

## Elements of the 2015 Agreement Switzerland's views

Switzerland is pleased to submit its views on the elements of the protocol, another legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties (hereafter referred to as the "2015 Agreement") which is to be adopted by COP21 (Paris, 2015) and to come into effect and be implemented from 2020. This submission further includes Switzerland's views on other components that must complement the 2015 Agreement, i.e. COP decisions operationalizing the 2015 Agreement and providing further guidance under the 2015 Agreement, and the nationally determined contributions.

The 2015 Agreement must be a durable instrument which is applicable to all Parties and provides for an dynamic and flexible framework to reflect the evolving responsibilities and capabilities of Parties and their national circumstances.

The 2015 Agreement therefore should include the following elements.

### Preamble

In the preamble, the 2015 Agreement is to recall the Convention. In particular it should refer to the ultimate objective of the Convention (Art 2), to the principles thereof (Art 3) and acknowledge the evolving nature of responsibilities, capabilities, needs, special circumstances and specific conditions of each Party. It is also to acknowledge the relevance of latest scientific evidence, and recall the Durban Mandate (1/CP.17).

### Mitigation

**COMMITMENT TO COMMIT IN A QUANTIFIABLE AND UNCONDITIONAL MANNER** – The 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties to reduce or limit their greenhouse gas emissions and to formulate one or a set of commitments which are quantifiable in terms of greenhouse gases. The 2015 Agreement is further to clarify that commitments will be unconditional. The 2015 Agreement may also set out that Parties are not to regress from previous levels of effort in reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Further, the 2015 Agreement is to clarify the legal nature of the commitments and provide for arrangements and the process from their presentation to their anchoring. Finally, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt any further guidance on the arrangements and process from presentation to anchoring of Parties' commitments and on the formulation of commitments, including on the timeframe and end year of commitments, on metrics used in the commitments and the format for presenting the commitments. The COP is to initiate, respectively, work regarding such further guidance [X] years prior to the end year of Parties' previous commitments under the 2015 Agreement.

- > With regard to the contributions of Parties to be presented early 2015, two aspects are crucial to have more clarity by COP20 (Lima, 2014). Firstly, any further guidance on formulation of the contributions for the period from 2020 must be achieved by COP20 at the latest. A central aspect in this regard is to achieve a common understanding on the length of the period to be covered from 2020. In Switzerland's view, the end year of the contributions is to be the same for all Parties. Secondly, by COP20, common understanding must be advanced on the arrangements and on the process from presentation to anchoring the contributions. In Switzerland's view, the referred process before anchoring is to include three steps, i.e. global ambition of contributions of all Parties should be assessed (compile), the global ambition level and efforts of all Parties should be considered in view of the below 2 degree objective and equity (compare), and enhanced action through collaboration should be fostered (cooperate). To anchor commitments, the COP is to receive the authority to adopt nationally determined commitments of each Party formulated in its own schedule. At COP21 (Paris, 2015) Parties' commitments for the period from 2020 are to be anchored under the 2015 Agreement.

**PULL TOWARDS QUANTIFIED ECONOMY WIDE EMISSION REDUCTION COMMITMENTS** - The 2015 Agreement is to acknowledge that economy wide emission reduction commitments quantified in terms of greenhouse gases provide the highest level of clarity and predictability, and encourage Parties to move to such form of commitments as soon as possible.

**REFLECT IMPORTANCE OF COVERAGE OF ALL SECTORS AND GASES CAUSING HIGH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** - The 2015 Agreement is to acknowledge the relevance that all Parties reflect in their commitments their sectors with significant greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gases with significant effect on the climate system, and emissions and reductions of greenhouse gases in the land sector.

**PROVISIONS TO PRESENT ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION ON FORMULATED COMMITMENTS** – The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions for all Parties to present all relevant information on factual information and assumptions underlying their commitments to ensure ex ante transparency, predictability, comparability and environmental integrity including in terms of anticipated greenhouse gas emissions until the end year of the commitments. Finally, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt any further guidance on the information to be presented with the commitments and on the format of presentation thereof, as well as for the estimation of the impact of the commitments on changes in greenhouse gas emissions until the end year of the commitments, respecting the differentiated capabilities and national circumstances of Parties. The COP is to initiate, respectively, work [X] years prior to the end year of Parties' previous commitments.

- > As agreed at COP19 (2013, Warsaw) the information that Parties have to present when putting forward their contributions in early 2015 is to be identified and adopted at COP20 (2014, Lima).

**PROVISIONS FOR COMMON ACCOUNTING APPROACHES** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions for common approaches to be used by all Parties in accounting of greenhouse gas emissions towards their commitments, respecting the differentiated capabilities of Parties as necessary. The 2015 Agreement is to acknowledge the relevance of common accounting approaches to ensure environmental integrity by excluding double accounting of emission reductions and facilitating transparency and comparability. Further, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt such common accounting approaches for all Parties, including in regard to inventory methodologies, global warming potentials and timeframes, sectors and gases covered, accounting of transferrable units and accounting in the land sector. Finally, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt further guidance, respecting the differentiated capabilities and national circumstances of Parties, including for setting the references of commitments, for establishing projections, for defining reference years, and for the use of non-GHG metrics in commitments, as necessary. The COP is to initiate such work [X] years prior to the end year of Parties' previous commitments.

- > Given the ongoing domestic preparations for the contributions to be presented early 2015, any further guidance on common approaches in accounting relevant for these contributions needs to be adopted by COP20 (2014, Lima). Cognisant of the very little time remaining for such common approaches to be identified, the focus should lay on the very key elements for comparability and environmental integrity such as inventory methodologies, global warming potentials and timeframes and provisions ensuring no double accounting of transferrable units, and general provisions regarding coverage of sectors, including the land sector, and gases.

**PROVISIONS FOR COMMON REGULAR REPORTING AND VERIFICATION** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions common to all Parties, differentiated in depth of reporting, to regularly report on emissions by sources and removals by sink of all greenhouse gases as well as on progress in the implementation of their commitments and the effects thereof on greenhouse gas emissions. The 2015 Agreement is further to include provisions for the reports of all Parties to be subject to common international review (verification). The 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt and regularly revise reporting and review guidelines used by and applying to all Parties. The first set of above mentioned reporting and review guidelines should be adopted before 2020.

- > To build on the experiences from the ongoing biennial reports, biennial update reports and international assessment and review (IAR) and international consultation and analysis (ICA), work on guidelines for post-2020 should only be initiated in 2016/17 and the guidelines adopted before 2020.

**PROVISIONS TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AT END OF PERIOD** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions common to all Parties for a review of the implementation of commitments following the end year of commitment. The 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt and regularly revise any further guidance and respective guidelines used by and applying to all Parties, respecting the different capabilities, responsibilities and circumstances of Parties. The COP is to initiate, respectively, work [X] years prior to the end year of Parties' previous commitments.

**PROVISIONS FOR DYNAMIC MECHANISM** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions for regular review of the adequacy of global ambition in stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the ultimate objective of the Convention and in light of the latest scientific evidence. In this context, the 2015 Agreement is also to include provisions for arrangements to foster the highest possible mitigation action by all Parties, respecting the differentiated responsibilities, capabilities, needs, and national circumstances of Parties. Finally, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to undertake respective work and to facilitate exchange and collaboration between Parties for maximal mitigation action. The first review of the adequacy of global ambition should be initiated upon the anchoring of Parties' commitments for the period from 2020 and, if necessary, arrangements to foster increase in ambition should be initiated as soon as possible.

**PROVISIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT COMMITMENTS** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions for subsequent climate commitments of all Parties over time. To this end, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the COP with the authority to initiate, [X] years prior to an end year of Parties' previous commitments, a process to consider commitments for a subsequent time period.

#### Adaptation

**COMMITMENT TO PREPARE FOR ADAPTATION ACTION** - The 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties to undertake appropriate efforts in preparing for integrated adaptation action to the adverse effects of climate change, according to the specific exposure to the adverse effects of climate change and respecting the capabilities, national circumstances and specific conditions of Parties. Further, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to operationalize and review arrangements with voluntary participation to foster Parties' efforts in preparing and implementing adaptation action.

- > The COP – building on the experience gained with the currently complemented arrangements on adaptation under the Convention - should review the existing institutional arrangements for adaptation under the Convention and continue to foster Parties' efforts in preparing and implementing adaptation action, including in the areas of vulnerability and risk assessments with a multidisciplinary, multidimensional and multi-sectoral approach and integrated risk management approaches that prioritize preventive action, increase of resilience, involvement of the private sector, sharing of best practices and experiences, and capacity building.

**REFLECT IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATED PLANNING OF ADAPATION ACTION** - The 2015 Agreement should acknowledge the importance of integrated planning of adaptation actions, and encourage all Parties to develop national adaptation strategies and plans.

**COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE** - The 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties to cooperate in view to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change of all Parties and in particular of the most vulnerable. Further, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to operationalize arrangements to facilitate cooperation between Parties to this aim.

- > The COP – building on the experience gained with the currently complemented arrangements on adaptation under the Convention - should review the existing institutional arrangements for adaptation under the Convention and continue to facilitate cooperation between Parties in view of sharing of best practices, experiences, and capacity building.

**PROVISIONS TO REGULARLY REPORT AND SHARE PROGRESS AND EXPERIENCES** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions for all Parties to regularly report, respecting the differentiated capabilities of Parties, on their efforts in preparing for adaptation action to the adverse effects of climate change and on their cooperation in view to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change of all Parties and in particular of the most vulnerable. Further, as an enduring instrument, the 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt further guidance on such reporting and to further facilitate sharing of progress and experiences in the preparation and implementation of adaptation actions.

- > Reporting in adaptation should build on the gained experiences and not be burdensome. The COP should further facilitate sharing of progress and experiences in the preparation and implementation of adaptation actions, particularly in regard to adaptation strategies and plans, in international cooperation, involvement of the private sector, and capacity building.

#### Support

**COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE RESOURCES** - The 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties to provide, according to their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, resources for climate action that are intended to implement the 2015 Agreement.

- > The COP may adopt any further guidance.

**COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT** - The 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties in a position to do so, according to their evolving responsibilities and capabilities, to cooperate and to support countries in need, particularly the most vulnerable, according to their necessities and capabilities in climate action to implement the 2015 Agreement. Support is to be provided through a variety of instruments and inter alia through financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity building. The 2015 Agreement is to acknowledge the need for adequacy and predictability of financial flows mobilized from various sources, public and private. The 2015 Agreement is to clarify the context of support, namely meaningful mitigation action and transparency of implementation.

- > The operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention as well as the financial architecture under the Convention have been considerably strengthened. The latter namely through the establishment of the standing committee on finance, increased means through the Fast Start Finance and the commitment of developed Parties to the goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year from 2020. The COP should adopt any further guidance in relation to the adequacy and predictability of financial flows.

**REFLECT IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE CLIMATE FRIENDLY INVESTMENTS AND MOBILIZATION THEREOF** - The 2015 Agreement is to acknowledge the relevance of climate friendly private investments for low carbon economies and climate resilient societies. It is further to acknowledge the role of public interventions for the mobilization thereof.

- > The COP may adopt any further guidance.

**PULL TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTS STIMULATING FINANCIAL FLOWS** - 2015 Agreement is to include a commitment of all Parties to prepare for efficient and effective investment environments stimulating mobilization of private and public climate finance.

- > The COP may adopt any further guidance.

**PROVISIONS TO REGULARLY REPORT ON PROVISION, RECEIPT AND USE OF SUPPORT** - The 2015 Agreement is to include provisions common to all Parties, differentiated in depth of reporting, to regularly report on their provision, receipt and use of resources for climate action that are intended to implement the 2015 Agreement, on international cooperation and the support provided and mobilized through a variety of instruments and from various sources, including from the private sector, on any support received, as well as on their efforts to prepare for efficient and effective investment environments stimulating mobilization of climate finance. The 2015 Agreement is further to include provisions for the reports of all Parties to be subject to common international review

(verification). The 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt any further guidance in this regard.

- > Reporting under the 2015 Agreement should build on the experiences from the current reporting arrangements and complement them in all relevant aspects which are currently still underdeveloped .

**FINANCIAL MECHANISM** - The financial mechanism of the Convention is to serve as the financial mechanism of the 2015 Agreement. The 2015 Agreement is to provide the authority to the COP to adopt any further guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanism following from the implementation of the 2015 Agreement.

#### Further contents of the 2015 Agreement

The 2015 Agreement is further inter alia to include relevant definitions, clarify that the subsidiary bodies of the Convention are to serve also to the 2015 Agreement, and clarify provision for entry into force.