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ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FURTHER COMMITMENTS
FOR ANNEX I PARTIES UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Sixth session

Accra, 21–27 August 2008, and Poznan, 1–10 December 2008

Agenda items 3 (c) and 4

**Analysis of means to reach emission reduction targets and identification
of ways to enhance their effectiveness and contribution to sustainable development
Greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories
Consideration of relevant methodological issues**

**Analysis of means to reach emission reduction targets, including information
on greenhouse gases, and consideration of relevant methodological issues**

Submission from a Party

1. This submission provides Australia's views on the coverage of greenhouse gases and other relevant methodological issues, including on the application of guidelines, and use of common metrics for calculating the carbon dioxide equivalent of anthropogenic emissions by source and removals by sinks, under a post-2012 outcome. It builds on initial views presented by Australia to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol during the sessions held in August 2008 in Accra, Ghana.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

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SUBMISSION FROM AUSTRALIA

View on the coverage of greenhouse gases and other relevant methodological issues

Submission to the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP

This submission provides Australia's views on the coverage of greenhouse gases and other relevant methodological issues, including on the application of guidelines and use of metrics under a post-2012 outcome. It builds on the initial views presented by Australia in *Views on the coverage of greenhouse gases* and *Estimation of greenhouse gases and global warming potentials*, submitted to the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP in August 2008.

Australia's views continue to be informed by the following overarching principles:

- Coverage of anthropogenic emissions and removals should aim to be rigorous, robust and comprehensive, while finding an appropriate balance between scientific precision, practicality and policy relevance;
- Approaches should facilitate activities that deliver real climate benefits within a timeframe appropriate to achieve the Convention's goal of preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;
- Methodologies should aim not to restrict the flexibility of policy responses, recognising the need for a comprehensive suite of mitigation measures to achieve required levels of abatement; and
- A coordinated approach should be taken across the two AWG processes, given their close interlinkages, to ensure the post-2012 outcome adopts consistent coverage of gases and other relevant methodological issues.

Gases

Australia maintains that there is a good case for including additional HFCs and PFCs, and also NF₃ (as listed in the IPCC's TAR and AR4). There is clear potential for mitigation in relation to these gases, and a number have current or projected uses as replacements for ozone depleting substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol and/or gases already covered under Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol.

Australia considers that achieving greater understanding of fluorinated ether and perfluoropolyether including their use, contribution to climate change, and mitigation potential is important. We would welcome further work by the IPCC on these gases and could support a decision, following a post-2012 outcome, to consider the inclusion of these gases.

More detailed consideration on inclusion of the above gases is provided in Australia's submission on *Views on the coverage of greenhouse gases* (August 2008).

Since Australia made its earlier submission, a number of additional gases have been proposed by Parties for coverage under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol in the second commitment period. These include:

- Trifluoromethyl sulphur pentafluoride (SF₅CF₃); and

- Hydrocarbons and other compounds including dimethylether (CH₃OCH₃), methyl chloroform (CH₃CCl₃), methylene chloride (CH₂Cl₂), methyl chloride (CH₃Cl), dibromomethane (CH₂Br₂), bromodifluoromethane (CHBrF₂) and trifluoroiodomethane (CF₃I).

With one exception, Australia supports in-principle consideration of these additional gases, using the principle-based approach outlined above, where gases have been provided a GWP value by the IPCC and are not already controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

The exception is methyl chloroform, which is already controlled under the Montreal Protocol, and therefore should not be included in the second commitment period.

Other methodological issues

Australia welcomes the AWG-KP's conclusion in the first part of its sixth session to refer discussion on the application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its thirtieth session.

Australia maintains that GWP remains the most appropriate metric for measuring the relative contribution of various greenhouse gases to climate change. We consider that, in the absence of compelling scientific or policy arguments for adopting alternative time horizons, the 100-year time horizon remains an appropriate and practical approach. Australia maintains that there is a strong case for adopting updated GWP values for the post-2012 outcome.
