

SUBMISSION FROM NORWAY

AWG-LCA – Shared vision for long-term cooperative action including a long term goal for emission reductions

1. Norway welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the elements contained in paragraph 1 of decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan), and note the conclusions of the third session of the AWG-LCA held in Accra 21-27 August where the group invited its chair to prepare a document assembling the ideas and proposals presented by Parties received by 30 September 2008.
2. Paragraph 1 (a) of the Bali Action Plan addresses the need for the global community to agree on a shared vision on how to tackle the long term challenges related to climate change, including a long term goal for emission reductions. It is imperative to establish a long term goal which responds to the actual challenges we are facing according to scientific findings by the IPCC. Hence, Norway believes that the core issue in the discussions on a shared vision should be a specific global emission reduction target, either related to maximum increase in the global mean temperature, or to specific levels of atmospheric concentrations of green house gases.
3. A shared vision should include both midterm and long-term emission reduction targets. It is essential that short-term and midterm targets are transformed into legally binding obligations for the Parties ensuring that we reach those goals that the global community agrees upon.
4. It is Norway's view that the increase in global mean temperature should not exceed 2 degrees in order to avoid the most serious damage to ecosystems, economy and society in accordance with Article 2 of the Convention. According to the IPCC, this means that global emissions have to be reduced by 50-85 percent from 2000 to 2050, most likely as much as 85 percent, and to peak no later than 2015. To achieve such a reduction scenario, developed countries as a group must reduce their emissions by 25-40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. Norway believes that these findings by the IPCC, should guide the establishment of the emission reduction target post 2012. Such a target should be established early in the process, before the discussions on distribution of efforts between countries and sectors take place.
5. In addition to these efforts, emissions in developing countries have, in accordance to the IPCC, to substantially deviate from projected baseline emissions within the next few decades. Efforts by developing countries should be supported and enabled by technology and substantial financial support and capacity-building from developed countries in a reliable and predictable manner, and in accordance with the national circumstances and capability of the receiving countries.
6. The right to economic growth and poverty eradication is fundamental for developing countries. Hence a shared vision has to combine the overall need for emission reduction at a level outlined in paragraph two, with the need for economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner. A shared vision must thus elaborate on the establishment of the necessary incentives for turning the global economy into a low carbon economy. Norway believes that necessary measures for the expansion of the carbon market, seeking to establish a global price on all greenhouse gas emissions, should be a part of a shared vision.
7. Norway looks forward to further engaging in the discussions on a shared vision and a long term goal for global emission reductions.