



POLICY
BRIEFING

BONN
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WWF POLICY BRIEFING ON GENEVA TEXT

SECTION D. MITIGATION

1. LONG-TERM GOAL

The temperature goal should be addressed in the context of overall climate efforts, covering not just mitigation but also adaptation and support. Hence it has to be located in the General/ Objective section. Preambles are less significant in legal status and thus it is important that the target must be reflected in the body text (i.e. in the General / Objective section).

For mitigation, a long-term quantified emission reduction target based on a carbon/emissions budget is critical to limit warming to below 1.5 °C. The General Objective section must capture this point at a high level while the details should be discussed in the “Mitigation” section. The mitigation section also has to capture the specific numbers for a 2050 emission reduction goal. We believe that a GHG-based goal consistent with 1.5 °C would be ideal but it is acceptable to have a CO₂ only target if the number is consistent with keeping warming below 1.5 °C.

For the carbon budget goal, a qualitative condition of “being consistent with 1.5 °C” should be sufficient at this stage to avoid losing negotiation time to intractable conversations about the details of negative emissions etc. These points should be captured as follows:

- The temperature goal of “staying below 1.5 °C increase” has to be clearly stated in the “C. General/Objective” section with a recognition that a limited emissions budget remains. It has to include reference to 1.5 °C, not just 2 °C. It would be good to also reflect this goal in Section A – Preamble but less critical.
- 2050 Goals for quantified emission reductions and A Carbon Budget Goal must be captured in the “D. Mitigation” section (especially in Para 17.2).
- The following stipulations, consistent with limiting warming to below 1.5 °C could also be reflected:
 - o GHG emissions in 2050 to be 80% below 1990 levels
 - o Phasing out fossil fuel emissions by 2050 and phasing in 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050
 - o Calls for emissions to remain within a carbon budget that is consistent with 1.5 °C (without specific numbers)

For the timeframe 2050 has to be maintained for the long term goals.

2. NATURE AND FORM OF MITIGATION COMMITMENTS

First of all, mitigation commitments should be explicitly defined as a sub-category of commitments that Parties need to have.

It is not realistic at this stage to have categorized definitions of mitigation commitments based on differentiated country groupings. However, with a strong formulation of “no-backsliding” principle and a clear description of the “direction of travel” (towards the most stringent form of mitigation commitments), it is possible to strongly imply which form of mitigation commitments Parties have to choose based on their responsibility and capability.

For Parties to be able to increase the ambition levels of their commitments, further thinking is necessary about whether commitments should be captured outside of the main agreement (in a separate document with a clear legal link) or whether we capture the commitments in annexures within the main agreement. We urge Parties to actively engage in this discussion to ensure that the option agreed on results in commitments that are both binding and flexible to increase over time, while also providing the necessary confidence between Parties that these commitments will be implemented.

The key points that need to be captured by the text include:

- “Mitigation commitments”: We prefer “commitments” to “contributions” in terms of wording in the entire text. Parties should be held responsible for the action that they have pledged and “commitments” captures that responsibility much more clearly.
- Re-confirmation of the principle of no-backsliding (as reflected in Para 19). The no-backsliding principle in the Lima decision should be strengthened with more specificity.
- Differentiation for mitigation action should be explicitly based on “responsibility” and “capability”.
- A clear sense of direction in terms of mitigation commitments converging towards the most robust form (e.g, as in Para 21.5 Option 2 vii / Para 21.9). Ultimately all Parties must strive to move towards carbon budgets over five-year periods (while we recognise that a just transition towards that ultimate outcome must reflect developmental imperatives and equity).
- All parties should be obliged to have mitigation commitments (the form of these commitments may vary according to respective responsibilities and capabilities of countries).

3. MECHANISMS (MARKET / NON-MARKET)

Given the limited amount of available negotiation time it would not be wise to invest a lot of resources in discussing the problem of “to market, or not to market.” The basic approach should be to set up fundamental principles for both market-based and non-market-based approaches, as long as they share the concept of transferring units of emission reduction from one country to another. In order to make progress on this front in Paris WWF proposes the following:

- Only basic principles should be captured in the Paris agreement (in Para 39) while specific rules should be left for later decisions
- Encompassing language such as “various approaches” should be used to refer to market and non-market approaches collectively. .

**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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