

Where and how capacity building is integrated in mitigation actions by developing countries

From decision 1/CP.16

1. At COP 16 Parties recognized that developing country Parties are already contributing and will continue to contribute to a global mitigation effort in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, and could enhance their mitigation actions, depending on the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support provided by developed country Parties,
2. Parties also agreed that developing country Parties will take nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, aimed at achieving a deviation in emissions relative to ‘business as usual’ emissions in 2020;
3. It is important to note that the need for capacity building is clearly articulated in the Decision 1/CP.16 in the context of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries in terms of where they will be needed but does not spell out how capacity building will be undertaken.
4. For example, in paragraph 52 decided, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, that developed country Parties shall provide enhanced financial, technological and capacity-building support for the preparation and implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing country Parties and for enhanced reporting by these Parties;
5. Assessing decision 1/CP.16 relating to nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties, it is apparent that capacity building will be required by developing countries in the following areas:
 - a. Identification, design, preparation and implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions
 - b. Preparation of national reports including national communication and biennial update reports,
 - c. Establishment of domestic measurement, reporting and verification systems
6. Implicitly there is the need for capacity building for greenhouse gas inventory preparation and management, implementation of modalities and conduct of ICA, capacity for data gathering and assessment of mitigation actions and their effect.

Summary of submissions from Parties

7. Most submissions recognized the importance of providing adequate financial and technical support to developing country Parties for the preparation of the biennial update reports. Some submission recognized that the application of more detailed guidelines, together with the need to produce more regular reporting, will require a considerable increase in the effort and resources required.
8. Several submissions highlighted the need to focus on capacity-building efforts, in the immediate future, to help developing country Parties build-up necessary resources and expertise to prepare their first biennial update reports.
9. To this end, a submission stressed that funding and capacity-building support need to be made available by 2012 or sooner to enable the preparation of these reports for their submission by 2013.
10. One submission noted that to ensure the swift beginning of the reporting by developing country Parties, a process to ensure that the support provided addresses the major needs and is well coordinated to enable developing countries to engage in the implementation of monitoring and reporting requirements, is needed.
11. One submission mentioned the need to develop an implementation plan to ensure the support for the implementation of these new reporting requirements. To this end, a few submissions suggested that further guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be adopted by the COP to ensure that financial resources are made available and to simplify and expedite its procedures for the allocation of funding for biennial update reports.
12. Furthermore, another submission specified that developed country Parties should provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full cost incurred by developing country Parties in the preparation of these reports.
13. Additionally, a few submissions stated that enhanced reporting by non-Annex I Parties is dependent on the provision of financial and technical support and on reporting flexibilities consistent with national capabilities and circumstances.
14. A submission stated that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I the Convention (CGE) and other organizations could provide capacity-building support for the preparation of these reports.

15. Some submissions highlighted the need to also provide adequate and necessary financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties to enhance their national systems of reporting which was identified as necessary to allow for reporting as per the enhanced reporting requirements. Recognizing this requirement, a submission noted that one of the goals of this more frequent reporting is to assist developing country Parties in putting in place institutional systems that support the ongoing collection of data and that minimize the reporting burden through supporting the continuous reporting process. It continued by affirming that the requirement to submit information regularly will maintain and build upon the newly gained capacity ensuring the implementation of the reporting requirements.
16. A submission stated that all developing country Parties should be eligible to obtain support in preparing biennial update reports and that the level of flexibility given to LDC or SIDS in reporting, should not preclude these countries from accessing funding for these reports. It continued that vulnerable developing country Parties may wish to use the opportunity provided by biennial update reports to report new or updated information on adaptation-related issues and that these reports should be adequately funded if requested by Parties.
17. A submission requested a report from the GEF on ways financing could be offered for biennial update reports and a technical paper from the secretariat on additional options for the future financing of biennial updates. In addition, some submissions requested the assessment of the following elements to help Parties reach an informed and implementable decision on the biennial update reports:
- a. The financial implications/requirements of a sustainable process for biennial reporting
 - b. The funding that is already available to provide support for biennial reporting from developing countries
 - c. An evaluation of the possibility of launching a sustainable process for biennial reporting based on the financial requirements and the funding available.