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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Comments provided by UNITAR at the NAP EXPO Event

Bonn, SBI Meetings, 9 June 2013

Madam Chair, Distinguished LDC Group members, Colleagues,

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is very pleased to have been invited to participate in this meeting, to learn more about the needs of LDCs with respect to adaptation planning, and to share our thoughts on how we could contribute to the NAP process.

As many will know, UNITAR has been involved in this work historically, helping countries to develop National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). This included the development of training materials, organization of regional information sharing events, and hosting the 'NAPA Platform' – a web-based hub for knowledge exchange.

On balance we believe that the NAPA process was *successful* and suited to the requirements of the time.

But we also recognize that times have *changed*. A more cross government and society wide approach to adaptation planning is now needed. Different countries have very different priorities, and they require support that is more flexible.

UNITAR's mission is to deliver **innovative training** to its beneficiaries and to conduct research on **knowledge systems**, particularly in the fields of Environment; Peace, Security and Diplomacy; and Governance.

We train around 30,000 individuals annually, mainly from developing countries.

We are interested in ‘what’ needs to be learned but equally in the science of the learning process itself – in other words ‘how’ knowledge can best be conveyed. We are not the only ones doing this, but this is what we do!

So let me briefly summarise a few ways in which I believe we can provide support to NAP development, recognizing that we *are* a small organization which means that always work in partnership with others to achieve our goals.

Firstly UNITAR has a very extensive catalogue of training materials which can be delivered through a combination of online and face to face learning events. These include introductory and advanced modules on climate science, climate policy, international negotiations and diplomacy, climate finance, adaptation and mitigation. Some of these materials may be relevant to your needs in their current form. Others may need to be tailored to your specific requirements. But either way this *is* a very useful resource which we can place at the disposal of LDCs and other developing countries (www.unitar.org).

Secondly, UNITAR hosts the secretariat to the One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (aka UN CC:Learn). This programme is supported by the Government of Switzerland and is a partnership of about 30 multi-lateral organisations, many of whom are in the room here today, that have agreed to share their knowledge in order to help countries to implement national climate change learning strategies. These strategies are all about taking a ‘planned’ approach to learning rather than an ‘ad hoc’ approach. They include all sectors of government, as well as civil society. And they invest in measuring for results in terms of new skills and knowledge acquired. We would be ready to share the experience gained from this work, much of which we feel is relevant to this forum. We are working in 5 countries at the moment, but have received formal applications for support from a further 20 countries (www.uncclearn.org).

Thirdly, UNITAR has experience to offer in project execution. We have effectively delivered a support programme on NAPAs in the past and we are doing the same for climate learning strategies today. Our head office is in Geneva where we have strong administrative and financial management capacity, but we are also able to work efficiently through UN country teams where necessary.

I have provided a copy of these brief words to the organisers of this event, which includes a couple of websites where you can get more information on our work.

Thank you

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