

Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum, COP 13, Bali
Monday 10 December, 13:00 - 15:00

Summary

Background

There are now nearly 90 organizations, represented by focal points, which have asserted their willingness to participate in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (Nairobi work programme). Organizations include United Nations agencies and regional organizations, national climate research institutes, think tanks, and large and small non-governmental organizations.

Given the wide range of interests, areas of work, experiences and potential contributions into the work programme by Nairobi work programme partner organizations, a two-hour forum of focal points was organized during the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP), Bali, to discuss actions to further the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

The objective of the meeting was threefold:

1. To inform Nairobi work programme partners of the progress made to date in the implementation of the Programme and to gain feedback on Nairobi work programme mandated activities;
2. To introduce the new initiatives that have been developed to engage organizations (i.e. action pledges and Calls for Action) and obtain feedback from organizations on possible new directions and areas of work in the next phase of the Nairobi work programme;
3. To share the experiences of partner organizations to foster collaboration in implementing and planning activities towards the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

The forum was co-chaired by Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh, chair of the SBSTA, and Mr. Youssef Nassef, representative for the UNFCCC secretariat. Representatives from 43 organizations participated in the forum. In addition, representatives from 12 Parties took part in the meeting as observers.

Annex I to this summary contains the agenda for the meeting and annex II provides a list of participating organizations.

Summary of discussion

The event started with a welcome by the Chair of the SBSTA, who introduced the agenda of the meeting and introduced the Calls for Action prepared to date. He noted that these Calls for Action are of a preliminary nature. However, they provide an idea of the specific actions that can be implemented by Nairobi work programme partner organizations in order to advance the objectives and action-oriented sub-themes of the Nairobi work programme. The Chair also highlighted that all actions by organizations should contribute eventually to the main objective of the Nairobi work programme, that is: to assist Parties to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions. He encouraged organizations in their deliberations during the discussion to explore: in what focus areas and activities of the work programme they could make a contribution; how they could cooperate in order to make the implementation of those activities most effective; and what incentives would encourage organizations to implement activities towards the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

Mr. Youssef Nassef, UNFCCC secretariat then continued as meeting chair.

Ms. Olga Pilifosova from the UNFCCC secretariat provided a background presentation on the Nairobi work programme, focusing on the new initiatives to involve organizations in the Programme. She explained that the secretariat under the Chair's guidance initiated a two-way process for engaging a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme (as mandated by the SBSTA). This process was established, on the one hand, to ensure that priority actions towards implementation are communicated to potential implementers; and on the other hand, to provide a way to encourage innovative actions by all stakeholders identified by the SBSTA conclusions.

On the "demand side", Calls for Action issued by the secretariat represent a tool for developing plans of action involving multiple stakeholders to address commonly identified barriers. They are meant to stimulate action pledges by Parties and relevant organizations and have been developed based on the questionnaire responses distributed during Nairobi work programme workshops, as well as from submissions, workshop reports and synthesis papers. They identify priority and/or relatively easily-implementable actions under the different areas of the Nairobi work programme and are designed to communicate those actions to the wider adaptation community and to Parties and organizations. To date, 12 Calls for Action have been developed and are being made available through the website in two areas of work: climate related risks and adaptation planning and practices.

In the context of the Nairobi work programme, the SBSTA urged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to undertake their own activities in support of the objective and themes of the Programme and to share the outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate. On this "supply side", action pledges provide an arena for this to occur. They provide an interactive way for Parties, IGOs, NGOs and research institutes to identify and commit publicly to undertake activities towards the objectives and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme, under specific areas of work. Action pledges can respond to either general activities or desirable outcomes identified under the Nairobi work programme and/or more specific Calls for Action. Twelve organizations have made action pledges by this date, details of which can be found on the UNFCCC website (<http://unfccc.int/3996.php>).

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Several organizations raised a number of questions relating to the action pledges, including: on how the demand and supply sides match; how to encourage linking of the action pledges to the activities that organizations are implementing as part of their "business as usual" practice; how to pledge actions in which more than one partner organization can be involved; and how to ensure that products produced during implementation of the Nairobi work programme reach targeted audiences.

During the next part of the session several organizations shared experiences on their contribution to the Nairobi work programme and announced their action pledges.

The Institute of Development Studies highlighted that the Nairobi work programme can be used as a strategic tool for galvanizing activities on adaptation on the ground. START presented a new brochure that included a description of the pledges that it has made and invited other organizations to join with START to execute actions that are of common interest. START pledges of new actions focus on three themes: education and training of the next generation of vulnerability and adaptation researchers and practitioners; building institutional capacity for accessing and using climate data and projections; and expanding START adaptation decision-support research activities. Practical Action described their work on improving access to relevant information. They noted that action pledges enable organizations to review their own work in order to make it more useful for Parties and communities. Practical Action highlighted that it is important to allow full access to information in all action pledges. The Asian Development Bank stressed the need to quantify the contribution that organizations would be making, and noted that making a pledge makes organization stick to their commitment. Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Center noted the importance of strengthening cooperative pledges and, in general, pledges enhanced the dialogue between knowledge centres and

governments. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis announced a pledge to further develop their work on insurance initiatives.

The representative highlighted the role of the UNFCCC as a “broker” of new relationships and projects. The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) representative announced an action pledge on bridging emerging experience in developing countries and the Nairobi Work Programme. He stressed that the collection of good practices is central to their organization and outlined the role of his organization in this regard. The SEI announced developing an open source platform www.weADAPT.org as their action pledge to complement the implementation of the NWP.

The Food and Agricultural organization of the United Nations announced six action pledges relating to promoting sustainable practices as well as supporting tools that lead to enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change and climate variability in agriculture. The FAO representative mentioned the importance of providing incentives for those who submit pledges. The Munich Climate Insurance Initiative underscored the possible role of the Nairobi work programme as “a one-stop shop” that collects and ensures easy access, and links, to all existing information on adaptation. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction stressed the importance of delivering on easily-implementable actions to achieve practical results as soon as possible.

A general discussion followed on action pledges, Calls for Action and cooperation. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies stated the need to concentrate on action-orientated field projects. The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and the United Nations World Tourism Organization reiterated the need for having an effective information tool to share adaptation-related information with decision makers. They suggested that a UNFCCC web portal could share information with those on the ground and should be one of the deliverables of the Nairobi work programme. The World Health Organization and the World Resources Institute highlighted the importance of connecting Nairobi work programme activities with financial issues. In particular, WHO noted that one of the recommendations from the Nairobi work programme workshops, i.e. a conference or workshop involving financial foundations and other donors might be a very effective means to attract their attention to the problems of adaptation to climate change. The World Bank highlighted the need for screening tools that incorporate climate change adaptation into investment strategies. The Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices noted a significant overlap between RIOCC organizations and Nairobi work programme organizations. The United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization highlighted the importance of partnerships and the need to be sensitive to the mandates of partner organizations. The UNCCD secretariat noted that action pledges are useful for identifying specific actions based on broader general goal of the Nairobi work programme and general recommendations. The International Labour Organization suggested that there is a need to make links between Nairobi work programme objectives and policy frameworks, including impacts of climate change on employment and incomes.

Suggestions

Participating organizations made several specific suggestions that may help organizations and the secretariat to improve their work on the Nairobi work programme, including:

- Priority needs and gaps for adaptation should be clearly identified and specified by the Nairobi work programme to facilitate identification of specific actions that an organization can undertake;
- The Nairobi work programme and partner organizations should play a catalytic role in order to enhance dialogue with knowledge centres and governments and act as brokers of new relationships;
- Communicate easily-implementable actions to start speedy implementation of them;
- Make good practices central (bearing in mind good practices take a while to emerge);

- Endeavour to make the Nairobi work programme a one-stop shop for information on adaptation and related frameworks;
- Create an all encompassing Nairobi work programme web portal and platform to be a large depository of information on adaptation;
- Organizations should strive to ensure that work on adaptation is sustained and strong;
- Share information in a way that would be accessible to least developed countries;
- Enhance work on information sharing tools tailored to specific sectors;
- Make the connection between organizations and funding;
- Improve feedback to the secretariat and Parties on action pledges from the organization-partners of the Nairobi work programme.

Next steps

The secretariat will facilitate consideration of the outcome of this forum by other organizations and Parties. It will provide further information on pledges on the UNFCCC website.

Annex 1

**Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum, COP 13, Bali
Monday 10 December, 13:00 - 15:00
Jakarta Room, BICC**

Chairs: Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh and Mr. Youssef Nassef

AGENDA

1. Welcome and update	
13:00-13:05	Welcome , Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh, Chair of the SBSTA
13:05-13:10	Introductory remarks , Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh, Chair of the SBSTA
13:10-13:25	Nairobi work programme: catalysing activities in support of the needs of Parties , Ms. Olga Pilifosova, UNFCCC
13:25-13:40	Question and answer session
2. Sharing of experiences on planning and implementing activities towards the objectives of the Nairobi work programme	
13:40-14:55	Interventions by some organizations that have made pledges, and the ways in which activities will assist parties
14:55-14:20	Discussion on action pledges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further development• Barriers and incentives• Informing the SBSTA on progress of pledges
3. Networks and cooperation under the Nairobi work programme to better assist Parties	
14:20-14:40	Discussion on partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation on specific activities
14:40-14:55	Discussion on creating thematic teams and networks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation around areas of work and Calls for Action
14:55-15:00	Close and next steps , Mr. Youssef Nassef, UNFCCC

Annex 2

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LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies	–	Alam Mozaharul
CARE International	–	Angie Darcé
Environmental Development Action in the Third World	–	Isabelle Niang
ESS, LLC	–	Kristie Ebi
European Environment Agency	–	André Jol
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	–	Peter Holmgren
Global Change SysTEM for Analysis, Research, and Training (START)	–	Neil Leary
Iberoamerican Network Climate Change Offices	–	José Ramón Picatoste
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	–	Ancha Srinivasan
International Fund for Agricultural Development	–	Khalida Bouzar
International Fund for Agricultural Development	–	Silva Donato
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	–	Pablo Suarez
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	–	Michael Obersteiner
International Institute for Sustainable Development	–	Anne Hammill
International Institute for Sustainable Development	–	Jo-Ellen Parry
International Labour Organization	–	Peter Poschen
International Trade Union Confederation	–	Anabella Rosemberg
JAMSTEC/FRCGC	–	Hiroki Kondo
Met Office/Hadley Centre	–	Vicky Pope
Ministry of Climate and Energy, Denmark	–	Camilla Mørk
Ministry of Environment, Luxembourg	–	Henri Haine
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	–	Helen Mountford
Practical Action Nepal	–	Diranath Bhandari
Practical Action UK	–	Rachel Berger
Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Center	–	Pablo Suarez
Stockholm Environment Institute	–	Tom Downing
UN Commission on Sustainable Development	–	Pam Punttenney
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	–	Goodspeed Kopolo
United Nations Environment Programme	–	Jian Liu
United Nations Environment Programme	–	Liza Leclerc
United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Arendal	–	John Crump
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	–	Annie Roncerel

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	–	Reid Basher
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	–	Silvi Llosa
United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (Munich Climate Insurance Initiative)	–	Koko Warner
World Bank	–	Habiba Gitay
World Health Organization, Geneva	–	Carlos Corrala
World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean	–	Hamed Bakir
World Meteorological Organization	–	Buruhani Nyenzi
World Resources Institute	–	Heather McGray
World Wide Fund for Nature	–	Kit Vaughan
Yayasan Pelangi Indonesia	–	Ms. Chrisandini
