



NEW ZEALAND

Submission to the SBI/SBSTA on the work of the improved forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures

October 2018

Context

Paragraph 7 of decision 11/CP.21 mandates a review of the work of the improved forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (the improved forum) every three years, beginning at the 49th session of the subsidiary bodies. SBSTA48 and SBI48 agreed on the scope of the review to serve as a guide for the review.

2 New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the work programme and modalities of operation of the improved forum. We seek to contribute constructively to the one-day review of the improved forum in conjunction with SB49 with a view to concluding its work.

3 New Zealand expects the outcomes of the review to inform the forum serving the Paris Agreement. This entails assisting Parties and non-Party stakeholders to address the impacts of mitigation actions and to identify opportunities for further mitigation effort as they implement the Paris Agreement and seek to fulfil its temperature goal.

Work programme of the improved forum

4 In our view, the work programme to address economic diversification, and just transition of the workforce has been successful in supporting the functions and objectives of the forum as outlined in decision 11/CP.21. Focusing the work programme on two areas relevant to all Parties, and to non-Party stakeholders, has seen the improved forum evolve into a more useful and inclusive platform.

5 The work programme's initial activities have shown the considerable scope to delve deeper into specific aspects of these themes. Further work on economic diversification and just transition would even better assist Parties to harness positive impacts of the global transition to a low-emissions economy and to build capability to minimise negative impacts.

6 New Zealand considers sector specific discussions within these themes would be useful. For example, as countries take action to reduce emissions from energy generation, emissions from the agriculture and transport sectors will make up larger proportions of their emissions profiles. Mitigation measures in transport and agriculture have important social and economic implications that the forum might usefully consider.

7 In addition, there are elements of economic diversification and just transition that have not yet been considered by the work programme, for example, elimination of trade distorting fossil fuel

subsidies. Fossil fuel subsidy reform has been estimated to reduce global carbon emissions and potentially to release up to US\$425 billion per year for other national development priorities. New Zealand suggests fossil fuel subsidy reform could be considered through the improved forum's work on just transition.

Modalities of operation of the improved forum

8 The improved forum's in-session discussions in a contact group setting have proved a constructive and inclusive operational modality. This format allows for engagement by the maximum number of Parties, and accommodates the capacity constraints of smaller delegations, which New Zealand appreciates. We saw particular value in the in-forum training workshop on the use of economic modelling tools related to the areas of the work programme held during SB48 in April 2018. New Zealand suggests in-session contact group meetings should remain the default modality for the improved forum.

9 In addition, New Zealand suggests submissions could be called for and inclusive workshops, on the agreed activities of the work programme. In-forum technical work is also able to draw on the key findings of the ad hoc technical expert group. However, it will be important not to duplicate or distract from the in-forum work once under way.

10 Collaboration with relevant specialist organisations has helped develop the evidence base underpinning the forum's work. For example, technical papers prepared by the International Labour Organisation have been valuable to discussions of just transition. Synergies with relevant expert organisations could be strengthened as the improved forum moves forward.

11 New Zealand considers the improved forum should also capitalise on the expertise of relevant bodies and processes within the UNFCCC. For example, the forum could engage with the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to better access expertise on impacts of vulnerable and minority groups.

Conclusion

12 In New Zealand's view, while it could be enhanced further, the improved forum has been helpful for countries' understanding of economic, environmental and social impacts of mitigation policies on their economies. We look forward to the one-day review as an opportunity to discuss lessons learned about the operation of the forum. Ultimately, we wish to see a forum that is constructive and inclusive, offering a structured platform for cooperation.