



AUSTRALIA

Work program to further the understanding of the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties | May 2013

Further Clarification of 2020 Pledges | SBI

I. Introduction

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share its views on the new Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) work program to further understand the diversity of developing countries' Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

II. Importance of Clarification and the new Work Program

Clarifying ex ante how the 2020 pledges are defined (including assumptions and methodologies) and their expected mitigation impacts is critically important for a range of reasons:

- It builds trust and confidence by enabling clear understanding of what other Parties are doing.
- Through this, it supports increased ambition. We know that other Parties' efforts are a key consideration for many Parties in determining their level of ambition.
- It is necessary to understand the level of collective effort and emissions reductions that will be made in the period to 2020, and to reduce uncertainty about the emissions gap.
- It enables full international recognition of the mitigation actions being undertaken by Parties.
- It gives the best chance of attracting support for mitigation actions that require it.
- It facilitates an appreciation of the diversity of NAMAs, by making clear how diverse national circumstances shape and are reflected in the NAMAs that countries have put forward.
- It can inform discussions about the long-term finance goal, which is in the context of meaningful mitigation and transparency on implementation.

Since the clarification process began in 2011 we have learnt more about the pledges. The presentation of information by developed countries through templates was particularly useful. But significant uncertainties remain. The new measurement, reporting and verification processes agreed at COP17 in Durban¹ will provide regular and structured updates on the pledges and their implementation and

¹ Biennial Reports and International Assessment and Review; Biennial Update Reports and International Consultation and Analysis.



complement existing measures such as national communications. But there is a gap before these new processes begin. The clarification of pledges can also make clear how Parties will track their mitigation actions and help Parties to prepare for these new reporting requirements.

Accordingly, Australia welcomed the decision at Doha to establish two new work programs to continue the clarification process in 2013 and 2014. Australia encourages all Parties to participate actively and constructively in both of these work programs, and to continue to provide new or updated information on the definition of their pledges as that information is available. These work programmes provide the opportunity to further clarify existing pledges, as well as any new or enhanced pledges that Parties might come forward with in the future.

III. Organisation of the Work Program

As agreed in decision 1/CP.18, this work program has three areas of focus:

- More information relating to NAMAs, including underlying assumptions and methodologies, sectors and gases covered, global warming potential values used and estimated mitigation outcomes.
- Needs for financial, technology and capacity-building support for the preparation and implementation of specific measurable, reportable and verifiable NAMAs, as well as support available and provided, access modalities and related experience gained.
- The extent of matching of mitigation actions with financial, technology and capacity-building support under the registry.

There is an important relationship between these issues. NAMAs that are clearly presented, include information on metrics, assumptions and methodologies, identify specific support needs and can deliver measurable outcomes will be in a better position to attract support, including through the registry.

Australia suggests each of these areas should be considered in turn. This will allow a thorough exploration of each, as well as facilitating a better understanding of the relationship between them. Australia's specific suggestions on each follow.

(a) More information relating to NAMAs, including underlying assumptions and methodologies, sectors and gases covered, GWPs and estimated mitigation outcomes

57 developing countries have pledged under the UNFCCC to take nationally appropriate mitigation action. Australia was pleased to see developing countries making new commitments in Doha and encourages countries which are yet to make a pledge to do so.

These NAMAs represent an important contribution to global mitigation efforts, and Australia warmly welcomes them. They are also a new type of mitigation, shaped by the diverse national circumstances of the countries that have pledged them. It is critical that we understand better the concept of NAMAs, their climate impact, their diversity and the experience of developing countries in undertaking mitigation. Australia would like to be clear that this work program is about understanding NAMAs and their impact as they are; it is not about placing constraints or requirements on NAMAs.

We know that NAMAs take a variety of forms: some pledges are deviation from a business-as-usual trajectory; others are a reduction in emissions intensity; yet others are absolute emissions reductions or to become carbon neutral; and many are policies and measures that countries will undertake.

Discussions should be structured around these broad categories of NAMAs. Australia respects the diversity of NAMAs and does not suggest that all NAMAs in a broad category are or should be the same. But grouping NAMAs in this way will enable the focused interactive technical discussions that Parties agreed in decision 1/CP.18 to undertake in this work program.

Australia suggests the following mode of work:

- For each broad category of NAMAs, Parties should identify the metrics and methodological questions that define such a NAMA.
 - This will allow us to build a complete picture of what we need to know to understand what such a NAMA entails.
 - The list of elements in paragraph 34 of decision 2/CP.17 and paragraph 19(a) of decision 1/CP.18 should provide the basis for this work.
 - For example, to understand what an intensity target entails, it is necessary to know its: gas coverage, GWP values used (if gases other than carbon dioxide are covered), sectoral coverage, base year or reference level, the measure being used for intensity (for example Gross Domestic Product) and the related methodologies for how each will be calculated.
 - Metrics and some methodological questions will be relevant to a number of broad categories.
- Dedicated sessions should be held on the key methodological questions identified.
 - Two examples would be: how to establish baselines; and how to estimate mitigation impacts.
 - Such sessions will enable Parties to recognise and better appreciate the diversity of approaches that are being taken, and provide a space to explore the issues involved with each methodological question.

Australia recognises that these methodological issues are complex and some Parties may still be grappling with them. The purpose of the discussions should be to facilitate learning and support. Non-Party experts should be invited to give presentations and participate in relevant sessions. This would be consistent with the agreement in decision 1/CP.18 to include expert input in this work program, and the technical nature of this work program more broadly. More importantly, it would also provide an avenue of support for Parties with capacity-building needs. Expert input would be a valuable complement to the exchange of experiences that Party representatives will be able to engage in.

Australia encourages developing countries to provide more information on their NAMAs as available to fill any gaps identified during these discussions.

Discussions in 2013 should be captured in two ways. The first should be a structured report by the SBI to COP19. The second should be a technical paper by the Secretariat, drawing together the information submitted by developing country Parties, provided by them through the workshops and submissions in 2011 and 2012, and as brought forward in the course of this new work program. The paper should be structured to address systematically the elements set out in paragraph 34 of decision 2/CP.17 and paragraph 19(a) of decision 1/CP.18. The final output at COP20 should incorporate and build upon both of these products to provide a complete picture of the work undertaken in this work program.

(b) Support needs, support available and provided, access modalities and related experience gained

Many of the NAMAs developing countries have put forward state that they require support. Further clarifying these needs in concrete terms – including where international support, either from public or private sources, is required to supplement national capacity – is important to help countries not only attract support, but attract the most useful kind of support.

This work program provides the opportunity to discuss how countries can maximise opportunities to secure support. As noted above, there is an important relationship between the clarification of NAMAs and support. NAMAs will have the best prospect of securing support if they are detailed, clearly presented, consider implementation issues such as institutional capacity and alignment with national policies and frameworks, identify specific support needs as well as support that has already been committed, and can deliver measurable outcomes.

As agreed in decision 1/CP.18, experience sharing should be part of this work. Countries that have pledged NAMAs as well as those considering doing so have valuable experience to share on what they require to develop NAMAs as well as to implement them, any barriers they face or have overcome and the benefits that may accrue. A key focus should be on sharing and actively learning from the wealth of experience gained from the implementation of fast-start finance.

(c) The extent of matching of support under the Registry

Australia welcomes the work that has been done thus far to establish the registry, which will provide one avenue for Parties and others to make publicly available information on NAMAs seeking support, NAMAs being undertaken that deserve recognition, and support that is available for NAMAs.

Australia notes that the registry is currently in the prototype phase, and looks forward to its finalisation and live launch. Consideration of the extent of matching under the registry will be able to begin once this has occurred and users have had sufficient time to begin to take advantage of the opportunities the registry offers.