

Scorecard of the Bali climate talks



The following criteria and scoring of the Bali climate talks and Australia's position is based on CANA's expectations of the Bali climate conference which can be found at: http://www.cana.net.au/documents/CANA_Bali_climate_negotiations_brief_final.pdf

The issue	Criteria	Description of issue	Outcome of talks	Australia's performance
1. Keep warming below two degrees	The roadmap includes a binding commitment to keep warming as far below two degrees as possible.	Global average surface temperature increases must be kept as far as possible below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels to prevent dangerous changes to the climate system. (In the 20th century alone, global average temperature rose 0.7°C). To achieve this, we must stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations below 400ppm of CO2 equivalent in the atmosphere.	There is no mention of any temperature target at all in the Bali roadmap. The COP decision recognised the IPCC, but recognised all emissions scenarios, not just the lowest and closest to 2 degrees.	Australia has never stated what temperature it thinks we should aim for.
2. Set global emission reductions	The roadmap includes a binding commitment to peak global greenhouse gas emissions by 2015 at the latest, then reduce them to 50–85% by 2050 against 1990 levels. These targets to be reviewed as soon as the IPCC has completed its scenarios for keeping warming below 2 °C.	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment report found that in order to contain global warming to 2.0-2.4 °C, global emissions must peak before 2015, then decline to 50–85% below 2000 levels by 2050. The IPCC is currently working on global emissions pathways that limit warming to below 2°C. Until this occurs we must adopt the current lowest emissions pathways identified.	The decision of the COP recognises that deep cuts in global emissions will be required as indicated by the IPCC. However it recognises all IPCC scenarios, including those that result in five degrees of warming. There is no mention of when global emissions should peak. The AWG agreement recognises that the IPCC finds that global emissions must peak in the next 10–15 years then fall to well below 50% of 2000 levels by 2050.	In his speech to the UNFCCC plenary, PM Kevin Rudd supported having a global target, but gave no indication of what that might be.
3. Developed countries to take the lead on emissions reductions	The roadmap to include a commitment in the binding, operative section of the decision that as a group, developed countries will reduce their emissions by 25–40% by 2020 against 1990 levels. The road map provides a trigger for review of this range after the IPCC has completed its scenarios for keeping warming below 2°C.	Developed countries must take the lead on committing to absolute emissions cuts given that they (a) are responsible for more than 75% of emissions to date (b) have per capita emissions far higher than developing countries (c) have the financial capacity to deliver emissions cuts. According to the IPCC, developed countries must achieve at least a 25–40% cut from 1990 levels by 2020, and at least an 80–95% cut by 2050 in order to limit warming to 2.0–2.4°C. In order to start negotiations of national targets based on the science, developed countries will need to support this range until the IPCC develops an emissions pathway to achieve warming of less than 2°C.	The decision of the AWG under the Kyoto Protocol recognises that the lowest scenario of the IPCC AR4 requires annex 1 countries as a group to reduce their emissions in the range on 25–40 per cent by 2020 against 1990 levels. The AWG also decided to review this range once the IPCC carries out more research on lower stabilisation scenarios. The COP decision does not make any mention of specific reductions for developed countries.	Throughout the two weeks of the negotiations, Australia did not give its support to any statement that recognised the IPCC emission reduction range of 25–40%, beyond that recognised by the Vienna declaration. On the last day of negotiations, after it became clear that there was consensus on option 2, Australia spoke in its support.
4. Engage developing countries	A commitment by developed countries to support developing country actions through technology transfer, finance and capacity building. Willingness of developing countries to contribute to a global solution	Per capita emissions in rapidly developing countries are still much lower than developed countries. But with rapid economic growth in India and China, world emissions will still exceed the 2°C threshold unless developing countries also take action. While developing countries such as China and India should not be obliged to take on binding, absolute emission reduction targets until they reach a higher level of development, their emissions trajectories need to bend below business as usual if we are to prevent dangerous climate change. The historic emissions of developed countries means they have a responsibility for providing financing for developing country action.	The developing countries came to Bali and negotiated in good faith, offering to make a fair contribution to the fight to prevent dangerous climate change. In particular China played a very constructive role in the negotiations. Other developing countries who made notably positive contributions were South Africa, Brazil and our Pacific Island neighbours.	In his speech to UNFCCC Prime Minister Rudd made positive comments about developed countries needing to support developing nations through technology transfer and financial incentives. However there were no concrete commitments given.

<p>5. Support developing countries to deal with climate change</p>	<p>Acknowledge the urgency of adaptation for developing countries Acknowledgement that current adaptation financing from developing countries is inadequate Incorporate a plan to deliver <i>adequate, predictable, and additional</i> financial resources to support adaptation, including from new and innovative sources.</p>	<p>Developing countries have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions, but they are already, and will continue to be, the hardest hit by climate change. Voluntary funding by developed countries to support adaptation has failed. The best estimates of total funding required to meet the adaptation needs of all developing countries is in the order of at least \$50 billion per year, and far more if emissions aren't cut quickly enough. Rich countries have pledged less than 1% of these required funds. A more consistent, predictable, reliable and adequate source of funding is required, and this funding must be in addition to current aid budgets</p>	<p>The Bali Roadmap does not recognise the urgency of adaptation for developing countries but does acknowledge the need for access to adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources. The Bali Roadmap does not include binding commitments from rich countries to finance the adaptation needs of poor countries</p>	<p>The Australian Government has acknowledged that current funding levels from rich countries to help poor countries to adapt to climate change is inadequate, and that there is a need to find new funding mechanisms. Australia has not however supported binding targets for adaptation financing.</p>
<p>6. Share clean technology with developing countries</p>	<p>Developing countries continue to highlight their needs for technology from developed countries to be shared with them to help reduce emissions and deal with the impacts of climate change. Negotiates must identify and remove barriers to sharing clean technology and establish strong obligations for developed countries to share expertise, training and technology.</p>	<p>Clean technology can reduce emissions in developing countries at low cost but take-up is slow. There must be identification and removal of barriers to sharing clean technology and establishment of strong obligations for developed countries to share expertise, training and technology.</p>	<p>The agreement provides for searching and releasing funding for the transfer of clean technologies, but it will not ensure that such funding is actually provided. The Expert Group on Technology Transfer have been given a further five year mandate to help overcome the barriers to technology transfer.</p>	<p>Australia is generally supportive of assisting developing countries in gaining access to clean technologies. However, the Australian Government sees its own role in technology transfer as limited and prefers to leave things to the private commercial market. It could be doing more to support industry-wide approaches in the negotiations.</p>
<p>7. Reduce emissions by slowing deforestation</p>	<p>Inclusion of deforestation and degradation in the Climate Convention Support for incentives to reduce deforestation and degradation (e.g. logging) Acknowledgement of and benefits for Indigenous people, local communities and biodiversity. Commitment to effective accounting and reporting on deforestation rates.</p>	<p>Because deforestation in developing countries amounts to 20% of global carbon pollution, it is important that there is a plan to ensure that emissions from deforestation are reduced substantially and promptly, whilst benefiting forest communities and the environment.</p>	<p>The decision to address deforestation is an important step forward. It is a strong sign from developing countries that they want to contribute to protecting forests and the climate. There is still a long and complex process ahead. It will be important that discussions remain focused on emissions from the destruction of natural forests.</p>	<p>Australia was supportive of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation although they did not take a lead role.</p>
<p>8. Conclude negotiations by 2009</p>	<p>Bali Roadmap to ensure that negotiations are successfully concluded by 2009 so that there is no gap between commitment periods. Increased frequency of meetings, and an ambitious work plan, to get the work done.</p>	<p>Early action is critical to avoiding dangerous climate change. The Bali meeting must conclude in an agreement (Bali Roadmap) that includes a strict timetable and frequent meetings to complete negotiations by 2009, and ensure enough time to ratify this agreement before the first commitment period of Kyoto expires in 2012.</p>	<p>All decisions include a timetable with an end date for negotiations of 2009. More meetings are scheduled to complete the negotiations in time.</p>	<p>Australia has supported concluding negotiations by the end of 2009.</p>

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