



## Count down to Copenhagen: what to look for, what to expect

August 2009

CANA International Climate Summary Sheet #1

### Background

Australia is a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, but what exactly is being negotiated now, in the lead up to the crucial Copenhagen Conference of Parties in December 2009? What is Australia asking for: what are we blocking, and what do we need to change?

Currently there are two key negotiating groups at the UNFCCC: one working group is negotiating further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol after the first commitments expire in 2012 (AWG-KP), and another is negotiating for long term cooperative action after 2012 that will include countries and sectors that are not covered by the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-LCA). These two groups are operating in parallel, and the outcomes of Copenhagen are still very much unknown.

These CANA summary sheets are designed to give you a basic introduction to the issues that will define the Copenhagen talks.

### Key questions facing the negotiations in the lead-up to Copenhagen:

- **Mitigation:** High on the UNFCCC agenda will be new commitments for Annex 1 countries in the form of quantified emissions limitation and reduction obligations; an aggregate target for all Annex 1 countries combined; and the potential for agreement to nationally appropriate mitigation actions for developing countries, particularly those with rapidly increasing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Legal architecture:** How will commitments be made? Will we amend the Kyoto Protocol, make a new treaty altogether or end up with two treaties?
- **Finance:** How will developed countries and perhaps also major developing economies help developing countries fund efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change?
- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation** in developing countries (REDD). A fifth of global emissions come from deforestation: crucial to the negotiations this year will be the form of a REDD mechanism. Will it be part of a trading scheme, or will a fund be established to resource forest preservation?
- **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry** (LULUCF): The rules around LULUCF have a material impact on the degree to which parties must undertake mitigation in industrial sectors. How many countries will be looking to maximise the amount of emissions they can offset through the land sector?
- **Adaptation:** How will developed countries help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change?

- **Commitment periods:** The first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol is five years (2007-2012). Will this be extended or changed? There is a pressure from several parties (including the US, China and the EU) for this to change. This is partly so that political commitments for 2020 targets mesh with the second commitment period, but also (from a developing country perspective) because some intend to become developed countries for the UNFCCC in 2020.
- **Bunker fuels:** This term refers to international shipping freight and civil aviation emissions. Which of these activities, which are the fastest growing emissions sector, will be brought under the UNFCCC and potentially be levied for climate finance?
- **Flexible Mechanisms:** The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a flexible mechanism that needs to be reformed. Which proposed new mechanisms will receive sectoral crediting below a “no lose” target? Under current proposals, developing countries will be able to set a sectoral target that they will meet through energy efficiency measures, demand management or other low cost abatement actions within a given sector (i.e. not economy-wide actions) and then sell these emissions reductions to Annex 1 countries. There are also proposals for land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) and carbon capture and storage (CCS) activities to be included in the CDM and Australia has indicated that it wants a new market mechanism for REDD.

### For updates about the international talks:

The background information about the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol is updated after each negotiating round on the following websites:

- **Climate Action Network Australia ([www.cana.net.au](http://www.cana.net.au)):** The CANA website includes both publicly available information and password-protected information for CANA members only. Additionally, CANA members are sent a fortnightly newsletter with negotiation updates. To join, visit [http://www.cana.net.au/index.php?site\\_var=11](http://www.cana.net.au/index.php?site_var=11).
- **UNFCCC ([www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)):** The UNFCCC has a “My UNFCCC Watch List” facility that allows you to choose key terms and then gathers new postings to the site that are relevant to those terms in a Watch List that you can easily navigate to.
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development (<http://climate-i.org/>):** This website provides daily news stories grouped under headings of issues, actors, actions and 'building blocks' (including topics of mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance).

### Further information:

See the other 'Count down to Copenhagen' summary sheets in CANA's international climate series:

- Summary Sheet #1 What to look for, What to expect
- Summary Sheet #2 International finance for climate mitigation and adaptation
- Summary Sheet #3 Global adaptation to climate change
- Summary Sheet #4 Legal architecture
- Summary Sheet #5 Mitigation
- Summary Sheet #6 LULUCF and REDD
- Summary Sheet #7 International climate acronyms

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