

Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable Mitigation Action and Support

ZHENG, Shuang

Associate Professor, Energy Research Institute, National Development and Reform Commission, PRC

Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bali Conference 2007, discussions on the boundary, the contents, and the methodologies of “Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable” (MRV) have been one of the key topics in international climate change talks. The present research on Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable Mitigation Action and Support, based on international climate change agreements, the review of opinions from parties, and the demand for developing countries to address climate change, raised the framework on MRV which aims to put forward the efforts on tackling climate change be fair, effective, and feasible.

As current available funding under UNFCCC is far from adequate, significant increase of additional financing should be realized and an overall financial framework should be formed under the Convention. Finance, technology transfer and capacity building from developed countries to support mitigation actions in developing countries should belong to the Convention overall financial framework. The objects of MRV for the support should be clarified by the financing and technology mechanism under UNFCCC.

The subject of MRV for the support must ensure the objectivity and public-credibility. Quantification-assessment-report mechanism should be applied to the MRV for financial support to help developing countries to address climate change. An international financial support registry under the UNFCCC Secretariat can be established in order for donor countries, recipient countries and multilateral fund (if there is according to the agreement) carry out self-assessment and report to. The verification of the financing flow and this self-assessment should be done by the financing support supervising body under UNFCCC or authorized assessment entities. MRV of technology support must be carried out through quantifiable parameters, and these parameters would also be used for verification. There are two categories of parameters for quantified assessment technology support: the monetary indices and performance indices.

With regard to MRV of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), the definition of sustainable development and poverty elevation would be distinct from one country to another and NAMAs are naturally country specific. Therefore, the form of specific actions shall be subject to the determination of each developing country, taking into account its respective capacities and specific national circumstances. NAMAs can be classified into: National climate change program, provincial climate change program, general economic/fiscal measures, legislation and regulations, standards, market-based measures, sector/industrial programs, individual projects, information and education, capacity building and R, D&D etc. Measurement, report and verification would be different according to the type and nature of NAMAs. General guidelines for MRV shall be established by nations and NAMA registry should be set up in every developing country. Mitigation actions in developing countries are dependent on support in terms of technology, financing and capacity building from developed countries. With a two-way registry system, the matching between support and action can be established. The support registry shows the available funding, technology transfer and capacity building activities that can be provided, while NAMA registry presents actions in need of various supports. How to compare and match-make the information from two sides should be carried out by expert team at either national or international level. In any case, mix of experts from hosting country and support registry are needed so that the demands of the recipient can be adequately addressed.