

SUBMISSION BY SAUDI ARABIA

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INPUT TO THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK IN 2010

REFERENCE

The Chairs of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 16 February 2010, their views on the organization of the work in 2010, including on how to ensure that the negotiating process remains transparent, inclusive and efficient in delivering substantive outcomes; Initiatives the Chairs could take to facilitate progress; and other aspects relevant to the work of the AWG-LCA in 2010.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A fully transparent process is essential for trust building. The UN process was shaken at COP15 and all efforts should be employed to rebuild trust in a transparent and inclusive process to negotiate and build agreements.

General Understanding:

Having learned the hard lesson in Copenhagen, we need to avoid repeating the same mistakes by seriously considering the followings:

- The UNFCCC is, and will continue to be, the main guiding framework for all climate change actions for now and into the future. Therefore, all UNFCCC provisions, principles, rights and obligations, as well as existing annexes shall remain valid for any agreed outcome. We need also to be fully guided by the Bali Action Plan.
- The Ad Hoc Working Groups (Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)) are the only official forums for negotiations under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. Such work and negotiations are undertaken with a view to presenting two separate comprehensive outcomes, under both tracks of negotiation, to the COP at its sixteenth session for consideration and adoption.
- In order to ensure an efficient negotiation process, balanced progress must be made on both negotiating tracks in a way that will lead to two separate and balanced outcomes.

- Other efforts outside the formal UNFCCC process should hold no bearing on the negotiations. The UNFCCC should only consider work that is done and generated through the UNFCCC process.

Meetings in 2010

- There are currently two formal meetings on the program of work for 2010, the meeting of the Subsidiary Buddies in June and the COP16 meeting in December. Any changes or additional meetings must only be agreed through consultations with all Parties. Noting the current state of negotiations and the work needed to reach an agreed outcome, two additional negotiation sessions could be considered for 2010.
- The timing and duration of sessions should be determined through consultations with all Parties, and agreed through formal conclusions. It is useful to have one brief informal one-week session prior to the June meeting; a possible time is during April. An additional session between June and December could be scheduled in the second half of the year (noting the need to respect the month of Ramadan and other religious holidays).
- There is an ongoing request from developing countries to hold the meetings either in New York or Geneva in order to have full support from missions. Geneva is a central location with many meeting facilities in addition to the UN facilities.
- For full inclusive participation in formal meetings, the UNFCCC must continue to fund at least two delegates from all developing countries.

Arrangements of the Sessions

- There should be no more than two (2) formal meetings and two (2) informal meetings occurring at the same time. Both formal and informal meetings must be announced in the Daily Schedule for transparency. Developing country delegations are small in number and continue to face challenges in attending parallel meetings. Not having the chance to be actively engaged in the process because of the overwhelming number of parallel meetings will only hinder progress in the negotiations.
- Greater transparency and advanced planning in scheduling the contact groups and informal consultations is needed. The schedule should be made ready one day before in order for delegations to prepare, and for groups to coordinate, and be ready to participate fully in the meetings.
- The AWGs should continue to conduct their work through contact groups (i.e. Contact groups on the main elements under the Bali Action Plan under the LCA). No formal or informal groups should be set to discuss any extraneous elements as this reduces productivity and adds no value.

Negotiation Texts

- **The only texts to be used in the negotiations are texts that enjoy full consensus of Parties, and that have been accepted as a basis for continuing the work.**
- **This also includes the submissions made by Parties and compilation texts on various proposals that were made by Parties. It has been agreed at COP15 that all texts remain on the table.**
- **Since the “Copenhagen Accord” has not been formally adopted, it has no legal status within the UNFCCC, and thus can’t be used as basis or reference for further negotiations. To support a Party driven process, only the Parties can produce new text and determine the basis of further work. This must be done by consensus.**