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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention**

**First workshop**

**Bonn, 15–16 May 2006**

**Dialogue working paper 3 (2006)**

**Submission from Norway\***

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\* This submission was submitted on 7 April 2006 and has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

## NORWAY

### **DIALOGUE ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

#### Introduction

The Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session invited Parties to submit their initial views on the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (FCCC/CP/2005/L.4/Rev.1). Norway welcomes the opportunity to submit initial views on this important Dialogue established at COP 11.

Climate change is one of the most important global issues facing us today. Norway recognizes “that climate change is a serious challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe” (FCCC/CP/2005/L.4/Rev.1) and notes with concern recent scientific reports on the increasing urgency of the problem we face. The Arctic is one example illustrating the urgency. Recent reports tell us that changes in climate are being experienced particularly intensely in the Arctic and that an acceleration of these trends is projected to occur during this century. Arctic warming will affect the rest of the world through increased global warming and rising sea level.

The Dialogue should aim at achieving international cooperation that can deliver responses adequate to the challenges we are facing. Parties at COP 11 acknowledged that “the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention”. This underlines the importance of all Parties engaging in the Dialogue on strengthening the implementation of the Convention. Exchange of ideas with a view to creating a future regime that can effectively bring us towards the ultimate objective of the Convention should be at the forefront of our work. The Dialogue should draw on experiences gained, but should be forward-looking and aimed at concrete solutions.

#### Working format of the Dialogue

In order to effectively address global climate change, we need to ensure “the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response”. The Dialogue must be guided by this overall aim.

Climate change covers a broad range of interrelated issues, none of which should be seen in isolation when discussing long-term cooperative action. We therefore suggest structuring discussions so as to make it possible to consider a range of issues at each meeting under some overall headings. It is important that the Dialogue becomes a “learning process” where Parties can advance their understanding and thinking on the various issues from one meeting to the other.

The long-term challenges associated with climate change have been extensively studied by numerous research institutions and “think tanks”. Norway strongly believes that the meetings to be held under the Dialogue would benefit from presentations by the IPCC and the research community in order to stimulate discussions among Parties. Such presentations might be particularly helpful in animating our discussions and assessments of possible architectures for future cooperation.

We suggest that at least a part of the first workshop should be used to exchange views on the organisation of the work within the Dialogue. We believe that a plenary type meeting should be used as the main format of the Dialogue. At a later stage of the Dialogue, it may be logical to elaborate on specified issues in smaller groups.

### Issues to be discussed

Norway believes that all issues of importance for our cooperative efforts to combat climate change should be considered. As mentioned above, we find it extremely important to have as a goal that we should work towards a truly global response to the climate change problem. Some of the core issues are as follows:

- The long-term goal of the Convention: We believe that it is premature to reach agreement on a quantification of the long-term objective of the Convention. However, it might facilitate our work if we could exchange views and agree on what we, with today's knowledge, consider to be a long-term limit for temperature rise (or some other indicator of climate change). Such an "aspirational" goal could provide important guidance in defining future emission pathways. This, combined with business-as-usual scenarios, would be relevant information for considering mitigation and adaptation needs.
- Architecture for strengthened cooperation: An effective and appropriate response to climate change requires a regime that would provide for the widest possible cooperation and participation. It should aim at including all Parties, and include emission limitation commitments for most Parties. To achieve this, the regime needs to be flexible and take fully into account the common but differentiated responsibilities of Parties to the Convention. The regime should include:
  - Emission limitation commitments: These may be formulated differently for different countries/groups of countries and take into account developments over time (sometimes referred to as a "multi-stage" regime). Possible ways to formulate commitments could be explored, including emission ceilings, dynamic targets, sectoral targets, as well as non-binding targets. It is very important that any agreement on emission commitments should be perceived as fair by governments and the private sector. Competitiveness, equity, and leakage are some examples of issues that can be expected to be taken into consideration when assessing whether a regime is fair. It is also possible to use various quantitative indicators to assess the "fairness". Furthermore, it is important that a regime supports sustainable development in all countries. The regime should in principle include all greenhouse gases, and all sources and sinks. Market-based mechanisms should continue to play an important role to ensure cost-effective implementation of emission limitation commitments. The market-based mechanisms could serve as a link between national and regional systems with tradable permits. It will be important to discuss how the market mechanisms can be used in an efficient way with low transaction costs, while at the same time ensuring environmental credibility.
  - Adaptation: The need for adaptation will depend on the extent to which climate change is mitigated. Current concentration levels of GHGs in the atmosphere already make adaptation indispensable, but with significant regional variations. Norway therefore considers it logical that adaptation and mitigation both will be part of a future regime. Close cooperation on practical experiences will be valuable, including regional assessments and identification of assistance needed. The experience gained through elaboration and implementation of the five-year programme on adaptation will provide an important input to further discussions.
  - Technology: Technology plays an important role in both mitigation and adaptation. It is not a goal in itself, but will provide the tools needed to reach the environmental goals. The term technology is here meant to include research and development as well as diffusion and deployment. Enhanced cooperation on climate change would benefit from strengthened technological cooperation between countries, involving the private sector to the extent possible. Whether this should be an integral part of a future

climate change regime, a separate instrument or activities only loosely connected to the regime, would need careful consideration.

- Sustainable development: Important issues for discussion could be how to ensure sustainable development, including food production, access to energy services and efficient public transport, with lowest possible emissions of greenhouse gases, as well as integration of mitigation and adaptation issues in development strategies.
- Financing: The need for financial support to developing countries has long been acknowledged and acted upon by donor countries. Such support has been with no agreed burden sharing (except through the GEF Trust Fund). As part of the Dialogue, we should explore ways to make it more coherent and predictable. Without prejudging the results of the ongoing discussions on its governance and operations, the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol may have the potential to set an example in this regard. We may also search for new and innovative mechanisms in this context.

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