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**ANALYSIS TO INFORM INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

A. THE CONTEXT

The Bali Action Plan creates an Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action in which essentially all parties to the Climate Convention have agreed to participate. Two of the most important tasks imposed on the Ad Hoc Group are to address the following issues:

- (a) A shared vision for . . . a long-term goal for emissions reductions (to be discussed in terms of a level of atmospheric stabilization of greenhouse gases) and
- (b) National and international mitigation including (i) mitigation commitments by developed countries, and (ii) mitigation actions by developing country parties.

The initial stage of this negotiation is to be focused on an exploration of possible paths to stabilization at 550 ppmv CO₂e (i.e., all gas equivalent), and the parties have further agreed to propose a set of plans for the mitigation effort to be expected of different countries or regions, and the timing. These plans are to be presented as a starting point for the discussions—the only requirement being that each proposal meet the agreed stabilization objective AND that there be a clear description of its characteristics and the logic/arguments behind it.

The Ad Hoc Group discussion will start with a presentation by individual nations/groups of their proposal for emissions targets, and perhaps the role of permit trading and other transactions among parties.

You are divided into five teams, four countries or country groups plus the FCCC Secretariat, with the task of preparing your country, group or organization for these discussions. The task comes in two parts.

B1. COUNTRY TEAMS

You are citizens of one of the following nations or regional groups participating in this international discussion: the US, the EU, Russia and China. Your team constitutes an Inter-Agency (or Inter-Ministry) Task-Force which has been assigned the task of developing a proposal to be carried to the seminar. The proposal will be presented to the official(s) identified below, and used in internal government deliberation in deciding an approach and, as appropriate, for public information.

Part 1. Prepare a brief note (2 to 3 pages) summarizing the following aspects of your country or multi-national group, as they relate to climate negotiations.

- A. Identify the key government officials (their titles, not their individual names), who likely will be involved in the international seminar, and for whom a proposal and supporting analysis will be useful? (This is the client for whom you are preparing in Part 2).

- B. Summarize the key internal interests that have to be considered in the formulation of a national (or EU-wide) position in these discussions, and the main tensions that likely will arise.
- C. Identify the main areas of policy formulation, other than climate change, that are likely to be relevant to the internal decisions, and the external negotiating position of your country or group.

Note: You are expected to base your answer to Part 1 mainly on the knowledge that already exists within your team about your country or multi-national group. This note is due in class on Wednesday, April 23.

Part 2. Prepare a century-scale proposal, with supporting analysis, for your country/group to present to the first Ad Hoc Group session. Issues of particular importance include the following:

- Ways that overall national/regional commitments might be defined over time.
- The implications of any plan for your nation/region in the near term (say 10-20 years) and in the long term.

Factors that may figure in your analysis and recommendations include the following:

- Domestic interests and political pressures within your own nation or region, and
- Pressures for equitable sharing of burdens among nations.
- Uncertainties in the economics and science, and in the vulnerability to, and valuation of, climate change impacts.

B2. FCCC SECRETARIAT TEAM

You are staff members of the FCCC Secretariat. As is common in these negotiations, the Chairman of the FCCC will present a draft of a possible long-term plan to meet the 550 ppmv goal. The intent is to provide a “neutral” input to the opening Ad Hoc Group session. You are assigned to prepare the Chairman’s Draft.

Part 1. Prepare a brief note (2 to 3 pages) summarizing the following aspects of the coming negotiations, as preliminary step to preparing the Chairman’s Draft.

- A. Identify the half-dozen or so key nations, regional groups, or coherent interest groups whose agreement will be essential to success in discussing such a plan for long-term stabilization.
- B. Summarize those aspects of the seminar discussions that are likely to prove the most troublesome barriers to agreement.
- C. List the main overlapping issues that are likely to be relevant to national positions in these negotiations.

Note: You are expected to base your answer to Part 1 mainly on the knowledge that already exists within your team about country and group stakes in the climate issue. This note is due in class on Wednesday, April 23.

Part 2. The task of the Chairman’s Draft is to facilitate the seminar discussion by starting the negotiations at a point as close as possible to a plan that might be widely

acceptable. The proposal should recommend ways that national/regional commitments might be defined. Factors that may figure in your analysis include the following:

- Tradeoffs between the costs of emissions reduction and the potential impacts of climate change,
- Uncertainties in the economics and science, and in the valuation of climate change impacts,
- Domestic interests and political pressures within the various nations or regions,
- The need for equitable sharing of burdens among nations,
- Non-climate interests and political pressures that will be brought to bear in the negotiations.

C. FINAL REPORTS

Each Task-Force is to produce a (1-2 page) memo to the appropriate government (or FCCC) official(s) summarizing the national/regional negotiating position (or the FCCC recommendation) and the justification for it, along with a report (approximately 10 pages) presenting the analysis that underlies the recommendation. A meeting of appropriate government officials has been scheduled for May 12, at which time you will have 15 minutes to present your recommendations. You will submit your report at this time. Discussion will continue on May 14.

Note: your recommendations must be understandable to your non-expert audience, and should clearly address the concerns of the client you identified in Part 1.

RESOURCES

At the Bali COP it was agreed that, to provide for coherent discussions, all nations and the Secretariat will use the MIT Toy IGSM model for calculations to illustrate their proposals. Also, a recently released US study of stabilization levels (which does not deal with the issues of burden distribution at issue in these discussions) is available at <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap2-1/finalreport/default.htm>.