

BRIEFING PAPER

SHARED VISION

BACKGROUND

With the adoption of the Bali Action Plan (BAP) at COP-13 in Bali, the Parties decided to launch a comprehensive process to enhance the implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action. The BAP was based on four key pillars: mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and finance. It promoted the adoption of a *shared vision* on the long-term global target for greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions reduction by 2050 and for a timeframe for the peaking of global emissions.

The shared-vision negotiation is part of the *Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action* (AWG-LCA) track created in 2007 at COP-13 in Bali. It aims at providing a comprehensive and balanced outcome that will be presented to the Conference of the Parties in Doha for adoption.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NEGOTIATIONS

COP 13 (Bali):

The Parties agreed to launch a *shared vision* as part of the AWG-LCA that would define a common goal for emissions reductions to achieve the objective of the Convention. The LCA would apply the principle of *common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities* in their discussion, and take into account social and economic conditions and other relevant factors.

COP 16 (Cancun):

The Parties discussed their visions for mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. They agreed to work towards identifying a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050, and consider it at COP 17.

The Parties further agreed to work towards identifying a timeframe for the peaking of global GHG emissions based on the best available scientific knowledge and on the principle of equitable access to sustainable development (EASD), and to consider it at COP 17. For the first time, the target of a maximum increase in the global average temperature of 2°C was included in the text of the decision, with the possibility to strengthen the target.

COP 17 (Durban):

In Durban, no decision was made regarding either a global long-term emissions goal or an agreed timeframe for emissions peaking. Parties decided to extend the AWG-LCA for one year to reach an agreement after which AWG-LCA will be terminated.

Also, Parties agreed to establish the *Ad-hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action* (ADP) to develop a new agreement applicable to all Parties by 2015. The ADP thus runs in parallel to existing AWG-KP and AWG-LCA. Therefore, discussions on long-term emissions targets take place in both the ADP and AWG-LCA.

Parties agreed to consider the issue of EASD and introduced an approach to ensure equity in climate policies, highlighting the requirement for formal justification of any equity norm, and proposed a validation methodology for equity.

AWG-LCA Sessions in 2012 - Bonn and Bangkok

During the Bonn session Parties mainly discussed *Equitable Access to Sustainable Development* (EASD). The workshop identified different parameters for defining equity with the objective of creating a hybrid approach using indicators addressing sustainable development consideration as well as taking into account what is already contained in the Convention.

The Parties met in Bangkok to prepare the COP 18 in Doha. Strong differences remained on how to reach the long-term goals for emissions reduction by 2050.

The main issue lies in the definition of the negotiation approach for these goals. Parties question whether these goals should be seen with or without the context of a “comprehensive and integrated balanced package”, including critical elements of the Bali Action Plan such as adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

KEY ISSUES FOR SHARED VISION

The issues of a “shared vision” include four main aspects: the guiding principles of the Convention, the negotiation tracks, the definition of a long-term objective and the procedure for review of goals and progress.

The main principles guiding the international fight against climate change

Parties stated that the discussion towards a global goal needs to be firmly based on the available and most updated scientific findings and recommendations. Definition of shared vision first implies to agree on guiding principles, on the basis of equity and in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Current debates mainly focus on the definition of “fair allocation” for emissions rights. The “fairness” criterion touches a range of issues, from allocation of emissions rights among countries or generations, to distribution of responsibilities for past emissions.

Most developing countries have argued that a decision on a global goal (based on a temperature or a global emissions reduction target) should be made in the context of equity since it will impact the developing countries’ economies. However, the definition of equity strongly divides Parties. The two basic approaches currently discussed are *quantitative* or *indicative*. The *quantitative* approach seeks to determine each Party’s burden on an egalitarian basis combined with an estimation of the Party’s ability to pay. However, no formula has yet received the necessary consensus. The *indicative* approach to equity requires an agreement as to a broader paradigm or framework for equity.

The definition of the long-term objective

The definition of the key long-term mitigation objective for a “shared vision” continues to revolve around several options based on defining: a limit to temperature increase; a level of stabilization of

the GHG atmospheric concentration; a deadline for emissions peak; or a collective emission reduction target for countries. For example, some proposals refer to:

- set a limit on the rise in global mean temperatures whereas two options are discussed: 1.5°C and 2°C;
- set a limit on the GHG concentration in the atmosphere;
- a reduction of global emission levels ranging from 50% to 95% from 1990 levels by 2050. Some proposals also include mid-term emission reduction targets.

Three main views for a global goal for reducing emissions by 2050 and a timeframe for global peaking of GHG have been put forward. However, Parties have not been able to reach an agreement on one of these views to date.

- Option 1: a specific quantified target for each goal, with their corresponding context
- Option 2: a target “range” for each goal, with their corresponding context
- Option 3: a process or mechanism with which to identify a single target or range for each goal. However, Parties have voiced differing views on the nature of the context which should be used in this case: whether it should be based only on the best available scientific knowledge or should also include consideration of the means of implementation as well as the historical contribution of Parties.

There is a clear opposition between larger developing countries who are typically against the definition of a fixed global mitigation goal and the least developed countries who tend to support this approach.

Technology transfer & Finance

Parties agree that the shared-vision cannot only be focused on defining a global target for emission reduction. They thus also work towards a comprehensive approach that would include adaptation and foster North-South transfers of finance and technology.

A number of developing countries would like the shared-vision to go beyond an emission reduction target to equally address technology and finance transfers to help with adaptation needs. These countries have agreed that developed countries should be more ambitious regarding their emissions cuts and state that their national mitigation actions could be enhanced by financial and technological support.

Protection of ownership and intellectual property rights is a contentious issue regarding technology transfer. Discussion concerning financing address issues as sources, governance, types of institutions needed, etc. Developing countries demand new and additional public funding while some developed countries have typically advocated market-based mechanisms and increase the role of private finance.

The procedures for review of the long-term goal and progress

All Parties recognize that deep cuts in global GHG emissions are required according to science and that there is urgency to close the emission gap. Moreover, there is a need to review the progress made by countries to achieve their goals. Therefore, the role of biennial reports and international

assessments and reviews in measuring the progress towards achievement of targets and their contribution to the efforts to enhance ambition are paramount.

There is also the recognition of a great need for rigorous, robust and transparent approaches to measure progress towards achievement of targets and subsidiaries bodies are conducting researches on MRV.

Parties have agreed to continue exploring methodological aspects of measuring the progress towards achievement of targets of developed country Parties under the *Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice* (SBSTA). They wish to promote comparability as well as develop accounting approaches for developed country Parties as well as appropriate means for other Parties.

NEXT STEPS

Parties are required to conduct further work on a global goal for reducing emissions by 2050 and a timeframe for global peaking of GHG, with a view to consider them at COP 18.

Countries disagreeing on terminating AWG-LCA at COP 18 point to the remaining work outlined by the Bali Action Plan. Developing countries are concerned that some issues would remain unaddressed.

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