

Work plan and schedule of future sessions

(Agenda item 4)

15. The AWG held a workshop on 7 November 2006 to allow Parties to share and discuss information on the scientific basis for determining further commitments of Annex I Parties and on their emission trends and mitigation potential. Mr. Luiz Figueiredo Machado, the Vice-Chair of the AWG, chaired the workshop and reported to the AWG on the proceedings and the main points raised at the workshop (see annex I). The AWG noted with satisfaction the wealth of material presented and the rich discussion at the workshop and expressed its appreciation to its Vice-Chair, to the presenters and to the secretariat. The AWG agreed that the workshop provided useful contextual input to its further work.

16. The AWG agreed that its work on further commitments by Annex I Parties should be guided by a shared vision of the challenge set by the ultimate objective of the Convention, based on the principles and other relevant provisions of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Noting the Vice-Chair's report, the AWG considered that information received at its workshop provides useful parameters for the overall level of ambition of further emission reductions by Annex I Parties, in particular the information that, according to the scenarios of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report, global emissions of carbon dioxide have to be reduced to very low levels, well below half of levels in 2000, in order to stabilize their concentrations in the atmosphere.

17. Recalling the conclusions adopted at its first session on the planning of its future work (FCCC/KP/AWG/2006/2, paras. 18–27), the AWG decided that its work programme for the completion of its mandate will include the tasks set out below:

(a) **Analysis of mitigation potentials and ranges of emission reduction objectives of Annex I Parties:**

- (i) Analysis of the mitigation potential, effectiveness, efficiency, costs and benefits of current and future policies, measures and technologies at the disposal of Annex I Parties, appropriate in different national circumstances, taking into account their environmental, economic and social consequences, their sectoral dimensions, and the international context in which they are deployed;
- (ii) Identification of possible ranges of emission reductions by Annex I Parties, through their domestic and international efforts, and analysis of their contribution to the ultimate objective of the Convention, ensuring due attention to the issues mentioned in the second sentence of Article 2 of the Convention;

(b) **Analysis of possible means to achieve mitigation objectives:**

- (i) Analysis of means that may be available to Annex I Parties to reach their emission reduction targets, including: emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms under the Kyoto

Protocol; the rules to guide the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF); the greenhouse gases (GHGs), sectors and source categories to be covered, and possible approaches targeting sectoral emissions; and identification of ways to enhance the effectiveness of these means and their contribution to sustainable development;

- (ii) Consideration of relevant methodological issues, including the methodologies to be applied for estimating anthropogenic emissions and the global warming potentials of GHGs;

(c) **Consideration of further commitments by Annex I Parties:**

Consideration of the scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I Parties in aggregate and of the allocation of the corresponding mitigation effort, and agreement on their further commitments, including new quantitative emission limitation or reduction commitments, and on the duration of the commitment period(s), taking into account the analyses described in paragraph 17 (a) and (b) above.

18. The AWG also decided to address legal matters arising from its mandate pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol in due course.

19. The AWG reaffirmed that the completion of its work programme will be advanced primarily through the work of Parties, and that it will draw upon relevant results achieved and work under way in other bodies and processes under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

20. The AWG considered it useful to seek input from external bodies and forums that have expertise relevant to its work and can contribute a broad diversity of experiences and perspectives. It therefore requested the secretariat, with guidance from the Chair, in preparing for future sessions, to draw upon analysis and information from the IPCC, in particular its Fourth Assessment Report, and from intergovernmental organizations, and, as appropriate, from non-governmental organizations and national research institutions and programmes. The AWG invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information about external bodies and forums that could provide expert input to the work of the AWG.

21. The AWG observed that the consideration and discussion of such input could be enhanced by in-session events such as workshops and round table discussions that would enable Parties to interact with experts. Such events should be well prepared by the secretariat with guidance from the Chair, focused on well-defined questions and supported by the advance submission of key material.

22. The work of the AWG in 2007 will focus on the topics contained in paragraph 17 (a) above and will start at its third session (May 2007). The AWG noted that presentation of the reports of the IPCC Working Groups on their contributions to the Fourth Assessment Report has been scheduled for that sessional period in 2007. The AWG invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information and views on the mitigation potential, effectiveness, efficiency, costs and benefits of current

and future policies, measures and technologies at the disposal of Annex I Parties, appropriate in different national circumstances, taking into account their environmental, economic and social consequences, their sectoral dimensions, and the international context in which they are deployed, i.e. the task set out in paragraph 17 (a) (i) above. It requested the secretariat to organize, with guidance from the Chair, a round table discussion on this topic during its third session, ensuring adequate interaction with experts involved in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report.

23. The AWG decided that, should the fourth workshop of the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention be held in September or October 2007, its fourth session would be held in conjunction with that workshop and be resumed and concluded during the second sessional period in December 2007.

24. The AWG will keep its work programme and methods of work under review. Further sessions will be scheduled with a view to completing the work of the AWG as early as possible and in time to ensure that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods under the Kyoto Protocol.

25. The AWG shares the concerns voiced at the workshop over the adverse impacts of climate change, including the threat of serious and irreversible damage, that would affect all humanity but most seriously poor and vulnerable people. The AWG underscores the need for the energetic and timely pursuit of its work programme so as to send a clear message that Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are taking the lead in the mitigation effort by taking action to maintain their overall emissions on a declining trend beyond 2012 through their domestic and international efforts, including possible use of market mechanisms and of the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. This will also give a clear signal to economic actors about the continuity of the international carbon market.