

# **Mitigation Actions and Measurement, Reporting and Verification in a Post-2012 Climate Agreement**

Elliot Diringer  
Vice President, International Strategies  
Pew Center on Global Climate Change  
at  
UNFCCC Media Workshop  
Bonn – April 7, 2009



- Mitigation and MRV under the Current Climate Regime
- Key Issues for Mitigation and MRV Going Forward
- Concluding Thoughts: Prospects for Copenhagen

# UNFCCC Mitigation Commitments

- Article 4.1
  - “All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities [etc.]...shall:
    - (b) Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national...programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change...”
- Article 4.2
  - Annex I parties “aim” to return emissions to 1990 levels by 2000
- Article 4.7
  - “The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments...will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments...related to financial resources and transfer of technology”

# Mitigation Under Kyoto Protocol

- Berlin Mandate (1995) launched new negotiations to establish binding emission targets for Annex I countries
  - Specified there were to be no new commitments for non-Annex I countries
- Kyoto Protocol negotiated in 1997 and entered into force in 2005
  - Sets binding targets for 37 Annex I countries ranging from -8% to +10% (average -5.2%) relative to 1990
  - United States not a party
  - Covers 2/3 of industrialized, 1/3 of global, emissions
  - If targets met, global emissions will be up 30% in 2012 (about 2% below business as usual)

- Annex I parties
  - Detailed annual GHG inventories reviewed by expert teams
  - Accounting system to track transactions of emission units (allowances, CDM credits, etc.)
  - National communications (4 so far), reviewed by expert teams, including sections on:
    - Mitigation policies and measures
    - Steps to implement financial and technology commitments
- Non-Annex I parties
  - National communications (including GHG inventories) are:
    - Less rigorous
    - Less frequent (most have submitted only one so far)
    - Not subject to review

# Post-2012 – Parallel Negotiating Tracks

## Kyoto Protocol

### AWG-KP

Ad Hoc Working Group/ Kyoto Protocol

- Negotiation of post-2012 commitments for countries with Kyoto targets (i.e., not United States)
- Launched in 2005 in Montreal
- No agreement yet on target range

## UNFCCC

### AWG-LCA

Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action

- 2007 Bali Action Plan calls for “agreed outcome” in 2009 on:
- “Shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal”
  - Developed country mitigation “commitments or actions”
  - Developing country mitigation “actions” supported by technology, finance, etc.
  - Adaptation
  - Mitigation and support are to be “measurable, reportable, and verifiable”

1(b) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of:

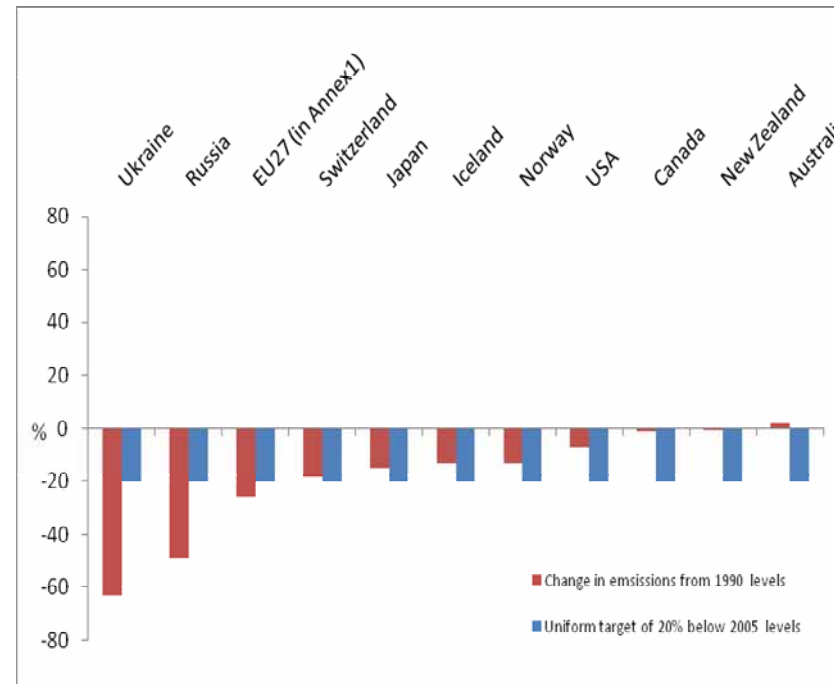
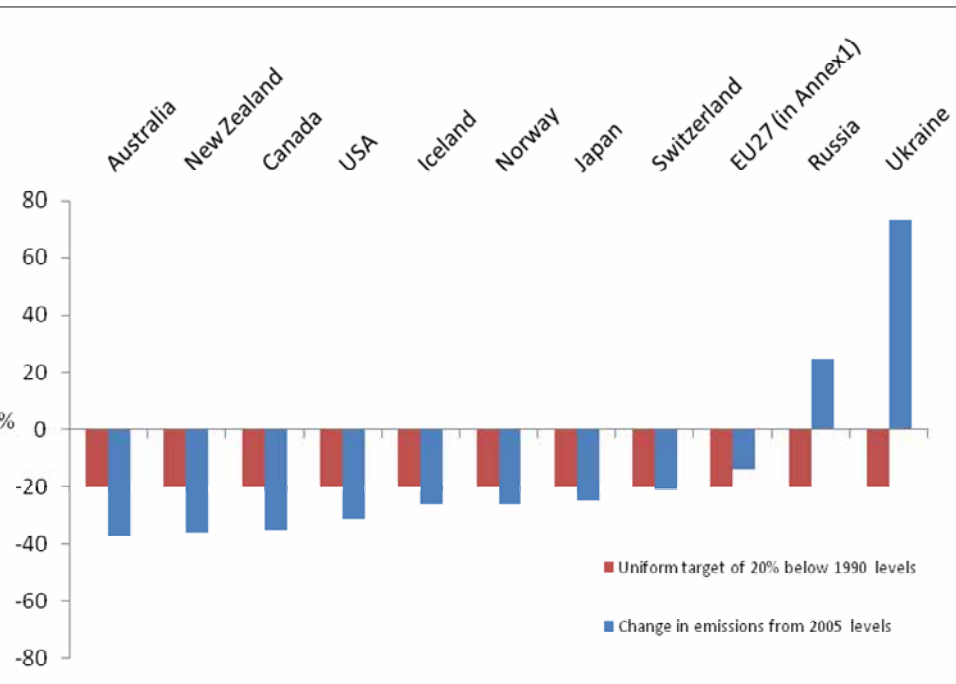
(i) **Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions**, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances;

(ii) **Nationally appropriate mitigation actions** by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, **supported and enabled** by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a **measurable, reportable and verifiable** manner;

- Comparability
  - Form of action/commitment
    - Under KP, aim is legally binding absolute emission reduction targets
    - Under LCA, Australia has proposed “schedules” listing parties’ commitments/actions, including targets
  - Level of effort
    - Host of factors bear on comparability, but bottom line for most countries will be cost/GDP
    - Base year may be critical
      - Example: Targets of 20% below 1990 for EU and 1990 for US both translate to approximately 14% below 2005



# Alternative Base Years



# Developing Country Mitigation

- China, India, Brazil, Mexico, S. Africa and others have or are developing national climate strategies
  - Wide range of actions: renewable energy and energy intensity targets, efficiency standards, forestry goals, etc.
- Central challenge: How to reflect these policies and actions in the international framework
  - Process – How are actions brought forward/recognized?
    - What is a registry and how would it work?
  - Support – How are sources/level of support determined?
  - Level/scope of effort – How much of a deviation from BAU? How much of economy covered? Key sectors?
  - Differentiation – If not explicit, how is it achieved?
  - Legal character – Are they “commitments”?

# MRV of Mitigation Efforts

- Developed countries
  - Existing system largely adequate for MRV of emission targets
- Developing countries
  - Reporting
    - More frequent/rigorous GHG inventories?
    - Periodic NAMA reports?
  - Verification
    - What's verified – action or outcome?
    - Done nationally or internationally?
    - Differentiated by type of action (unilateral vs. supported)?

- Will depend heavily on nature of financial and technology support
  - Will be simplest if funding is channeled through designated multilateral institutions
  - If bilateral support also continues to be recognized, will need common definitions of “climate-related” and “new and additional”

# Concluding Thoughts

- Copenhagen unlikely to produce final outcomes
  - Interim agreement on basic post-2012 architecture would be major progress:
    - Clearer definition of nature of actions/commitments
    - Agreement on fundamentals of support mechanisms
    - Basic terms of MRV
  - Also could include:
    - Target range for all developed countries
    - Firm indication of level of support to be provided
    - Launch of registry-type process to define developing country actions
  - Could set foundation for final agreement in 2010

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