



## Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

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Note To The Chair

AWG-LCA negotiating text

UNFCCC June 1-12, 2009 Bonn, Germany

Dear Secretariat,

The following submission speaks to the missing “5<sup>th</sup>” building block of the Framework, the “Human Dimensions” addresses building the capacity of governments and society by “Matching Enhanced Action on Adaptation With the Support of A Well-Prepared Society” in a way that enables the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action.

- Under the section entitled, “II. Enhanced action on adaptation”, on page 8 insert “Matching Enhanced Action on Adaptation With the Support of A Well-Prepared Society” after “B.” changing the sub-category on “Matching enhanced action on adaptation with financial and technological support” to read sub-category “C.”

### **A Shared Vision -- Harmonization**

Ensuring an enabling environment that supports environmental sustainability is a necessary basis for achieving the goals of the Convention. As we look to Copenhagen and beyond, it is time to address the missing human dimensions. Taking into account development needs, national and cultural contexts, and the need to engage civil society in sustainability, calls for a well-prepared society. Rapidly changing context demands methodologies and indicators that lay the basis for adaptive management regimes that are more flexible and responsive. Policies and actions in this area do not match the realities on the ground where local communities have to engage in more complex decision-making in response to changing ecosystem conditions. Adopting a comprehensive approach, this challenge provides an opportunity to integrate this vision at three levels:

- National-level strategies, policies and plans of action
- Sectoral-level policies, plans and programs
- \* Local-level sustainability initiatives, both in rural and urban contexts

### **Enhanced National/International Action on Mitigation and Adaptation**

Climate change is a serious and long-term challenge. Achieving policy coherence, coherence of donor and developed country support, and the engagement of diverse stakeholders is very dependent upon understanding where we are, what’s working, what’s not, and identifying what are the options and opportunities. Given the complexities of the current global challenges, mitigating climate change can exacerbate or worsen biodiversity loss, water shortages, food security, and poverty reduction.

The ecosystem interface is non-negotiable, requiring implementation strategies that heed the limitations of human knowledge in terms of management and application. The common ground - global responsibilities linked to local realities - necessitates strong policy options

and implementation strategies that are knowledge sharing-based incorporating: A) the precautionary principle B) the integration of eco-effectiveness and C) the Agenda 21 Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

An informed polity and informed civil society require actions that goes well beyond innovative technology, compliance and controlling behaviour. Although Article VI of the Convention on “training, public awareness, and communications” provides starting points, there is a gap/shortcoming in the Bali Road Map. Sustainability requires a foundation built upon an organizational learning model to implement eco-effective policy-making, planning, and implementation of national, regional, and global priorities. It has become apparent to many in the international community and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Education Caucus that there is a real need to:

- Focus on climate change in terms of a well-prepared society
- Develop a commitment in Copenhagen that engages people in practical sustainability actions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The 1977 Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education was convened to follow-up on direction given by the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The results of the 1977 Conference were elaborated further in the outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit in such areas as climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and food security. The Framework is built upon those commitments and the mandates that followed. Needed are actionable guidelines that support engaging people in sustainability by using environmental education and sustainability as one major driver of the policy agenda on adaptation and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The shared concern of national and regional climate change strategies is to act with a unity of purpose through “a shared vision” that will achieve effective integration, cooperation and co-ordination, as well as strengthen society’s ability to respond. As challenges and opportunities arise, the question remains, how best can we implement these efforts in a way that will endure over time?

“Learning societies” and “learning organisations” are fundamental to effectively addressing global objectives and commitments at the local level. Therefore, a strong commitment in Copenhagen to the following actions for the post-2012 climate regime is necessary/required:

- 1) Make the “**human dimensions**” agenda for building a well-prepared society one of the new, priority commitments in the post-2012 agreement.
- 2) Mainstream **environmental education for sustainability** into integrated policy approaches, programs for effective eco-action, and national and international cooperative activities on climate change as agreed in the 2002 Johannesburg Plan Of Implementation, Convention Article 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, and supported by the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report and key findings from Working Group II on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability.
- 3) **Agree on clear strategies for country action and international cooperation** to pursue implementing approaches, programs and activities (e.g. the SIDS collaborative response to climate impacts) that engage government and civil society. These strategies should include well-defined time frames, mechanisms for reporting and evaluating progress, and a process for identifying future needs. [Ref.: MVR]

- 4) Further the common responsibility of effectively protecting ecosystems while taking into account differentiated cultural contexts and conditions. Identify the resources necessary to implement **Environmental Education for Sustainability** as part of each action to mitigate climate impacts and strengthen adaptation strategies. (Ref.: page 7, Section A, #2 (16) on “Building resilience, creating enabling environments and sharing knowledge”)
  
- 5) **Identify sources of funding to assist least developed countries and SIDS** to build the human capital necessary for effective responses to negative climate change impacts over the long-term.

**Secretariat/AWG-LCA Chairperson**

**We thank you for your consideration of the human dimensions issue for inclusion in the negotiating text in fulfillment of the Bali Action Plan and components of the agreed outcome.**

**Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future  
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