

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION UNDER THE CONVENTION

Fifteenth session, part I
Bonn, 15-24 May 2012

Oral report to the Contact Group

Technology development and transfer (agenda item 3(d))

Contact group meeting, 24 May 2012

Issues discussed

- Parties had an opportunity to have a focused discussion on issues relating to intellectual property rights (IPRs), the linkage between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism, and additional functions of the TEC and the CTCN.
- Regarding the IPRs:
 - Some Parties are of view that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should be the fora to discuss the issue of IPRs, and not this Convention;
 - Some Parties argued that there should be a place to discuss IPRs under the Convention if they are considered relevant to the development and transfer of technology. If the IPRs could be discussed by the WTO, then IPRs could be considered under the Convention as well.
 - Some Parties noted that the TEC, in its function to recommend actions to address the barriers to technology development and transfer, may already cover the issue of IPRs, and that the TEC, in its agenda of the third session to be held on 28 and 29 May 2012 includes the thematic dialogue on this issue;
 - Some Parties underlined that the IPRs are not a barrier for technology transfer but are crucial for development of technologies. The CTCN could address some practical IPRs issues when performing its functions.
 - The possibility of sending a signal to the WIPO and WTO on the need to review intellectual property licensing for technologies to address climate change was also highlighted.
- Regarding the additional functions of the CTCN and the TEC:
 - A group of Parties is concerned that the mandate of the AWG-LCA related to decision 1/CP.13 paragraph 1(d)(i) and 1(d)(iv) is far from fulfilled.
 - A proposal on specific additional functions for the TEC and the CTCN was put forward during the discussion, which are:
 - The TEC to consider issues related to IPRs as they arise related to the development and transfer of technologies;
 - The CTCN shall have the additional following function in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 128(e) and 123(a)(i): provide advice and support, including capacity building, on the conduct of technology assessments of new and emerging technologies
 - Some Parties are of view that priority should be given to the implementation of already agreed outcomes. Since the TEC has just started its work and the CTCN is yet to be operationalized, the timing is not appropriate to consider additional functions which will overload the recently established institutions.
- Regarding the issue of linkage between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism:
 - A group of Parties stressed that it is of crucial importance that the linkage be strengthened, and their concern is that it is still unclear how and to what extent the Technology Mechanism will be financed.
 - Other Parties pointed out that the COP, in Durban, has already requested the board of the GCF to further define linkages between the GCF and other relevant bodies under the Convention, including the TEC, and that the discussion on the advisory board of the CTCN considers the possibility to include representative of the financial mechanism on the board.
- Other matters raised by Parties include:

- Promotion of transfer of publicly funded technologies;
- How the outputs of the TEC could be used effectively in informing and supporting the UNFCCC process?