

**Statement from experts on the need for detailed
emissions information in INDC's**
Climate Action Tracker

Lima - 12 December 2014 In order to be able to evaluate the effect of government proposals on their emissions, and to evaluate the collective total global effect of the INDC's (intended nationally determined contributions) on emissions, it is very important that they include rigorous and scientifically sound emissions information.

Two countries studied by the Climate Action Tracker, which has been evaluating the effect of countries pledges since 2009, illustrate this problem and need.

In the case of Australia, while its target of -0.5% by 2020 suggests that it is apparently required to limit its emissions from energy and industry to approximately 1990 levels by 2020 under the Kyoto Protocol, when all of the measures available to it in the land sector are independently evaluated, Australia could be allowed a greater than 50% increase above 1990 levels of both energy and industrial emissions by 2020.

Australia's published information on these land use, land use change and forestry activities is not sufficiently transparent to enable independent verification of the government's own claims that rather than a large credit, as evaluated by the Climate Action Tracker, it would receive a large debit. A credit adds to the country's allowed emissions and a debit deducts from allowed emissions in its target year, ie 2020.

The next example is China, which is taking substantial action to slow - and ultimately peak - its emissions by 2030. China has not, however, provided its own estimate on the envisaged level of emissions by 2030, nor enough information for it to be possible to accurately quantify the level of its peak emissions, which is fundamentally important to the likely level of global warming in the 21st Century.

In the first case, Australia, it is clear: present policy settings will likely increase its emissions by more than 50% above 1990 levels by 2020. Hence it is also clear, that Australia has an interest in gaining as many land use credits as it can, and possibly obscuring the real outcome of its international Kyoto targets for as long as possible.

In the case of China most analyses that fully account for present and proposed policies indicate that China's emissions are likely to peak by the late 2020's if they successfully implement all of the policies proposed. However, we are only able to determine, within a broad range, the likely level of those peak emissions.

Given these considerations, it is very important that critical information is provided in the INDC's of all countries to enable the quantification of expected emission reductions, and transparent information on the accounting of all significant activities and greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in the land use and forestry sectors. The land use change and forestry is particularly important because of the large uncertainties and because of the great potential for selective accounting to produce inflated credits.

The ultimate purpose of the INDC's is for countries to progress towards holding warming below 2°C. If the scientific community cannot evaluate the overall effects of INDC's because countries have not given sufficient information, or not all important assumptions, then there can be no way that the public can be confident that an agreement in Paris will set us on a safer path than at present.

Climate Analytics

Climate Analytics is a non-profit organization based in Berlin, Germany. It has been established to synthesize climate science and policy research that is relevant for international climate policy negotiations. It aims to provide scientific, policy and analytical support for Small Island States (SIDS) and the least developed country group (LDCs) negotiators, as well as non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the 'post-2012' negotiations. Furthermore, it assists in building in-house capacity within SIDS and LDCs. Contact: Dr. h.c. Bill Hare, +49 160 908 62463

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Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

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