Building a post-2012 global climate regime

European Union COP-15 information sheet

Swedish Presidency
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Mitigating emissions growth in developing countries

- *As part of a global effort to keep warming below 2°C, developing countries should take action to hold their aggregate emissions growth 15-30% below projected levels in 2020*
- *More advanced developing countries that are at comparable levels of wealth to developed countries should consider making similar commitments to Annex 1 nations*
- *All countries except the least developed should commit to preparing ambitious low-carbon growth plans (LCGPs) setting out their strategy for low-carbon development*
- *LCGPs can become a key vehicle for financial planning: they should identify nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and the support needed to implement them*

While developed countries must take the lead in cutting global greenhouse gas emissions, it will not be possible to keep global warming below 2°C unless developing countries - in particular the major emerging economies - take action to slow their rapid GHG emissions growth.

The Bali Action Plan mentions **nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)** as a potential contribution by developing countries to an enhanced global emissions mitigation effort. The European Union sees considerable scope for emissions mitigation and sustainable economic growth to go hand in hand, especially in the more advanced developing countries.

Recent scientific studies indicate that, as their contribution to keeping the 2°C target within reach, developing countries as a group should achieve a substantial deviation in their emissions of around **15-30%** below their currently predicted emissions growth rate by 2020.

The EU is calling on non-Annex 1 countries that are at levels of development and of GDP per capita comparable to developed countries to consider making similar binding emission limitation commitments to those of Annex 1 countries. This goes in particular for non-Annex 1 nations that are **OECD members or candidates** for membership.

An adequate contribution to a global mitigation effort by developing countries, in line with their responsibilities and respective capabilities, is one of the EU's preconditions for scaling up its own emissions reduction for 2020 from 20% to 30% below 1990 levels.

A **significant increase in public and private financial flows** is needed to help developing countries implement ambitious strategies for both mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The EU is committed to providing its fair share of international public financing, both for a 'fast start' in 2010-2012 and over the medium term (see EU information sheet *Scaling up climate finance for developing countries*).

The EU also proposes the creation of a specific global financing mechanism to reward developing countries for verified reductions in CO_2 emissions from **deforestation and forest degradation** beyond a certain level of ambition (see EU information sheet *Cutting forest CO2 emissions through action on deforestation in developing countries (REDD+)*). Tropical deforestation and forest degradation are a major source of emissions from some developing countries, accounting for up to 20% of global CO_2 emissions.

The EU is proposing the establishment of new carbon market **sectoral crediting and trading mechanisms** to help economically more advanced developing countries achieve greater emissions mitigation in major emitting sectors (see EU information sheet *Reforming international carbon market mechanisms).*

Effective **governance arrangements** are needed to provide transparency on developing countries' planned mitigation actions, to facilitate the matching up of these actions with external financing and technical support where needed, and to ensure that commitments to actions and to support are delivered on in practice.

The key elements of this governance system should be the following:

- All countries except the least developed should commit to preparing ambitious and credible **low carbon growth plans (LCGPs)** setting out their strategy for low carbon development.

- **NAMAs** should be framed in the context of these LCGPs, allowing for a coherent set of policies to reduce emissions below the projected baseline.

Economically more advanced developing countries should set out ambitious NAMAs, including sectoral emission thresholds and targets with a view to participating in the new sectoral carbon market mechanisms. Their NAMAs, thresholds and targets should be made part of the Copenhagen agreement.

- Developing countries should indicate whether their NAMAs will be funded domestically or will require international public finance or finance via the international carbon market.

- NAMAs need to be accompanied by a **technical analysis** undertaken in the context of the LCGP. This analysis will help to facilitate access to external support for specific NAMAs, to ensure the integrity of the system and to identify and disseminate best practice.

- A **coordinating mechanism** should be established under the guidance of the UNFCCC. The mechanism would include an **international registry** to ensure full transparency of all NAMAs and related support in the context of LCGPs. The mechanism should help match up financial and other support for mitigation action with the support needs identified in LCGPs and NAMAs.

- Developing country NAMAs and the external support they receive should be regularly updated in the registry and reported in countries' **National Communications**. This would ensure an effective system to account for progress in actions undertaken and support provided.

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