

Submission by Japan
Information, views and proposals on matters related to the work of Ad Hoc Working
Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)
(10 September, 2013)

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its basic philosophy, information, views and proposals on basic structure and elements of the post-2020 framework (Workstream 1) and on global pre-2020 mitigation ambition (Workstream 2) as well as the timeline of the ADP's work plan based on the request by paragraph 32 and 33 of the conclusion of the Bonn session this past June (FCCC/ADP/2013/2). Japan fully supports the new ADP Co-Chairs and a smooth transition in order to maintain forward-looking constructive atmosphere of discussions. Japan is counting continuously on their leadership and guidance for further work toward 2015.

Workstream 1

Japan believes that the post-2020 legal framework should be established under the Convention in further advancing the Cancun agreement, and be acceptable and attractive towards participation of all Parties. In a long-term perspective under the post-2020 framework, it is important to take into account the proposal made by the G8, which is achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050 and as a part of it, developed countries reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in aggregate by 80% or more by 2050 compared to 1990 or more recent years.

1. Elements and basic structure of the post-2020 framework

Mitigation, in particular submission of a commitment including an emission reduction target and all possible measures, basic accounting rules, and basic rules on transparency mechanisms, should constitute a core new legal agreement applicable to all Parties.

Adaptation should also be treated as a key element of the post-2020 framework, taking into consideration the progress of existing arrangements such as the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), which consists of the Adaptation Committee, national adaptation plans, and work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage, in addition to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change under the Subsidiary Body.

Means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building) should be basically addressed in a series of relevant decisions, which takes into account

discussions and progress in existing arrangements such as the GCF, Standing Committee, work programme on long-term finance, TEC, CTCN, Durban Forum on capacity-building and so on in order to ensure continuity and avoid duplication.

2. Mitigation: nationally-determined commitments

Mitigation should be a core element of the post-2020 framework. The key to establishing a framework “applicable to all Parties” is a flexible hybrid system in which each Party submits its nationally-determined commitment (emission reduction target and all possible measures) under internationally common accounting rules.

In principle, the nature of commitment of each Party should be nationally determined based on its circumstances, taking into consideration its respective responsibility and capabilities as well as the aspect of comparability among commitments in order to advance global warming countermeasures as a global issue.

However, all Parties should have the same international obligation to submit their commitments in a way that allows comparing, evaluating and reviewing the performance and effects of each Party’s efforts.

In order to effectively deal with climate change, major economies are highly expected to present quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets, which ensure a fair level playing field. A Party who cannot submit its commitment by the deadline should be subject to a reasonable explanation and provide an alternative deadline with a view to facilitating its future commitment.

Performance of a Party should be evaluated not only by its emission reduction but also by substantive outcomes of various policy measures (ex. energy efficiency and renewables), development and transfer of technologies, establishment of low carbon development strategies and activities in each sector etc.

3. Effective transparency mechanism

Each Party is subject to an effective transparency mechanism common to all Parties composed of ex-ante consultation as well as ex-post international evaluation and review of each Party’s performance based on internationally agreed rules. This system ensures transparency and can lead to more ambitious mitigation efforts by assessing the potential for emission reduction and removal.

(1) Ex-ante consultation

Ex-ante consultation can be implemented in the following way, for example;

- Each Party submits its initial commitment to the Secretariat several months before

- an official submission. This would be open to the public on the UNFCCC website.
- Interested actors such as Parties, international organizations, private sectors, NGOs, make submissions in the form of questions or opinions to presented commitments on the UNFCCC website.
 - Each Party examines its initial commitment, taking account of questions and opinions by others, and then decides its official commitment to submit to the Secretariat.

(2) Ex-post international evaluation and review of the performance

Effective and efficient international evaluation and review of each Party's performance should be established based on experiences of and lessons from the existing MRV process introduced under the Cancun agreement, with a view to facilitating each Party's fulfillment of its commitment. It can be implemented in the following way, for example;

- Each Party submits a regular report. The format of the report is expected to be simple and internationally common, taking into consideration lessons from BR/BUR and IAR/ICA processes. A technical assessment such as consistency with the format would be useful in order to facilitate the process. The regular report is open to the public on the UNFCCC website.
- Interested actors such as Parties, international organizations, private sectors, NGOs, can send questions or opinions on the performance and other information included in the above report.
- Review sessions are to be held at occasions including SBs to discuss performance and efforts of each Party in line with its commitment and its potential for emission reduction by making the best use of expertise and objective analysis by relevant experts outside UNFCCC (ex. international organizations such as IEA, IPEEC, IRENA, international private organizations (ex. World Steel Association, ISO, international think-tank, private sectors, NGOs). Frequency and depth of the ex-post international evaluation and review should be effective and equitable taking into consideration the impacts of GHG emissions of each Party on global warming.
- On the occasion of revising commitments for the next phase, each Party is subject to an ex-ante consultation, taking into account the results of the previous international evaluation and review.

4. Adaptation

It is important to take best practices and lessons from existing arrangements and institutions on adaptation into our consideration of the 2015 agreement. As possible elements of the post-2020 framework, there are formulating national adaptation plans, establishing a technical body such as the Adaptation Committee and a knowledge platform such as the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).

Each party should formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national adaptation plans. A technical body will be useful to provide parties with technical advice in a variety of themes on adaptation. One option is the extension and/or expansion of function of the current Adaptation Committee beyond 2020. Continuing to elaborate the knowledge platform such as the NWP will be utilizable among parties.

Workstream 2

(1) Japanese innovative policy measures

Japan is promoting innovative policy measures which could be effective in realizing a low carbon economy and reducing emissions substantively. Japan believes it useful and practical to share and expand its experiences and knowledge to other countries in order to raise global pre-2020 mitigation ambition.

- Promotion of Renewable Energy

Japan has set a direction to accelerate the promotion of renewable energy at most, in the next three years. To this end, Japan will steadily implement the feed-in-tariff scheme and take various measures such as budget, tax and deregulation.

Under the feed-in-tariff scheme introduced in July 2012, if a renewable energy producer requests an electric utility to sign a contract to purchase electricity at a fixed price and for a long-term period guaranteed by the government, the electric utility is obligated to accept this request. For the period between April 2012 and May 2013, the deployment of renewable energy is about 3,359 MW.

Other various measures include budgetary steps such as the grid expansion for exploring much more wind power, development of large scale storage battery technology, and commercialization of floating offshore wind power generation.

- Top Runner Program

Energy conservation standards under the so-called “Top Runner Program” have been implemented for automobiles and household electrical appliances in accordance with the Act on the Rational Use of Energy as amended in 1998. This program stipulates performance of currently commercialized products with most superior energy consumption efficiencies (Top Runner products) with considerations for future prospects of their performances and technical developments. Japan has dramatically improved various type of energy efficiency under this program (e.g. gasoline passenger vehicles: 48.8% improvement from 1995 to 2010, air conditioners: 32.3% improvement from 1997 to 2007). In this year the standards are to be amended to add thermal insulation materials, etc. to “Top Runner Program” for the improvement of energy efficiency in house/building sectors.

- Revision of Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures

The revised act obliges the government to develop a Global Warming Countermeasures Plan that includes targets regarding greenhouse gas emissions and

sinks for each class and category of greenhouse gases.

- The new regulation on the fluorocarbons based on the Revision of Fluorocarbons Recovery and Destruction Act

Japan has recently revised the act for fluorocarbons control to fight the rapid increase in HFC emissions. The act covers the whole life cycle from production to destruction/recycle of fluorocarbons.

(2) International Cooperative Initiatives

Japan considers it useful to learn good measures and policies and to enhance each other's actions. In this sense, the revised technical paper on international cooperative initiatives by the Secretariat would be helpful. All possible measures should be mobilized as follows;

- Measures to reduce GHG emissions in the international transport sector by IMO/ICAO
- International collective initiatives to reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (e.g. CCAC)
- Cooperation and initiatives to aim at mitigating climate change at the regional level
- Phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies (e.g. G20)
- Policy trend on energy efficiency and renewables (e.g. IEA, IPEEC, IRENA)
- Initiatives by industry, local authorities, IGOs and NGOs (e.g. ISO)
- Several proposals on low-carbon/emission strategies by think-tanks.
- Phasing out production and consumption of HFC under relevant bodies.

Japan is promoting the JCM with a view to facilitating diffusion of leading low carbon technologies, products, systems, services and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions at the global level. The JCM also aims at appropriately evaluating contributions to GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner, through the application of robust MRV methodologies, and using this to achieve Japan's emission reduction target. Japan has signed bilateral document with eight partner countries by September 2013 and is willing to share our experiences in the implementation of this mechanism, hoping they would enhance mitigation actions.

(end)