

Submission by South Africa on work programme on clarification of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets of developed country Parties (QEERTs)

4 November 2013

SBSTA agenda item 15

Background

1. Building on previous work, the COP in its Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 8, established a work programme under the SBI, for 2013–2014, under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to continue the process of clarifying the QEERTs of developed country Parties, particularly in relation to the elements contained in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 5. It requested the SBSTA to report on progress at COP 19. SBSTA 38 initiated the work and Parties agreed to continue consideration of this matter at SBSTA 39 in Warsaw.
2. South Africa submitted detailed views on these matters on 25 March 2013. Without repeating these views which remain on record, we would add that substantial information exists and several areas of common practice among developed countries have been identified in relation to QEERTs. Our view is that this progress needs to be captured in the form of decisions, to reflect agreement on specific items in the work under SBSTA agenda item 15.

Recommendation

3. South Africa proposes that the SBSTA recommends a decision to COP-19, to capture its progress on rules and ambition in relation to clarification of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets of developed country Parties. The extent of matching of action and support must also be captured formally.
4. South Africa invites SBSTA 39 to consider the draft decision annexed to this submission, and to forward a draft decision to COP-19, with a view to its adoption.

Annex

Draft decision text on SBSTA work programme on clarification of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets of developed country Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Preambular paragraphs (updated version of preamble of 1/CP.18)

1. *Agrees* that
 - a. 1990 shall remain the common base year for mitigation targets and commitments by developed countries under the Convention, to enable comparability amongst them, while allowing flexibility for other base years to be reported in addition which may reflect a reference point for the Party's national climate change policies;
 - b. Developed countries Parties shall use the global warming potential values (GWPs) from the latest IPCC assessment report
 - c. Annex I Parties shall use the same set of gases in determining their quantified economy-wide emission reductions targets or QERLOs, as for national inventory arrangements (decision 15/CP.17, Annex I, part II, paragraph 28);¹
 - d. The IPCC Energy, Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU), AFOLU and waste sectors should be used by all developed country Parties.
 - e. LULUCF shall be included in the estimation of all QEERTs and QELROs, using clear, uniform and environmentally robust accounting rules;
 - f. Developed country Parties shall report on carbon credits under the Convention and its instruments, and how these are counted towards their QEERT or QELRO, clearly distinguishing these from carbon credits from any mechanisms not under the Convention.
 - g. Progress in achieving QEERTs or QELROs shall be reported in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner, including Mt CO₂ eq, in first biennial reports due 1 January 2014, and subsequent biennial reports and national communications.
2. *Decides* that, to encourage greater ambition by developed country Parties,
 - a. clear assumptions and conditions related to the ambition of the pledges shall be reported and compiled in updates of the technical paper;
 - b. developed country Parties shall adopt zero-emission development strategies no later than 2015, indicating pathways to net zero emissions by 2030;
3. Requests the Secretariat to report to the COP annually on the extent of matching of action with financial, technology and capacity building support under the registry, with a first report to COP20 in Lima.

¹ "as a minimum requirement, shall contain information on the following GHGs: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, PFCs, HFCs, SF₆ and NF₃"