



Joint SBI/SBSTA forum on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures

- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- 13th June 2011, Bonn, Germany

Background

Addressing the impacts of response measures is an important issue for SIDs as it is for all developing countries.

These impacts are related to mitigation actions of developed countries and rightly are addressed under mitigation in the Bali Action Plan (1(b) vi), separately and distinct from adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

Background Cont'd

- The Cancun Agreements further reaffirmed this understanding (paragraph 88-94) as the way of addressing this issue but goes even further in recognizing that there could be both positive and negative effects;
- AOSIS is of the view that establishing a forum on the impact of response measures will have added value if it becomes the central and unique space for discussing impacts of the implementation of response measures.

Context for concern in SIDS

- Already faced with the costs of adaptation to the direct impacts of climate change
- Constitutes an additional burden SIDS should not have to bear, as we emit little
- Highly dependent on consumption of expensive fossil fuel imports for energy and on associated energy-intensive products and services.
- SIDS face serious constraints in switching to alternative energy sources if fossil fuel prices rise

...and further concerns

- Remote and limited size of many islands makes transportation essential to our livelihoods and economies for access to agricultural products, for fishing, and for exports and imports.
- In multi-island jurisdictions, goods and services must be provided to outer island communities.
- Food security for import dependent states
- Tourism, an important sector for many SIDS, depends on long-haul flights and cruise ship travel.
- Price increases resulting from response measures may impact SIDS economies disproportionately, when we already have limited resources to address poverty, health, education, gender issues, etc.

Example of Impact

Air Passenger Duties - a report from Caribbean Tourism Organization noted the following:

- Arrivals from the UK to the Caribbean are declining while those from other source markets are increasing;
 - The Caribbean is more tourism dependent than any other region of the world;
 - APD is considered by regional and international institutions to be having a negative effect on the Caribbean economy;
 - The latest increase is already having a negative effect on bookings but this will only be felt fully as the year proceeds;
 - UK companies in the aviation, tourism and travel industries are being damaged by APD as bookings to the Caribbean decline;
 - The tax is discriminatory against the Caribbean and Caribbean people in the UK and rebanding is required; and
 - It is possible to develop an alternative approach that involves design change of APD.
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- Promotes greater use of alternate sources of energy (Positive impact)

Needs for WP

- Assessment of the degree of vulnerability of developing countries economies at CO₂ concentration of 350 ppmv;
- Identifying areas at risk (e.g. Tourism, shipping, air travel, cruise shipping, water, infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries etc.)

Needs for WP

- Information on what the potential magnitude of problem will be for planning purposes
- Actions/activities that will be required to minimize possible impacts
 - technologies to strengthen resilience or foster sustainable economic diversification and the accompanying innovative financing given the prolong economic difficulties in the SIDS
- Capacity Building

Modalities of possible forum & links to existing process?

- Sessional and inter-sessional workshops, submissions of views
- Meet twice a year in conjunction with SBs
- Report annually to COP on activities & progress
- Open to all Parties
- Open to relevant international orgs., civil society orgs, private sector, NGOs for active participation
- Entities such as IMO and ICAO that are modelling potential impacts could provide updates on their work to SBSTA , including reports and findings

Activities & Milestones - Work Programme

- Assessment of the specific impacts of already implemented and planned response measure on economies of SIDS and LDCs, taking fully into account their unique circumstances and constrains.
- Assessment of social, environmental and economic impact of “cleaner” fossil fuel technologies such as carbon capture and storage, especially when implemented in developing countries.
- Exploration of the potential positive impacts of response measures (Para 92 of the Cancun Agreements), in order to maximize them in the context of sustainable development and economic diversification, taking into accounts the growing literature on green growth.

Thank you