

China's submission on work programme clarification of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets of developed country Parties

The Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session (Para. 11, Decision 1/CP.18) invited Parties to submit their views on the items in Para. 8 of Decision 1/CP.18. China welcomes this opportunity and would like to submit the following views:

1. General views

Pursuant to Decisions 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 1/CP. 18 and in accordance with the principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, developed country Parties should increase the ambition of their economy-wide emission reduction targets, with a view to reducing their aggregate anthropogenic emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol to a level consistent with their historical responsibility and the ranges informed by the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). However, there is still a large gap between the pledged aggregate level of reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by developed country Parties and the reduction requested by science and their historical responsibilities and the expectations of the international community. We, therefore, urge the developed country Parties to increase their level of ambition to reduce the greenhouse gas emission with concrete, effective and efficient domestic mitigation actions.

The comparability of developed country Parties efforts to reduce emission and their application of common accounting rules are of great importance to build confidence of all Parties and demonstrate the leadership of developed country parties in combating climate change by committing and implementing ambitious mitigation actions.

The comparability of developed country Parties' emission reduction efforts should consider five dimensions: legal form, magnitude, policies and measures of effort, provisions for MRV, and compliance. Common accounting rules and framework for developed country Parties is essential to ensure the comparability of efforts. It not only facilitates identifying the effectiveness of domestic mitigation efforts and the carbon credits from abroad, but also contributes to the transparency of MRV system and the implementation of compliance.

2. The organization of the work programme

According to 1/CP18, the work programme should commence in 2013 and end in 2014, including focused expert meetings, technical briefings and submissions from Parties and observer organizations.

Parties can start with an expert meeting scheduled in conjunction with the 38th session of SBSTA in June 2013. The meeting should firstly discuss and identify the common elements and basis, including rules, methodologies and tools which should be used for measuring the progress made towards the achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Ambiguity that still exists in such targets should be recognized and clarified through the further submission by developed country Parties, in particular removing all of their political and non-political conditions they have put forward related to their individual targets.

In the second half of 2013, developed country Parties should submit their views on the matters as the 38th session of SBSTA requested. Based on Parties' submissions, the secretariat should draft a technical report to identify both the common and different elements that apply for measuring the progress made towards the achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets.

During the 39th session of SBSTA, the secretariat should make a technical briefing at the SBSTA plenary. Parties will then discuss how to improve the common elements and basis, including common rules, methodologies and tools for measuring the progress made towards the achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets, with a view to ensuring the comparability of efforts among developed country Parties. Expert meeting may also be applied.

Parties will continue this work in 2014 and further discuss how to increase the mitigation ambitions of developed country Parties in line with the requirement of comparability. SBSTA should brief the AWG-DP on the progress of this work programme periodically.

3. Elements need further discussion and clarification

Based on the information from submissions, INF documents, and the technical papers, the following elements need further clarification and discussion:

- ◆ The pledges made by developed country Parties, even the aggregation of the higher end is far from the IPCC recommendation, thus how will developed country Parties implement the COP Decisions 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 1/CP.18?
- ◆ What is the planned trajectory to developed country Parties to achieve the

pledged greenhouse gases emission reduction targets?

- ◆ Among all the efforts towards the target, how much will be taken domestically, and how much will be achieved through carbon credits from abroad? And which kind of offsetting credit is to be used?
- ◆ How will the developed country Parties ensure the pledged emission reduction targets are economy-wide? Is there any sector or industry exempted? What are the main mitigation policies and measures for each sector and industry?
- ◆ If the methodologies for greenhouse gas inventory and the accounting rules for LULUCF sector are different, how to ensure the comparability?
- ◆ How could the domestic compliance system work in case of a failure of mitigation obligation?
- ◆ If the pledged emission reduction target by a developed country Party fails, is there going to be any remedy?