

## Submission by Japan

### Views on agenda item 6 on the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement

(27 April 2017)

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on matters relating to the global stocktake: (a) identification of the sources of input for the global stocktake; and (b) development of the modalities for the global stocktake. The following proposals takes into account the guiding questions referred to in paragraph 17 of the conclusions of the second part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA).

Our proposals below build upon the previous submission with Australia, Canada, and the United States<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Overall Context**

- The concepts of the global stocktake are described in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement as follows:
  - Purpose: to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals
  - Principles: comprehensive and facilitative process in the light of equity and the best available science
  - Scope: mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support
  - Outcome: to provide information for Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action

In addition, paragraph 99 of Decision 1/CP.21 provides the initial list of the sources of input.

- Japan believes that technical discussions based on above-mentioned concepts set by the Paris Agreement should be moved forward toward substantial development this year.
- It was decided at the COP22 that the work programme under the Paris Agreement will be completed in 2018. In order to meet this deadline, the necessary elements of the sources of input and the modalities should be identified this year, and discussion on the draft text should be started as early as possible in 2018.
- Parties should focus on technical discussions and the inter-sessional works should be

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<sup>1</sup> See:

[http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/175\\_282\\_131203248122792792-Submission%20by%20Australia-Canada-Japan-United%20States%20on%20APA%20Item%206.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/175_282_131203248122792792-Submission%20by%20Australia-Canada-Japan-United%20States%20on%20APA%20Item%206.pdf)

decided at the APA 1-3. Focused submissions from Parties should be invited. The technical paper by the secretariat on the synthesis of Parties' submissions and/or relevant past experiences, and the technical workshop would also facilitate the discussion further.

### Inputs

- Taking into account the purpose of the global stocktake, the inputs for the global stocktake should consist of factual, technical and accurate information on the progress of each of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support.
- In order to ensure that the global stocktake is conducted based on the best available science, IPCC plays a key role in providing scientific basis. Japan welcomes the decision that the IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report would be finalized in 2022 in time for the first global stocktake.
- Identifying the complete list of inputs until CMA1-3 would not be a pragmatic approach, as the inputs for the future global stocktake, which will be conducted every 5 years, would not be able to predecided. Such approach would not be appropriate in terms of providing input of the best available science at the time. What should be considered by CMA1-3 should be the non-exhaustive list of the sources of input. The list could include:
  - Parties' submissions such as NDCs, adaptation communications and reports under the transparency framework of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (maybe synthesized by the secretariat)
  - The latest reports from the IPCC
  - Reports from bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement
  - Relevant reports and studies or scientific and reliable information from international organizations, as appropriate (especially documents which are published after the cut-off dates of each IPCC cycle and meeting IPCC criteria)
- The process for collecting inputs is necessary for the global stocktake. Japan is of the view that the process of the global stocktake should be conducted efficiently, while ensuring adequate assessment of the collective progress. In order to ensure that the inputs are relevant and adequate, the process for collecting inputs could be the following, based on the non-exhaustive list of the sources of input to be identified at the CMA1-3:
  - 1) The subsidiary bodies (SBs) prepare the list of available inputs with support from the secretariat, taking into account the best available science.
  - 2) The SBs invite Parties' submission to supplement the inputs, if necessary.
  - 3) The co-facilitators of the technical phase (see the "Modalities" section below) organize the inputs, consulting with Parties.

Detailed process and possible timeline would need further consideration.

- As the global stocktake is not a one-time event, any inputs that come in late for a cycle of the global stocktake could be considered in the following cycle. Thus, specifying a cut-off date for inputs would be helpful to ensure that inputs are adequately considered in the process. It will be useful that the secretariat produces and updates an information note containing list of relevant inputs and the timing of their availability.

### **Modalities**

- As referred to in Article 14, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement, the global stocktake assesses the collective progress of mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, in accordance with Article 2 of the Agreement. Each of the three areas is different in nature, while comprehensive effort on these areas is needed. In this regard, technical reviews focused on each of them respectively are needed in order to provide accurate and adequate information on the progress of each area.
  - Mitigation
 

The assessment of the collective progress towards the long-term temperature and emissions goal of the Agreement needs to take into account both the recent emission trends and the future projections. The progress of policies and measures could also be considered.
  - Adaptation
 

The assessment should be conducted in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 14 (a) to (d) of the Paris Agreement. Regarding subparagraph (d) in particular, it is not feasible to identify numerical indicators for reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation.
  - Means of implementation and support
 

Both support provided and received should be taken into account when assessing the collective progress. The assessment should be made not only by the amount of climate finance itself but also by the traits and tendencies of the support to developing countries Parties from a qualitative perspective.
- Along with such technical work, the enhancement of the political momentum for global response to climate change toward achieving the long-term goals under Article 2 of the Agreement is also important.
- Therefore, the global stocktake should consist of both technical and political phases. It would be at least one year process, and it should be noted that adequate consideration would be needed when essential reports including those from IPCC are released.

### Timeline

- 1) Technical phase: technical dialogue in conjunction with the SBs, followed by the

release of the output well before the next phase, i.e. the political phase

- 2) Political phase: political dialogue based on the output of the technical phase in conjunction with the CMA of the year of the global stocktake, followed by the release of the output

#### Technical Phase

- Japan takes note of the advice by the SBSTA at its 45<sup>th</sup> session on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the global stocktake (FCCC/SBSTA/2016/L.24), which refers to lessons learned from the past experiences. In particular, the structured expert dialogue (SED) on the 2013-2015 review of the long-term global goal was mentioned as a successful example of a technical and constructive opportunity for exchanging views among experts and Parties based on the best available science.
- The experience of the SED provides useful lessons for the modalities of the global stocktake, for example:
  - Open and transparent dialogue with participation of various experts, Parties and observers
  - Broad technical inputs such as presentations from experts
  - Exchanging views among participants in a facilitative manner, with the guidance of the co-facilitators
  - Providing scientific output as a report by co-facilitators, containing the summary of the dialogue and key messages
- Taking into account the past experiences and the advice by the SBSTA, the technical phase would consist of an open-ended technical dialogue among experts and Parties. The inputs could be introduced through tailored presentations by experts from relevant bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and international organizations including the IPCC. The presentations would be followed by questions and answers on technical issues among experts and Parties. Selecting the co-facilitators prior to the commencement of the technical dialogue could be helpful to convene this process efficiently.
- The SBs could assist the CMA to conduct the process by setting up a joint contact group and providing a space for the technical dialogue.
- As the output, a report, which includes technical information on the process, sources of input, discussions and assessments, could be prepared by the co-facilitators with assistance from the secretariat.

#### Political Phase

- A high-level dialogue facilitated by the CMA presidency could be convened to discuss the collective progress of the implementation of the Paris Agreement based on the

output of the technical phase. The increased awareness of Parties, which would lead to updating and enhancing their actions and support, could be expected with the involvement of the high-level representatives.

- It could be concluded with, for example, a summary of the high-level dialogue. This output will inform Parties and the international society of the status of the collective progress toward achieving the purpose and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, and could also identify the opportunities of best practices and possible measures which will inform Parties in updating and enhancing their efforts. In terms of the format, whether it includes any key messages or recommendations, and whether it takes the form of the CMA decision would need further discussion, bearing in mind that Parties should not focus on negotiating the output, but on the process itself.
- The outcome should contribute to recognizing gaps and opportunities in updating and enhancing Parties' action and support in order to enhance global response to climate change. In addition, the experience of the global stocktake could contribute to the improvement of successive global stocktake cycles.