



AUSTRALIA

Views on the work programme for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action

This submission provides the views of the Australian Government on the work programme for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG) in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), taking into account the elements referred to in operative paragraph 1 of Decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan).

Operative paragraph 1 of 1/CP.13 provides a mandate for the work of the AWG consisting of five, interrelated strands of work, namely 1 (a), 1 (b), 1 (c), 1 (d) and 1(e). Operative paragraph 2 of 1/CP.13 decided that the AWG shall complete its work in 2009 and present the outcome of its work to the Conference of Parties for adoption at its fifteenth session.

Australia places a high priority on the AWG fulfilling its mandate in an urgent and comprehensive manner so as to allow the Conference of Parties to forge a post-2012 multilateral outcome that sees all countries act further to mitigate and adapt to climate change in a manner that is equitable, and environmentally and economically effective.

It is important that the work of the AWG proceed in an urgent and effective fashion to allow the Conference of Parties to the Convention and the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to act with confidence in addressing other work, in particular the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

The scope, complexity and interrelated nature of the work of the AWG are such that the work should be organised to consider elements from more than one strand at each session. As a minimum, each strand should be initially addressed by the AWG during the course of 2008 to allow the AWG to complete consideration of substantial outcomes under each work strand in 2009.

The Annex to 1/CP.13 sets out a timetable for four meetings of the AWG in 2008. Australia proposes that the following matters be addressed by each session of the AWG.

- . **Session 1** (31 March-4 April 2008) should consider, and reach agreement on a detailed schedule of work for 2008, including a schedule for workshops and other activities.
- . **Session 2** (2-13 June 2008) should give initial consideration to the technology and financing streams of work, specifically 1 (d) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) and 1 (e) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi).
- . **Session 3** (August/September 2008) should meet for six working days and should give initial consideration to specific elements of the mitigation and adaptation streams of work, specifically 1 (b) (ii) (v) (vi) and (vii); and 1 (c) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v).
- . **Session 4** (1-12 December 2008) should give consideration to a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emissions reductions as specified in 1 (a), as well as give initial consideration of the remaining elements of the mitigation work stream, specifically 1 (b) (i) (iii) (iv). Session 4 should also consider, and reach agreement, on a detailed work plan and schedule of work for 2009, including a schedule for any workshops and other activities.

Parties, and where relevant other multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, should be asked to submit detailed views on the work for each session, allowing the Secretariat enough time to compile submissions for consideration by the group at the relevant session.

To assist Parties in the preparation of views and to facilitate the work of AWG sessions, Australia would welcome the Chair and the co-Chair of the AWG posing a series of relevant questions. For example, Session 3 could consider a question such as “How can mitigation actions by developing countries be best measured, reported and verified?”, and Session 4 could consider a questions such as, “What constitutes comparable effort among developed countries?”

As decided in Operative Paragraph 3 of 1/CP.13, the work of the AWG should be complemented by workshops and other activities, particularly on more technical matters. Such complementary activities will facilitate the negotiating process.

Australia would welcome, and be willing to help support, the holding of a tailored workshop on 1(b)(iii) in the second half of 2008, in particular focusing on the overarching policy issues to guide ongoing methodological work relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Other elements on which workshops would be considered useful to inform meaningful deliberations, and to promote the engagement of other multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, include 1(b)(v) and 1(b)(vii). The workshops could draw out more detailed discussions if held for 4-5 days rather than the typical 2-3 days of UNFCCC workshops.

As agreed in Operative Paragraph 11 of 1/CP.13, the process should be informed by processes under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol will be particularly relevant to the work of the AWG, in particular with regard to rules-based approaches.

As further agreed in Operative Paragraph 11 of 1/CP.13, the process should be informed by outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes. For instance, the Major Economies Meeting process will discuss matters, such as a long-term global goal for emissions reductions, which will be complementary to the work of the AWG.

As agreed in Operative Paragraph 11 of 1/CP.13, the process will benefit from insights from the business and research communities and civil society. This could be done through inviting the business and research communities and civil society to make submissions, and for the AWG Chair and Co-chair to invite qualified individuals as appropriate to make presentations at the workshops.