

Egypt's submission of additional information on progress in implementing decision 1/CP.21, section IV: enhanced action prior to 2020

Introduction

In accordance with the paragraph 14 of decision 1/CP.23, Egypt would like to submit the following information on the progress in implementing decision 1/CP.21, section IV: enhanced action prior to 2020.

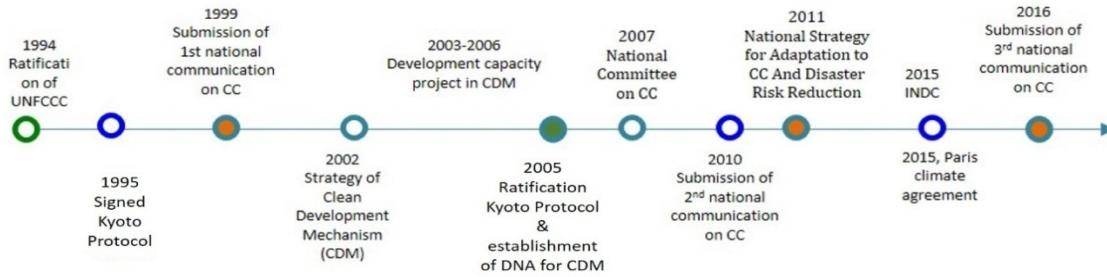
There is an urgent need to enhance pre-2020 action and support in terms of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building from developed countries to developing countries, as a solid foundation for post-2020 implementation.

The inadequate mitigation ambition with respect to the pre-2020 period by developed countries has resulted in the current ambition gap of 8 to 12 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for a scenario in which warming is limited to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and a larger ambition gap for an equivalent probability of remaining below 1.5°C. Therefore, developed countries should fulfill their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, including those relating to enhanced implementation in the pre-2020 period, while highlighting that any deficiency in achieving such commitments or in closure of emissions reduction gap shall not result in any burden on developing countries under the Paris Agreement post-2020. Such deficiency in achieving developed countries' commitments pre-2020 should be the responsibility of developed countries post-2020.

Egypt efforts to contribute to global action to address climate change

Egypt is among the first countries that joined the cooperative global efforts to confront climate change threats according to the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and respective capabilities. Egypt ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994, the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 and Paris Agreement in 2017, and currently is in the national process for ratifying Doha amendment.

Egypt submitted its initial, second and third national communications to the UNFCCC in 1999, 2010 and 2016, respectively. Also, National Environmental, Economic and Development Study (NEEDS) for Climate Change was developed in 2010 and Egypt's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) is underway and expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of 2018. The reports presented several adaptation and mitigation measures to play an effective role in achieving the main objective of the UNFCCC. Since then, the country adopted a range of policy actions to respond to climate change challenges as visualized below.



Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation efforts in Egypt

Egypt is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Egypt's Nile Delta¹ is one of the world three "extreme" vulnerability hot spots, and future projections indicate that Egypt will suffer from the following climate change impacts: sea level rise; water scarcity and deficit, and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, flash floods, heavy rains, sand and dust storms. This will lead to major impacts on infrastructure, beaches and fertile land in the Nile Delta as they are subject to erosion, salt water intrusion and inundation. Consequently, food security, human health, economy and ecosystems in Egypt are at risk. Sectors which are projected to be particularly affected include water resources, agriculture and fisheries, health, housing and settlements, biodiversity, telecommunications, energy, tourism, as well as coastal zones and coralreefs. Forexample, in the agriculture sector, crops will consume more water as the evaporation rate increases, leading to a decrease in productivity of staple food (wheat, maize, rice, tomatoes), and also sugar cane and milk. Reduction in the growth rates of cattle and poultry reals anticipated. Sea level rise is projected to lead to the loss of a sizable proportion of the northern part of the Nile Delta due to a combination of inundation and erosion, with consequential loss of agricultural and urban areas.

Consequently, Egypt has developed a strong policy framework underpinned by the 2011 National Adaptation Strategy (NAS 2011). The strategy aims at increasing the resilience of Egypt to tackle the risks and negative impacts of climate change on various sectors. The strategy is regularly updated to integrate new scientific information and findings from studies.

Climate Change Mitigation efforts in Egypt

According to the third national communication report of Egypt published in 2016 Egypt's emissions was 247.9 Million Tons CO₂e in 2005, which represents around 0.6% of the global emissions. Despite such very low contribution of Egypt to the global Greenhouse gases emissions, Egypt has taken many actions to mitigate greenhouse gases emissions, as follows:

- After ratification of Kyoto Protocol in 2005, Egypt has actively engaged in the clean development mechanism and has successfully registered 26 projects and programs of activities in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, industry & waste management. These projects contribute to the global mitigation efforts. However, most of them are currently facing many challenges due to the low prices of certified emission reductions because of the lack of demand due to the modest level of ambition by developed countries under Kyoto Protocol.

The country has already embarked on the following:

- Increasing the share of electricity generation from renewable energy sources.
 - Reducing energy subsidies depending on the consumption level leading to rationalization of energy consumption and consequently reduction of emissions.
 - Applying Feed-in-Tariff to promote extensive use and dissemination of photovoltaic and wind power generation as well as waste to energy projects.
 - Improving transport sector using natural gas in commercial vehicles; extending the electrified underground transportation to new areas in Greater Cairo; intensifying the use of environmentally sound river transport; facilitating the replacement of old taxis; and promoting the use of vehicles utilizing fuel cells. Moreover, promotion of electric cars was recently launched in Egypt, where it is planned to construct approximately 70 charging stations by the end of this year.
- Preparing the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) of Electricity Sector 2018 – 2020 in the context of Sustainable Energy Strategy 2035. The action plan reinforces energy efficiency standards, expands energy efficiency labeling for household appliances, application of energy efficiency code for buildings and disseminating efficient lighting.
 - Enhancing the institutional structure for identifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions NAMAs in various sectors in the context of national development.

Furthermore, Egypt has developed its Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 to ensure transformation to a low GHG emissions, resilient and adaptive development pathway. The projects and programmes for sustainable development until 2030 in the SDS include: legislative reforms to improve climate investment; climate change mitigation and protection of coastal establishments; developing the infrastructure required to reduce air pollution and face climate change; and adopt policies to reduce air pollution, adjust

to climate change and protect the environment. Achieving this very ambitious objective is beyond the domestic financial, technical and technological capabilities. Therefore, support from developed countries and international funding agencies is necessary to cover the financial gap.

According to Egypt's NDC, preliminary estimates of the financial contributions required for implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for both mitigation and adaptation is estimated at approximately 73.04 billion USD that is liable to increase. In addition, transfer of technology and capacity building are needed, as the Egyptian national efforts alone will not be able to fulfill the country's aspirations addressing the challenge of adaptation to the negative impacts of climate change and contribution to the mitigation efforts. Therefore, it is important to highlight the fact that developed countries should fulfill their commitments to provide finance, technology & capacity building to address the needs of developing countries.

Conclusion

It is vital to note that enhanced post-2020 ambition and action are inextricably linked and dependent upon enhanced pre-2020 ambition and actions. The planned stock-takes in 2018 and 2019, referred to in paragraph 17 and 18 of decision 1/CP.23, and the synthesis report to be produced as input to the 2018 stock-take, should focus on exploring solutions with high potential that are reflective of the gaps identified and lessons learned, whilst comprehensively taking stock of the progress in achieving pre-2020 commitments and actions.

More specifically, the aforementioned stock-takes and synthesis reports should reflect the progress made in the implementation of the pre-2020 issues identified in Section IV of COP decision 1/CP.21. In this regard, they should accurately and holistically capture the full extent of implementation by developed countries of their pre-2020 actions and commitments in terms of enhanced mitigation actions, and provision of finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity building to developing countries. The process of compiling and synthesizing the information submitted by Parties, should also take full account of and identify the gaps, whilst clearly highlighting any shortfalls, in the key areas of mitigation actions and means of implementation. In this regard, not all Annex I parties were able to meet their mitigation commitments and in some cases in fact, some Annex I Parties' emissions have even increased. Any outcomes from the COP arising from these assessments should reflect said gaps and missing actions.

The synthesis report should reflect the following:

1. The existing gap with regard to the remaining required ratifications for entry into force of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Progress of developed country Parties (if any) on revisiting their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets under the Convention and/or quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as set out in decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 4(c), and reiterated in decision 1/CP.21, section IV, paragraph 105(c).
3. The evaluation undertaken by developed country Parties on the continuing application of any conditions associated with increasing their respective individual quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020, with a view to adjusting, resolving or removing such conditions as set out in decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 4(d), and reiterated in decision 1/CP.21 section IV paragraph 105(c).
4. The scaling up of the provision of finance, technology, and capacity building support from developed countries to developing countries to enable increased mitigation ambition of developing countries as set out in decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 4(e), and decision 1/CP.21. Paragraph 114.

Raising ambition in the pre-2020 period will require the following actions:

1. Encourage Parties to ratify the Doha Amendment, noting that 111 Parties have already ratified the Doha Amendment, but a further 33 ratifications are required for it to enter into force.
2. Raise ambition and action on implementing the current 2020 mitigation pledges for Annex 1 Parties. In this context, some developed countries have demonstrated relatively low uptake and ambition to cover the emission gap. In light of this, commitments under the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol should be fulfilled by developed countries to ensure that no undue burden shifts to developing countries in the post-2020 period.
3. The 2020 pledges or NAMAs by developing countries can be enhanced through enhanced and scaled-up provision of finance and identification gaps in this regard linking the transparent provision of climate finance with ambition in developing countries.
4. Scale up the provision of finance to developing countries under the Convention and deliver further on the promised pre-2020 finance and other means of implementation by developed country parties. New and additional finance should be provided by developed countries to developing countries, keeping in line with commitments under the Convention.

5. Enhance, operationalize and scale up efforts to transfer technology to developing countries under the Convention, with full recognition of the importance and complexity of Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs), and their development and transfer without barriers to developing countries. Furthermore, economic, technical, and policy barriers to this transfer should be addressed and Technology Needs Assessments and additional research and development initiatives of developing country Parties should be supported. In the same vein, intellectual property rights regimes need to be made more flexible for developing countries in order to promote the rapid transfer, diffusion, absorption and adoption

6. Provide adequate and scaled-up support for capacity building in developing countries, whilst being fully cognizant of the resource (human, financial, and technological) and capacity constraints involved. This support should be consistent with the national priorities, needs, and objectives of developing countries.

In conclusion, it is vital to link ambition of action on the one hand, and ambition of support provided, in terms of means of implementation, on the other. This balance needs to take full account of pre-2020 commitments, in the context of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as post-2020 commitments, in light of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. Considering both periods in a holistic manner will allow for increased ambition and effective action by developed countries both pre-and post-2020 to address their pre-2020 implementation gaps (in terms of mitigation, as well as means of implementation provided to developing country parties) as well as raising ambition by developing countries in both the pre-2020 and post-2020 periods. Overall, this will lead to a virtuous cycle of stronger, more effective, and more just international cooperation on climate change in the post-2020 period as the implementation of the Convention is enhanced through its Paris Agreement.