



Future Climate without Risk for Life!

Ukrainian NGO Working Group on Climate Change

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Position of the Working Group of NGOs on climate change in Ukraine on international negotiations on climate change in Durban (South Africa), 2011

Working Group of NGOs on Climate Change (WNGOCC) consisting of 22 officially registered organizations from different regions of Ukraine (www.climategroup.org.ua) expresses its respect and encourages efforts to prepare a Ukraine's position for international negotiations on climate change that will facilitate adoption of a fair, ambitious and legally binding document for global climate protection.

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol, will be held in the sunny city of Durban, South Africa. from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

Working Group of NGOs on Climate Change calls for the government of Ukraine to introduce an ambitious position for international negotiations on climate change, aimed at solving global environmental problems.

Working Group of NGOs on Climate Change supports the adoption of the 2nd period of the Kyoto Protocol.

One of the main issues at this year's Conference of the Parties in Durban will focus on the discussion of the future of the Kyoto Protocol, since first commitment period is ending in 2012 and the future of the 2nd period has not yet been determined.

Currently, the Kyoto Protocol is the only international legally binding instrument under which countries must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent climate change. Adoption of the 2nd period of the Kyoto Protocol will ensure continuity of obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ukraine is interested in the 2nd period of the Kyoto Protocol. At the same time, Ukraine needs to introduce a constructive position, especially regarding emission reduction targets and to refuse from the transfer of unused quotas for greenhouse gas emissions for the future periods.

Declaring the task of EU integration, our delegation should hold bilateral consultations with the EU delegation about the negotiations and mutual support. But at present the positions of Ukraine and the EU during climate negotiations are different. Ukraine's position means a significant increase in emissions by 2020, the position of the EU means a real reduction. Therefore, from this point of view, Ukraine should also reconsider its position and provide more determined obligations.

A positive decision on the 2nd period of the Kyoto Protocol will facilitate progress in the negotiations on concluding a new fair, ambitious, legally binding agreement under the Convention.

Ukraine should take ambitious target for emission reduction.

Ukraine supported the decision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep global temperature rise at the level of 2°C (during the 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancun agreements).

To perform a global goal according to the recommendations of scientists, industrialized countries should reduce emissions by 25-40% by 2020 and 85-90% by 2050 from the level of emissions in 1990. These goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will provide the probability to refrain within the global temperature increase until 2°C only for 50%¹. Totally industrialized countries proposed emission reduction within 18%² by 2020 from 1990 levels - this shows that they are insufficient to limit temperature growth within 2°C.

Ukraine is industrially developed country and therefore should also make efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to Cancun agreements, Ukraine has to develop a strategy for low-carbon economy. The greatest potential for reducing of emissions as for Ukraine is in energy efficiency measures that are economically and ecologically appropriate. Low-carbon economy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, protect the economy from extensive development and create conditions for energy independence. Moreover, the reduction of greenhouse gases, especially in the energy sector, will reduce emissions of other pollutants which provide positive effect on public health, reduce expenditure on treatment from the state budget. The experience of EU countries shows that the development of "green" energy contributes to the creation of new jobs, increasing tax revenues to state budget and upgrading infrastructure³.

Working Group of NGOs on Climate Change urges the government of Ukraine to declare the goal of stabilizing greenhouse gases at the level of 2008 until 2020 or, in the language the Kyoto Protocol, - the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 55% from 1990 level by 2020 with further reduction of emissions.

At the moment, Ukraine's position is based primarily on the Energy Strategy of Ukraine until 2030. However, this document does not reflect the real situation in Ukraine and therefore cannot be the basis for prediction of greenhouse gases by 2020. Ukraine's position should be based upon scientific researches, both Ukrainian and international.⁴

In Durban the country also have to agree on the peak emissions of greenhouse gases, which must be reached no later than until 2015, as discussed in the final report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and that this is possible in case of rejection from full transfer of unused quotas from the previous commitment period.

Ukraine should refuse from AAUs carry-over from 1st commitment period of KP to subsequent commitment periods.

Issue of transferring of unused assigned amount units (AAUs) should be resolved as soon as possible. Insisting on the transferring of unused quotas in the future reduces the already low level of commitments in GHG reduction. One of the main reasons for insufficient commitment of GHG reduction is the insistence on the transferring of unused quotas (also called "hot air").

¹ AR4 report of IPCC

² UNFCCC Technical Paper (FCCC/TP/2011/1)

³ Study of EU countries «Why Europe should strengthen its 2020 climate action»

⁴ The Review of Studies on GHG Reduction Potential for Ukraine <http://necu.org.ua/review-ghg-potential/>

Ukraine has to change its position for international climate change negotiations and refuse from the transfer of unused units (AAUs) from the 1st commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Refusal to transfer AAUs in the future contributes to concluding agreement for the 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Thus, Ukraine will make a significant contribution to progress in international negotiations and promote a positive image of the country.

Ukraine should support developing and approval of decisions on bunker fuel.

Promotion of the development and approval of decisions on bunker fuel is also very urgent during the negotiations. International aviation and transport emissions are a significant and growing source of GHG emissions. They were excluded from the Kyoto Protocol, because the parties failed to agree on a methodology for allocation of emissions between different countries.

Ukraine should promote the development of mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation. Namely, during the negotiations it is important to help reach an agreement to set targets to limit emissions from aviation, to support the decision to sell permits for emissions from aviation and maritime transport during auction. Fees for GHG emissions from international transport will provide additional revenues to the green climate fund for adaptation and measures to reduce emissions in developing countries.