



## Views regarding the shared vision under the LCA

Submission of the Climate Action Network International\*  
30 September, 2008

The shared vision must be for a post 2012 agreement that is adequate to avoiding the unprecedented threats of climate change for all life on Earth. It must be for an agreement that is comprehensive, ambitious and equitable, and it must lay down the yardsticks against which the agreement is measured.

The shared vision must lay out a vision for the transformation of the global economy into one that is low carbon and sustainable<sup>1</sup> in its production and consumption, for all countries to achieve their development goals in a manner compatible with this goal. It must lay out markers for adaptation and the levels of technological, financial and capacity building support that will be required to achieve the overall level of ambition.

### *Mitigation*

The shared vision must set the overall level of ambition for the post 2012 agreement, recognizing that climate change poses potentially catastrophic risks and the window of opportunity to act is closing rapidly. Agreement of a science-based overall level of ambition is vital, as this will define whether or not Parties are honoring their agreed ultimate objective of “avoid[ing] dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”. In CAN’s oft-stated view, the overall level of ambition must have a high probability of keeping global average temperature changes as far below 2°C as possible, compared to preindustrial levels.

CAN reminds Parties of the dangerous anthropogenic impacts predicted for temperature rises above the 2°C threshold by the IPCC AR4:

- 1.1 to 3.2 **billion** people suffering increased water stress
- loss of the incredible biodiversity of the coral reefs
- the terrestrial biosphere tending to become a net carbon source, exacerbating climate change further
- 3-15 million people at risk of coastal flooding each year
- increasing malnutrition, diarrheal, cardio-respiratory and infectious diseases

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\* CAN-International welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs to the discussions moving towards a post 2012 agreement. CAN is a coalition of more than 400 environmental and development non-governmental organizations in 85 countries worldwide, committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

<sup>1</sup> This obviously excludes nuclear energy

- increasing morbidity and mortality from heatwaves, floods and droughts
- long term commitment to several meters of sea-level rise due to ice sheet loss. Warming of 1.9°C above pre-industrial could already lead to irreversible meltdown of the Greenland ice-sheet.
- Major ( $\approx$  20%-80%) loss of Amazon rainforests and its biodiversity, with warming of 2.5 °C

The 2°C limit means that global emissions will need to peak within the next 10 years and decline thereafter. To achieve this, and to avoid dangerous climate change, the total binding QEROS of all developed countries must be ambitious: *at least* at the top end of the 25-40% reduction range, by 2020 from 1990 levels. A large majority of the effort must be made domestically, as a massive shift is required in the unsustainable and inequitable consumption patterns of developed countries and to lay the ground for the much deeper cuts (of at least 80-95%) required by 2050; this is an important element of the shared vision for low-carbon and climate-resilient development in developed countries. Developing countries will need to contribute adequately through substantial deviations from their BAU baseline by 2020 and the shared vision must recognize that this can only be achieved with financial, technological and capacity building support, in accordance with the Convention's principles.

A pathway that reduces emissions globally by 50% from 1990 levels by 2050 (aiming at 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) still carries an unacceptably high risk (26-78% probability) of exceeding 2°C warming. To make the achievement of the 2°C limit not just likely but “very likely”, global reductions on the order of 80% or more by 2050 would be needed. As noted in the AWG decision in Bali, more research is needed into lower stabilization scenarios. An emissions reduction target without a defined baseyear, such as that agreed in the 2008 G8 Summit, is meaningless.

Currently we are on a pathway that is more dangerous than hardly anyone could predict just a couple of years ago. Recent growth in emissions (3.3 % on average between 2000 and 2006) has been far faster than even the worst-case scenario modeled by the IPCC, which implies temperature increases in the range of 3-7°C above pre-industrial (2.4-6.4°C above 1980-1999 levels by 2100).

### *Adaptation<sup>2</sup>*

The shared vision needs to recognize that the less mitigation achieved the higher will be the adaptation burden in lives and costs, borne primarily by those poor people and countries particularly vulnerable to climate change (LDCs, SIDS and drought and flood-prone African countries). The shared vision must avoid reaching levels of global warming to which certain regions can not adapt, such as low-lying island states whose very existence is threatened by sea-level rise. Limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels must thus be an integral part of any serious international action on adaptation. The impacts, already being felt, caused by past emissions morally oblige those who have contributed the most to the problem to support those who are most affected in coping with the adverse consequences. CAN calls on all Parties to significantly enhance and expand action on adaptation now, up to and beyond 2012.

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<sup>2</sup> see also the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 CAN submission to the LCA on adaptation

The shared vision for adaptation must present a coherent framework for collaborative action that massively scales up commitment and delivery of adaptation resources and capacity. Such framework must

- ensure that adaptation financing, capacity and other urgently needed resources are scaled-up by at least three orders of magnitude, and are delivered to the most vulnerable communities, households and countries (in particular LDCs, SIDS and drought and flood-prone areas in Africa);
- be based on the premise that a comprehensive long term approach to adaptation to climate change is needed in order to address poverty in ways that reduce climate risk and vulnerability, and to increase the capacity to respond and adapt to climate variability and change;
- strengthen the capacity of developing country governments, sectors and civil society to understand adaptation needs, identify priorities and undertake adaptation actions, in order to contribute to national and local sustainable development;
- contain clear commitments by all Parties based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, especially specific verifiable financial commitments by developed countries;
- entail relevant institutional arrangements.

Since increased action on adaptation under the UNFCCC must have the key objective of contributing to the effective implementation of adaptation for those most in need, CAN requests certain principles as core components of the shared vision to help define ‘good’ adaptation. These particularly include a focus on the most vulnerable, the promotion of poverty reduction and long-term resilience, inclusiveness in designing and implementing adaptation projects and programs, sufficient and transparent access to information; attention to gender and learning by doing, given the limited experience with coping with uncertain future changes.

### *Technology*

As part of the shared vision for the shift to a sustainable, low (and eventually zero) carbon global economy, a massive scaling up of research and development, deployment, dissemination and transfer of clean technologies is essential for staying below 2°C and avoiding dangerous and irreversible climatic disruptions.

While the private sector can play a large role in shifting investments into clean, low carbon technologies, this will not happen at the scale and speed required without strong public policies and public funding to provide the regulatory environment, incentives and leadership to drive this shift, including at the international level under the UNFCCC. Parties must move quickly and decisively to create an effective, transparent and responsive technology mechanism under the UNFCCC with the resources and mandate to lead technology cooperation efforts, further develop and disseminate low carbon technologies, build capacity and enabling conditions and leverage private sector investments, especially in developing countries.

The institutional arrangements of the technology cooperation mechanism under the UNFCCC will need be representative, transparent and dynamic. Executive as well as expert bodies will

be needed, with close links to regional and national actors. The cooperation could take form of, for example, time-bound action programs or technology roadmaps.

To be successful, this effort will require significantly scaled up public funding under the Convention. The Bali Action Plan, especially Para 1(b)ii, has created an appropriate framework for negotiating the financial and other support for such technology cooperation, with both the provision of such support and the climatic and sustainable development benefits of this support being measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV). This sets the stage for ensuring that emissions trajectories in developing countries are kept substantially below BAU, and that they achieve low carbon development.

These technology cooperation efforts under the UNFCCC will be complemented and enhanced by the shift to low carbon technologies in developed countries driven by ambitious domestic emissions reduction targets in the high end of the -25-40% range, and additional reduction commitments that can be achieved through the international carbon markets, which can also serve to mobilize low carbon technologies in developing countries.

### *Finance*

Finance is an essential element in the shared vision and dramatically scaled up funding is essential to make sure other parts of the vision are realized. Such finance must be adequate, predictable and sustainable and closely aligned with the polluter pays principle. The priority areas for financial support in developing countries need to be adaptation, leveraging massive clean technology uptake and reducing emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation.

Substantial new and additional public funding is critical. It is needed to leverage much greater amounts of private financing and to help channel private sector activities towards the mobilization of climate friendly technologies, along with financing activities that do not attract private money, like the majority of the adaptation activities.

The most promising source of reliable, predictable and adequate funding for activities under the UNFCCC is the auctioning of some portion of AAUs, which are currently handed out free of charge to developed countries. The auctioning could take place at the international level, which would provide a source of funding independent of national budgeting processes. Such an arrangement can generate resources on the scale of tens or hundreds of billions of dollars per year, which is the order of magnitude of the amount of funding estimated to be necessary for adaptation and mitigation activities. This primary source of funding could also be supplemented by other sources such as levies or charges related to bunker fuels.

It must not be forgotten that the benefits, including economic ones, of taking strong, early mitigation action far outweigh the costs.