

Submission on Commitments or Actions by Developed Countries and Actions by Developing Countries

The Government of Japan submitted the document below as submission regarding the paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan in May 2008;

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/submissionjapan.pdf

In addition to this submission, Japan would like to issue 5 submissions which include updated information on the following issues.

- (1) Global long-term goal
- (2) Innovative technology development
- (3) Commitments or actions by developed countries and actions by developing countries
- (4) Sectoral approach
- (5) REDD

In this submission, the Government of Japan outlines its view on commitments or actions by developed countries and actions by developing countries.

1. The Bali Action Plan states in paragraphs 1 (b) (i) and (ii) that “all developed country Parties” should make/take “measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, ...while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances.” It also states that “developing country Parties” should take “nationally appropriate mitigation actions ...in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.”
2. This indicates that the international community shares the recognition that climate change is now a global issue which can not be adequately addressed only with the efforts by Annex I Parties which currently commit to the quantified emissions

limitation or reduction targets, while developed countries must continue to take policies and measures towards GHG emissions reduction. Also, there are growing differences among non-Annex I Parties in impact on climate change and capacity to respond.

3. An idea to respond to this situation is to categorize non-Annex I Parties into groups based on stages of economic development etc. and to encourage each Party to take suitable actions matched to its own group, in accordance with the principle of equity and the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”.
4. In the Declaration of the Leaders Meeting of Major Economies on Energy Security and Climate Change in July, the developed major economies shared the view that they would “implement, consistent with international obligations, economy-wide mid-term goals and take corresponding actions, ...reflecting comparable efforts among them.” At the same time, the developing major economies agreed that they would “pursue ...nationally appropriate mitigation actions ...with a view to achieving a deviation from business as usual emissions.”
5. A next step is to materialize those progresses of international discussions under the UNFCCC process. For this purpose, it is necessary to clarify the definition of “developed country Parties” and “developing country Parties” in the Bali Action Plan and to consider the concrete content of mitigation actions by developing country Parties as well as commitments or actions by all developed country Parties.
6. To address those issues, the AWG-LCA should start consideration of the following points;
 - (1) Developed country Parties in the paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the Bali Action Plan
Current Annex I Parties comprise OECD member states as of 1992 and countries in economic transition; however, some of non-Annex I Parties those already became OECD members and those on a par with Annex I Parties in their economic development stage should be required to make/take corresponding commitments or actions as developed country Parties in the paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the Bali Action and to become Annex I Parties during the course of the negotiation for the post-2012 framework.

(2) Developing country Parties in the paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan

It is necessary to identify the countries including LDCs and SIDS which have little emissions and are not much required to take significant mitigation measures. Those countries should be given focused international supports including mainstreaming adaptation because of their vulnerability to adverse effects of climate change. Other non-Annex I Parties can also be categorized based on indicators such as economic development stage, capacity to respond for its nationally appropriate mitigation actions (e.g. GDP per capita) and emission share in the world. This will help to facilitate major developing countries for taking further mitigation actions and other developing countries with stipulating actions to be implemented by countries in each group, taking into account its circumstances, and also to provide corresponding measures and supports by developed countries.

7. In addition, it is necessary to consider a scheme that enables Parties to switch the groups from one to the other in response to their change of economic development stages etc.