

III. Analysis of mitigation potentials and identification of ranges of emission reduction objectives of Annex I Parties

(Agenda item 3)

13. Based on work carried out at its third session, the AWG continued work on the analysis of the mitigation potential and the identification of ranges of emission reduction objectives of Annex I Parties, in line with its work programme agreed at its second session (FCCC/KP/AWG/2006/4, para. 17).

14. The AWG noted with appreciation the information and data provided by some Parties in their submissions on the mitigation potential of policies, measures and technologies at their disposal (FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/MISC.4 and Add.1) and the information contained in document FCCC/TP/2007/1 prepared by the secretariat as requested by the AWG at its third session (FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/2, para. 23).

15. The AWG recalled⁴ that it should be guided by a shared vision of the challenge set by the ultimate objective of the Convention, based on the principles and relevant provisions of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

16. The AWG noted that the mitigation potential of Annex I Parties is determined by national circumstances and evolves over time. It also noted that the specific factors and indicators relevant to the determination of the mitigation potential and to the identification of ranges of emission reduction objectives of Annex I Parties vary among these Parties.

17. The AWG acknowledged that understanding mitigation potential is a complex process and noted that further analysis on mitigation potential would help the AWG in completing its work. It also recognized the need for further progress in conducting its work programme. The AWG invited Annex I Parties to continue to work on the analysis of the mitigation potential of policies, measures and technologies at their disposal. The AWG agreed to consider relevant information from external bodies and forums, including those listed in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/MISC.2, including any work that may be undertaken on the issues identified in document FCCC/TP/2007/1, paragraph 92.

18. The AWG took note of information contained in the contribution of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The AWG recognized that the contribution of Working Group III to the AR4 indicates that global emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next 10 to 15 years and be reduced to very low levels, well below half of levels in 2000 by the middle of the twenty-first century in order to stabilize their concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest levels assessed by the IPCC to date in its scenarios. Hence the urgency to address climate change.

19. The AWG noted the usefulness of the ranges referred to in the AR4. Recognizing the outcomes of the contribution of Working Group II to the AR4, on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation, the AWG also noted that the lower the stabilization level achieved, the lower the consequent damages. The AWG recognized

⁴ FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/2, paragraph 19.

that the contribution of Working Group III to the AR4 indicates that achieving the lowest stabilization level assessed by the IPCC to date and its corresponding potential damage limitation would require Annex I Parties as a group to reduce emissions in a range of 25–40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, through means that may be available to Annex I Parties to reach the emission reduction targets. These ranges are drawn from box 13.7 in the report of Working Group III. Furthermore, these ranges would be significantly higher for Annex I Parties if they were a result of analysis assuming that emission reductions were to be undertaken exclusively by Annex I Parties. The AWG noted that the IPCC ranges do not take into account lifestyle changes which have the potential of increasing the reduction range. The AWG also recognized that achievement of these reduction objectives by Annex I Parties would make an important contribution to overall global efforts required to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, as set out in its Article 2.

20. The AWG noted the concerns raised by small island developing States and some developing countries with regard to the lack of analysis of stabilization scenarios below 450 ppmv CO₂ eq., which corresponds to the lowest range outlined in paragraph 19 above, and in this context, noted the possibility for further scientific work in this regard.

21. In line with the iterative approach of its work programme, the AWG considered that the information referred to in paragraph 19 above provides useful initial parameters for the overall level of ambition of further emission reductions by Annex I Parties, and would be reviewed at future sessions in the light of information it would receive, including information referred to in paragraph 20 above.

22. The AWG also noted that a greater mitigation potential is at the disposal of Annex I Parties through the wider use of flexibility mechanisms, taking fully into account sustainable development considerations.

23. The AWG acknowledged the importance of considering further information on indicative ranges of emission reductions by Annex I Parties, including quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments, for further commitments pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol and in accordance with decision 1/CMP.1, through their domestic and international efforts. It agreed to consider this issue, including the timing of submissions by Parties, as part of its discussions on the development of a timetable at its resumed fourth session.

24. The AWG also acknowledged the importance of receiving information on the potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects on all Parties, in particular developing country Parties, of available tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties. To this end, the AWG invited Annex I Parties to include in their submissions due on 15 February 2008⁵ information on these issues.

25. The AWG invited Parties to submit to the secretariat by 9 November 2007 their views on the development of a timetable to guide the completion of its work to be compiled by the secretariat for consideration by the AWG at its resumed fourth session.

⁵ FCCC/KP/AWG/2007/2, paragraph 24.

26. The AWG expressed its appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting the first part of the fourth session of the AWG.