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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION
UNDER THE CONVENTION**

Sixth session

Bonn, 1–12 June 2009

Agenda item 3 (a–e)

Enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012, by addressing, inter alia:

A shared vision for long-term cooperative action

Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change

Enhanced action on adaptation

Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation

Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation

Ideas and proposals on the elements contained in paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan

Submissions from intergovernmental organizations

Addendum

1. In addition to the eight submissions from five organizations contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.5, two further submissions from two organizations have been received.
2. As requested by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, these submissions have been posted on the UNFCCC website.¹ In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, they are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing. The secretariat will continue to post on the relevant web page the submissions received after the issuance of the present document.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/igo/items/3714.php>.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

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PAPER NO. 1: INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Submission from the International Telecommunication Union to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Collaborative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) welcomes the opportunity to express its recommendations concerning the relation between Information and Communications Technology (ICT)/Telecommunication and Climate Change in the framework of the AWG-LCA and the Bali Plan of Acton.

Background

ITU is the specialized agency of the United Nations for ICT/telecommunications and is unique in that its membership comprises 191 Member States as well as more than 700 private companies and organizations. ITU led the organization of the World Summit on the Information Society of the UN (held in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005).

The ICT industry has undergone explosive growth in recent years and is now the largest economic sector. ICT play a critical role in all phases of economic and social activity. Increased access to ICT is a global success story; as more than 4 billion persons now have mobile phones and there are 1.5 billion Internet users.

Due to this growth, ICTs currently contribute 2-3% of global green house gas (GHG) emissions and this figure is expected to rise. However, it is reliably estimated that ICTs can reduce emissions in other sectors by at least 15%, making them a significant enabling technology to combat climate change. A future high-bandwidth, lower-carbon society offers a platform for economic, social and cultural development that is sustainable. Key areas where ICT can significantly reduce emissions include smart buildings, smart grids and efficient supply chain management. The use of ICTs can also reduce GHG emissions through videoconferencing, tele-working, on-line commerce, intelligent transport systems, building management, etc. The ICT sector is also endeavoring to mitigate its own carbon footprint through new energy-efficient devices, applications and networks.

Global standards are an important component of efforts to measure, report and verify reductions in GHG emissions. The membership of the ITU has given high priority to this work and recently developed a globally-agreed methodology to measure the impact of ICTs on climate change throughout the lifecycle of these products and services. Action also has been taken to establish a knowledge repository at ITU on ICT and Climate change. ITU provides the spectrum for much of the monitoring of climate, including the WMO Global Climate Observing System.

ITU also leads a Dynamic Coalition in the Internet Governance Forum on the Internet and Climate Change, looking at ways to reduce the environmental impact of the Internet.

ICTs can generally help countries, especially developing countries, adapt to the impact of climate change and thus should be part of national adaptation strategies. ITU is supporting this goal through the development of an e-Environment toolkit that will aid Member States in assessing their level of e-environment readiness, while helping them identify gaps in their policies to promote sustainable development.

The provision of Emergency Telecommunications is particularly critical in organizing relief efforts to repair damage and rebuild nations that have been struck by extreme weather events. ITU efforts focus on the planning, development and standardization of ICT solutions used in these situations.

The ITU Membership has recently adopted two statements emphasizing the critical role of ICTs in addressing climate change¹.

¹ Res. 73 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-08) on "Information and Communication Technologies and Climate change" (<http://www.itu.int/publ/T-RES-T.73-2008/en>) and Opinion 3 of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-09) on "ICT and the Environment" (<http://www.itu.int/md/S09-WTPF-C-0004/ens>).

Recommendations

ITU respectfully requests consideration of the following recommendations for inclusion in revisions to the draft text of the Chairman, presented to the AWG-LCA (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/8). Suggestions of specific paragraphs for inclusion of the proposed text are offered only to facilitate consideration.

Shared Vision

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can be powerful enablers to achieve cuts in emissions; they can contribute to adaptation and mitigation efforts, and thereby are a vital means to achieve the ultimate objective of the convention. (para. 9)

Adaptation

(g) Encourage {Parties}{All developing country Parties}{Particularly vulnerable developing country Parties} to consider any potential benefit that ICTs could bring to address some of the identified adaptation needs. (para. 23)

Efficient use of ICTs as part of cross-sector approaches for adaption programmes and their particular role in addressing the impacts of extreme weather events. (para. 25/f)

Mitigation

The enabling role that ICTs can play in reducing emissions across sectors. (para. 57)

Further consideration should be given to the role of global standards that provide agreed methodologies for measurement, reporting and verification in meeting the objective of the convention. (para. 66)

The development, promotion and deployment of new more energy-efficient ICTs (para. 73/i)

(f) Facilitate the identification of best practices and best available technologies, including information and communication technologies, for each sector through cross-border analysis and promote the transfer of those best practices and best available technologies from developed country Parties through analysing reduction potentials and setting indicators. (para 129/f)

Mitigation Actions

“...which can be facilitated by the use of agreed global standards for measurement, reporting and verification.”(para. 142)

Enhanced Action on Technology

Harness the power of ICT to tackle climate change and ensure that their benefits are accessible to developing countries (para. 180/j)

(e) Awareness-raising activities for policymakers and the general public on the potential benefits of ICTs for measuring, mitigating and adapting to climate change. (para. 184/e)

Capacity Building

(h) Capacity-building on the efficient and effective use of ICT applications for climate change mitigation and adaptation. (para. 199/h)

PAPER NO. 2: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ON
BEHALF OF THE INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

NON PAPER

Comments and Proposed Revisions

to the negotiating text prepared by the Chair of the UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term cooperative action

by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the United Nations University and with the support of the Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons to the 6th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 6) from 1 until 12 June in Bonn

1. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the United Nations University – agencies directly concerned with migration and displacement issues – would like to congratulate the Chair of the UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term cooperative action for the prepared negotiating text which already in its current form takes into account of and addresses some of the concerns of the humanitarian community brought to the attention of the UNFCCC Secretariat in a number of earlier joint submissions.¹

2. In particular, we welcome the reference made to national and international migration in the context of adaptation action in paragraph 25, al. (e) of the negotiating text. We support the intention of the State Parties to include an established link between the effects of climate change and human mobility in an agreed outcome, including as part of the adaptation activities. In some cases, in particular at early stages of environmental degradation, migration may be used as one of the adaptation mechanisms. In other instances, leaving their places of habitual residence on their own or being evacuated or relocated may be the only survival options which need to be managed by national authorities in cooperation with the international community to ensure adequate assistance to and protection of the persons concerned. These considerations need to be factored into national adaptation policies.

3. Persons displaced across internationally recognized borders by hydro-meteorological hazards and/or other effects of climate change cannot be described as “climate refugees”, in the absence of any other ground for displacement, these persons do not meet the definition of ‘refugees’ in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Consequently, the terms “environmental refugee” and “climate refugee” have no legal basis in international refugee law and should be avoided.² Nonetheless, international cooperation may be needed in order to meet the needs of those displaced, and to ensure respect for their human rights.

¹ “Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected?” Working paper submitted by the informal group on Migration/Displacement and Climate Change of the IASC – 31 October 2008 to the UNFCCC Secretariat; “Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Risk Management Practices: Critical Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change” Submission to the UNFCCC Adhoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action by The Informal Taskforce on climate change of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 11 November 2008; and “Climate change, migration, and displacement: impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options” Submission to the the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action by IOM, UNHCR, UNU in cooperation with ith NRC and the RSG on the HR of IDPs on 6 February 2009.

² For a further discussion of terminology issues please refer to “Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected?” Working paper submitted by the informal group on Migration/Displacement and Climate Change of the IASC – 31 October 2008 to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

4. To avoid undermining accepted international standards by using terminology that has no legal basis, we therefore suggest referring to accepted international protection frameworks. In line with the technical paper submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on “Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected?” by the informal group on Migration/Displacement and Climate Change of the IASC on 31 October 2008, we encourage State Parties to refer to existing terminology on displacement and migration and suggest the following rewording of paragraph 25, al. (e):

”The adaptation {framework} {programme} shall support and enhance the implementation of national adaptation plans. Adaptation action includes: [...] (e) Activities related to national and international migration and displacement or planned relocation of persons affected by climate change.”

5. We also suggest, for the sake of completion, the addition of the following sentence, either in the line (25(e)) or in a separate one (25(f), new):

“The same {framework} {programme} shall acknowledge the need to identify modalities of inter-State cooperation to respond to the needs of affected populations who either cross an international frontier as a result of or find themselves abroad and are unable to return due to the effects of climate change.”
