

**Note by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on
Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
on the informal additional session to be held in
Bangkok from 30 August to 5 September 2012**

24 August 2012

An informal session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) will be convened in Bangkok, Thailand, from 30 August to 5 September 2012. This additional session provides a unique opportunity for progress in the preparations for the resumed session in Doha. In Doha, the AWG-LCA will meet in parallel with six other bodies. Therefore, the group should advance as far as possible in Bangkok where only three bodies are meeting. Through this note the Chair wishes to share with delegates his views on the work in Bangkok and how best to advance the work of the AWG-LCA to ensure a successful outcome in Doha.

Status of negotiations after the Bonn session

In May, Parties agreed on the agenda and organization of the work and reached understandings on how to work together towards the successful closure of the AWG-LCA in Doha. Parties started work on the basis of the adopted agenda, including some specific tasks from Durban which in most cases were initiated and informed by in-session workshops as requested by decision 2/CP.17. Parties also engaged in evaluation and identification of further work by the AWG-LCA on the basis of the agenda and pursuant to decision 1/CP.13 (Bali Action Plan). Parties have also provided textual inputs on a number of issues, available on the UNFCCC website. Observer organizations have also provided inputs.¹

Building on the discussions in Bonn, the AWG-LCA needs to advance its substantive work in Bangkok and start shaping its outcome to be presented to the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Doha.

Proposed approach to the session: work on the content of the outcome

The Chair sees the objective of the Bangkok session as three-fold:

1. To continue working on practical solutions to fulfil the specific mandates from Durban.
2. To explore what decisions need to be taken in Doha on each of the other areas, aiming for a clear definition of the outcomes, where possible, and further framing the issues and questions where political decisions will need to be made;
3. To initiate the development of the textual basis for the Doha outcome of the AWG-LCA.

Being conscious of the short time remaining, Parties may wish to initiate the development of the textual basis as early as possible, and the Chair and the facilitators stand ready to assist Parties. The differing levels of progress that different elements of the work under the AWG-LCA have enjoyed – in previous COP decisions as well as in the work undertaken this year – may require using a variety of approaches, including conceptual elements in bullet form, possibly, textual elements and/or options, as well as placeholders with questions to focus discussions.

¹ Submissions to the AWG-LCA are available at: <unfccc.int/4578> (Parties); <unfccc.int/3714> (intergovernmental organizations) and <unfccc.int/3689> (non-governmental organizations).

Parties will also need to work on an understanding of the nature and the structure of the AWG-LCA outcome and how to achieve it. To this end, there will be a need to bring together the evolving content of the AWG-LCA outcome. Parties also need to consider how the “agreed outcome” pursuant to decision 1/CP.13 is achieved to reach a successful closure of the AWG-LCA at COP18 in Doha.

Work in Bangkok could be facilitated by an initial overview of how the possible content on the AWG-LCA outcome in Doha might be structured. Such an overview would be presented by the Chair, under his own responsibility and without any formal status, in order to facilitate the discussions and focus Parties on what is required in regard to reaching the “agreed outcome” pursuant decision 1/CP.13 and a successful closure of the AWG-LCA at COP18 in Doha.

As work develops, the Chair intends to assist Parties in maintaining an overview over the work as a whole and in bringing the work together in the form of a draft outcome text.

In advancing their work on shaping the content of the AWG-LCA outcome for Doha, Parties may focus on:

- What substantive outcomes are needed to conclude each element in Doha;
- How would the elements be reflected in the final outcome of the AWG-LCA;
- Whether additional work might be needed beyond COP18, and if so, identifying concrete issues and whether those issues require technical work or political consideration.

In light of the short time remaining for negotiations, Parties should be moving beyond fixed positions and working together to explore compromise solutions. It is important to harvest emerging agreement on as many issues as possible, and to leave the Bangkok session with a draft outcome text that brings together the different elements in an advanced stage that allows the AWG-LCA, at its resumed session in Doha, to proceed successfully and finalize the text on the AWG-LCA outcome for adoption by the COP.

Organization of the work at the informal session in Bangkok

A brief informal plenary meeting will be held on Thursday, 30 August, to open the informal session and provide an overview over the seven days ahead, with the aim to proceed directly with the substantive work.

Five workshops based on decision 2/CP.17 and as agreed in Bonn will be convened in Bangkok. Information on the workshops is available on the UNFCCC website.²

The Chair envisages a stocktaking opportunity in the middle of the informal session, to facilitate overview and bring focus to the work during the second half.

A second brief informal plenary will be held on Wednesday, 5 September, to wrap up the informal session and provide an outlook to Doha.

As in the past, the Chair will ask delegates for assistance in facilitating specific work as needed, and will aim to ensure close coordination with work in other bodies, as appropriate.

The Chair will undertake informal consultations with Parties and groups prior to the beginning of the informal session, to discuss their views on advancing the work of the AWG-LCA, and effectively utilizing the time in Bangkok to make progress on the AWG-LCA outcome in preparations of the resumed session in Doha.

² <http://unfccc.int/meetings/bangkok_aug_2012/session/6958/php/view/workshops.php> (<unfccc.int/6958> under ‘Workshops’).