

Information on the in-session workshop under the structured expert dialogue of the 2013–2015 review

Note by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

14 May 2013

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eighteenth session, requested that we organize the 2013–2015 review (hereafter, the review) in a flexible and appropriate manner in line with decision 2/CP.17, so as to allow for adequate and timely consideration of the inputs to the review as they become available. The COP also requested that we take the steps necessary in 2013 for the subsidiary bodies (SBs) to start the consideration of inputs without delay at their thirty-eighth sessions. It invited the SBs to gather and compile information relevant for conducting the review.¹
2. In response to this mandate, we sent a letter to Parties signalling our intention to organize an in-session workshop at SB 38, and inviting Parties to submit their views with regard to which available information should be considered at that workshop.
3. The secretariat has received five such submissions from Parties² and two from non-governmental organizations.³

II. Goals for the workshop

4. The COP, at its sixteenth session, agreed on a long-term global goal (LTGG) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. It also decided that the review will consider strengthening the long-term global goal, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 °C.⁴
5. The goals of this workshop are to increase the understanding of existing scientific knowledge and how it could be used to address the two themes of the review: the adequacy of the LTGG in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention; and overall progress made towards achieving the LTGG, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention.
6. The workshop will be built on what Parties have already agreed on the review at COP 16, COP 17 and COP 18, in a constructive manner. We expect the workshop to be conducive to open and frank discussions using existing information relevant for the review, including information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
7. Based on the mandate for the review and the submissions from Parties, we suggest that the workshop focus on two themes: (1) the adequacy of the LTGG in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention; and (2) overall progress made towards achieving the

¹ Decision 1/CP.18 paragraph 83.

² Available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901.php>> and at<<http://unfccc.int/5902.php>>.

³ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689>>.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 4 and 139(a).

LTGG, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention.

III. Organization of the workshop

8. The workshop will be co-chaired by the co-facilitators of the structured expert dialogue.⁵

9. Theme 1 aims to present and discuss possible ways to assess the adequacy of the LTGG by using various sources of information. This part of the workshop will start with introductory presentations by experts providing the status of the global climate; overview of the contribution of each working group and of the synthesis report of the IPCC assessment reports and their possible use in the review; and the 2°C target and associated climate risks.

10. This will be followed by interventions from Parties guided by the following questions:

(a) How could IPCC information be used to carry out the review? How could this information be complemented by national and regional information, taking into account any concerns relating to reopening the IPCC findings?

(b) How could information from other relevant reports from United Nations agencies and other international organizations be used in the review?

(c) What technical work should be undertaken under the structured expert dialogue to assess the adequacy of 2°C? Which analytical frameworks could be used to assess the impacts and risks of the 2°C?

11. All Parties are invited to engage in the discussions at the workshop. Parties intending to present their views are invited to notify the secretariat at <secretariat@unfccc.int> by 31 May 2013.

12. Theme 2 will explore the possible use of relevant information for the review based on the discussions that have been carried out to date on emission reduction commitments toward the LTGG and on means of implementation. This part of the workshop will start with introductory presentations summarizing the previous discussions under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) and the subsidiary bodies on the level of ambition and on means of implementation.

13. This will be followed by interventions from Parties guided by the following questions:

(a) What technical work should be undertaken under the structured expert dialogue to assess the overall progress made towards LTGG without duplicating the ADP work?

(b) Which institutions/bodies/processes could provide relevant information to the review?

(c) How could information from IPCC, Parties and United Nations agencies and other international organizations be used in the review?

14. All Parties are invited to engage in the discussions at the workshop. Parties intending to present their views are invited to notify the secretariat at <secretariat@unfccc.int> by 31 May 2013.

⁵ This assumes that their selection will have been concluded. If not, we may preside, as appropriate.

15. Finally, the co-chairs will open the floor for questions and general discussions. They will also provide a summary of comments and questions collected from social media.

16. The co-chairs will provide an initial summary of discussions at the closing of the workshop. They will also prepare an informal summary of the workshop for possible consideration by the joint contact group of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

17. An agenda will be made available on the UNFCCC website prior to the workshop. The working language of the workshop will be English.

IV. Date and venue

18. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, 5 June 2013, during SB 38, to be held in Bonn, Germany. The venue and the exact timing will be announced in due course.

V. Virtual participation

19. Participants outside the conference venue will be able to both watch the event online via webcast and provide reactions, views or questions as input to the discussion via Twitter. Further details are provided on the UNFCCC website.⁶

⁶ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/7521.php>>.