”. It is the expectation of the Chair that a simplified agenda will lead, in 2010, to consolidating work of the group on other issues into discussions on the scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties in aggregate and individually.

5. Arrangements for two plenary meetings have been made as follows:

   (a) An opening plenary, scheduled for Tuesday, 1 June, to open the session, adopt the agenda, agree on the organization of the work of the session and hear opening statements from groups of Parties and take up agenda item 3. Agenda item 2 (c) “Election of officers”, will also be taken up at this plenary; the Chair encourages regional groups to reach early agreement so that elections can take place at the opening plenary;

   (b) A closing plenary, scheduled for Friday, 11 June, at which the AWG-KP will adopt conclusions and its draft report on the session.

6. The Chair would like to remind Parties of the discussions at AWG-KP 11 on the possibility of moving into a single contact group at AWG-KP 12 to advance work on all substantive issues. Despite strong support for this option, not all Parties were prepared to agree to such an arrangement. The Chair would like to propose that, for the twelfth session, the AWG-KP establish contact groups to address those issues which still require time to advance work. This arrangement would proceed in accordance with the focus of work agreed at AWG-KP 11. The Chair would like to further propose that Parties consider the option of moving into a single contact group as of AWG-KP 13.

7. The Chair proposes that contact groups on the following issues be established, bearing in mind the agreement on the time allocated to each group at the resumed ninth session:

   (a) The scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties in aggregate as well as on the contribution of Annex I Parties to this scale;

   (b) Other matters.

8. The contact group referred to in paragraph 7 (a) above will be given priority with regard to time allocation. As agreed at the resumed ninth session, discussions on land use, land-use change and forestry will be held in parallel with the meetings of this group to the extent possible.

9. The Chair will consult with delegations on arrangements to finalize work on potential consequences (see para. 15 (c), below) and on the need for a contact group on legal matters.

B. Documents prepared for the session

10. At its eleventh session, the AWG-KP requested its Chair to prepare documentation to facilitate negotiations on the basis of the annex to the report of the AWG-KP on its tenth session, taking into consideration the work undertaken and decisions adopted by the CMP at its fifth session on the basis of the report of the AWG-KP on its tenth session.3 This documentation consists of:

   (a) A cover note which has been issued as document FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6;

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3 FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/3, paragraph 27 (a).
The following five addenda:

(i) Addendum 1 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.1) containing a draft decision text on proposed amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to its Article 3, paragraph 9;

(ii) Addendum 2 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.2) containing a draft decision text on land use, land-use change and forestry;

(iii) Addendum 3 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.3) containing a draft decision text on emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms;

(iv) Addendum 4 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.4) containing a draft decision text on greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories, common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and other methodological issues;

(v) Addendum 5 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.5) containing a draft decision text on consideration of information on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties.

11. Also at its eleventh session, the AWG-KP requested the secretariat to prepare:

(a) A paper compiling pledges for emission reductions and related assumptions provided by the Parties to date and the associated emission reductions; this document has been made available as document FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/INF.1;

(b) A technical paper laying out issues relating to the transformation of pledges for emission reductions into quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs); this document has been made available as document FCCC/TP/2010/2.

12. All contact groups referred to in paragraph 7 above should make use of the documentation to facilitate negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on all options within the draft texts and, if that is not possible, with a view to streamlining these options. The Chair would also like to request that the contact groups identify those options on which agreement has not been possible with a view to discussing how could they be considered in the future.

C. Proposals on the scheduling of issues

13. In 2008 and 2009, the AWG-KP made good progress in advancing its work on all issues under consideration. In many cases, work advanced to the point at which a political decision was required to decide between options. However, the draft decision texts contained in the documentation still present several areas where further work is required to clarify, identify and/or resolve the options available. The aim of the substantive work during the twelfth session should be to advance work on all issues to the point where no further substantive/technical work can be done until further political guidance is given. In other words, the Chair would like to propose that Parties come prepared to resolve as many issues as possible and to identify which options cannot be resolved in the context of individual contact groups.

14. The scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties (so-called numbers) will continue to be at the core of the work of the AWG-KP. The Chair understands that discussions on numbers is central to an agreement on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and that, eventually, all other issues would need to be addressed and resolved in relation to this issue.

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4 FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/3, paragraph 28 (a).
5 FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/3, paragraph 28 (b).
The Chair would like to remind delegations of the lack of progress in these discussions, resulting partly from linkages to other issues being considered by the AWG-KP. The Chair would like to propose that in order to move discussions forward, Parties turn their attention to specific matters relating to the aggregate and individual scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties. The contact group established to work on this issue should make use of the documents referred to in paragraph 11 above. In particular, time allocated during the twelfth session to this contact group could be devoted to:

(a) Narrowing down the options for the base year and the length of the commitment period as well as understanding the effect of choice between options;

(b) Discussing latest information on pledges for emission reductions, in particular how to raise the level of ambition of these pledges, and deciding on next steps;

(c) Advancing discussions on transforming pledges into QELROs with a view to identifying related options;

(d) Initiating discussions on efforts and achievements to date with a view to identifying options to deal with this issue.

15. Other issues arising from the implementation of the work programme, with due attention to improving the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol, will need to be resolved before the AWG-KP can take the final steps on agreeing on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. It is likely that several options relating to other issues would need to be considered and agreed together with the issue of numbers. Having this in mind, the Chair proposes the following for the consideration of other issues during the twelfth session of the AWG-KP:

(a) On land use, land-use change and forestry, the group could finalize the rules and modalities for accounting forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol and decide on the voluntary or compulsory nature of activities, including new ones, under Article 3, paragraph 4;

(b) On emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms, and methodological issues, it is the assessment of the Chair that the draft decision text on these issues is well developed, with well-defined options to represent the views of Parties. The Chair suggests that Parties reach agreement on as many of these issues as possible at this session and that consideration is given to whether unsolved issues would need to be taken up together with the discussion on numbers in a single contact group to be established as of AWG-KP 13;

(c) On potential consequences, the Chair notes that the group has reached agreement on most of the paragraphs within the draft text with the exception of one. The Chair will consult with Parties during the twelfth session on how to reach agreement on this remaining paragraph, including whether interested Parties could resolve this issue informally in the course of the session;

(d) The Chair would finally like to propose that any other issues should be considered at a later stage.

16. On a more general point, the Chair would like to bring to the attention of Parties the issue of capturing progress and consensus as negotiations progress. The Chair would like to propose that negotiations focus on the documentation and that, if agreed, progress be reflected in revisions to the documentation to facilitate negotiations. Negotiation of conclusions should proceed only to the extent necessary.