

June 2, 2015

Side-event on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) Side Event Report

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This is a report of a side event held at the 42th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC (SB42) from June 1st to 11th 2015, in Bonn, Germany.

- Title : Side-event on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)
- Time and Date : 13:00 - 15:00 June 2, 2015
- Organizer(s) : UNFCCC
- Venue : Wasserwerk, World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Bonn, Germany
- Abstract: The objective of the side-event was to provide an opportunity for Parties who have submitted their INDCs to share their experience in the preparation of those INDCs. Other Parties who have not yet communicated their INDCs also shared their experiences regarding preparation of INDCs.

■ Summary

This side event has been organized following a request by ADP co-chairs in order to provide Parties an opportunity to share their experiences about INDC preparation. The event has been moderated by representatives from France and Peru who mentioned that ten INDCs were already submitted, and that as a continuation, a second side event would be held on June 9th. In this session, countries had 10 minutes to introduce experiences with INDC preparation.

1. Representative from Switzerland: "Cornerstones of Swiss INDC"

- The Swiss INDC has set a commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, mainly through domestic efforts. To some extent, Swiss is planning to use carbon markets
- Switzerland's' emissions during the period of 1990-2013 were explained and some comparisons between emissions and GDP per capita were studied
- The level of ambition was set as expected per capita emissions reduction of -40% to -70% below 2010 levels, or in other words, 1 to 2 tons per capita in 2050
- The process enabling actions were listed as: 1) already existing instruments in place

(some of them related to the Kyoto protocol); 2) broad support for mitigation actions; and 3) long-term vision

- In order to do this, the process included calculations and projections of options, consultation phases with stakeholders, decision by the Swiss federal council, submission to the UNFCCC, and based on the adoption of the Paris Agreement, actions will be anchored in a national law and ratification
- The interventions finished with challenges that include ambitious timeline, unclear rules/ assumption and different views among stakeholders

2. Representative from EU: “The INDC of the European Union and its 28 member states”

- EU started preparing their INDC in an early stage aiming at presenting it well in advance to Paris, in order to facilitate discussions. Concepts such as clarity, fairness, and ambition were clearly defined.
- EC was concluded on 24 Oct 2014 that a binding target that an at least 40% domestic reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- National targets were translated to an INDC in accordance with the “Lima Call for Climate Action” approved by the EU Environment Council and submitted on 6 March 2015, and the coverage includes economy wide absolute reduction from base year emissions, in a period covering 2021-2030
- Although there were many questions on what to include in the document, the planning process has been fast because the domestic legally binding legislation was already in place
- EU considers that the INDC target shows fairness and it is ambitious, as it takes a significant progress beyond the current undertaking of 20% emissions reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.
- The document also explains methodologies to be used, sectors and source categories.
- As for stakeholders, all EU institutions were involved and discussions continued with international partners.
- The document includes a non ETS 2030 target of -30% compared to 2005 levels, while the ETS target is of -43%
- All kinds of benefits were determined such as fuel savings, co-benefits including health and pollution benefits

3. Representative from Norway: “Norway’ s INDC”

- Norway has targeted at least 40% of emissions reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

- Although Norway has a collective delivery with the EU of 50% emissions covered by the EU-ETS, they have established a national target for non-ETS instruments as well. Besides that, they are considering use of international flexible mechanisms outside of the EU that will be considered additionally.
- Norway will also use flexible mechanisms under the UNFCCC. In this sense, if it can contribute to a global and ambitious climate agreement, Norway will consider taking a commitment beyond 40% through the use of flexible mechanisms.
- Norway considers that they have set an ambitious national climate policy, through considerable emissions reduction towards 2030, and a long term goal of becoming a low emission society by 2050.
- The final part gave some details on how political ownership was built through participation from all relevant ministries, stakeholder consultations, and parliamentary backing

4. Representative from Gabon: "Gabon's INDC: process and content"

- The speaker started his intervention explaining how the effects of climate change is affecting his country, followed by some data regarding Gabon's GHG emission profile. He indicated that even Gabon is a carbon sink and does not have to reduce emissions, for the elaboration of their INDC they are not using this ability
- Since forests cover 80% of the country, main public policies are focused on the LULUCF sector. By using data from the Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations, the speaker explained some projections, how they are working with the national inventory of natural resources, and how they are formulating their policies on land use, etc.
- He finalized indicating that based on their data they were able to determine their goals, which are at least 50% reduction in emissions compared to uncontrolled development scenario by 2025 in the period 2010-2025, giving some examples such as creation of national parks, introduction of a new forest code and a national flaring reduction plan, among others.

■ Q&A

Q. Representative from the Marshall Islands

To the participants who introduced their INDCs, please explain if your countries have considered how to further increase ambition levels. Also indicate if your country is planning

to use carbon markets and credits in order to achieve your targets.

A. Representative from Switzerland:

Regarding increase of ambition, one possibility would be to further analyze what can be done in the transport sector, especially considering our geographical location, but it also depends on what the EU does. Another sector might be the building sector, but for different reasons, actions in this sector are translated very slowly. As for the second part of the question on use of carbon markets, we eventually want to use carbon markets but to complement not to replace our targets. Special attention will be focused on avoiding double counting and using high green standards on additionality, etc.

A. Representative from EU:

The EU has worked on developing an ambitious INDC as possible. We had a lot of challenges to increase ambition levels and the process was not easy. The targets are very ambitious but not easy to achieve. In order to formulate this, we have conducted extensive public consultations focused not only on the INDC but on targets. Through these consultations we have studied how each target will be translated on real benefits. There are ongoing consultations to stakeholders such as public entities and the results are planned for mid-June.

A. Representative from Norway:

Norway has a commitment for an ambitious global agreement. The idea is to first reduce domestically and offset later. We have interesting projects such as the biggest CCS in Norway, and our INDC is clear on using the expression “at least”, which means to first set a target and then see if we can do more. By having clear targets the process didn’t take too much time.

A. Representative from Gabon:

As for Gabon, we have conducted long and significant cross sectoral consultations and we have studied if our INDC targets could be extended, but it all depends on international investment. For example, we have a lot of potential in energy, with international investments we will be able to increase projects and then positive effects can be translated. We haven’t included sequestration in spite of having good data and currently we are working in order to become a zero carbon economy through strong government policies.

Q. Representative from USA:

Question regarding consultation process. What was put forward to the public in relation to

preparation of INDCs, and what kind of information did you asked.

(Due to limited time, this will be discussed in the next session)

Q. Representative from Mexico:

The representative from Marshall Islands has mentioned non-conditional commitments. I would like to know about how to fully contribute to the overall target including non-conditional commitments.

(Due to limited time, this will be discussed in the next session)

Q. Representative from Palau:

For countries such as Palau who are still dealing with the preparation of INDCs we would like to hear about capacity constraints.

(Due to limited time, this will be discussed in the next session)

To access the Side Event Reports, please refer to the following link:

English:

http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/info/event/details_oecc_SB42report.html