United Nations

FCCC/SBI/2010/24

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: General
23 November 2010

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Implementation
Thirty-third session
Cancun, 30 November to 4 December 2010

Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Article 6 of the Convention

Report on the full-scale implementation of CC:iNet

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

To facilitate the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and improve exchange of information and experiences between Parties, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the six key areas of Article 6, the secretariat was requested to work on the development of an information network clearing house (CC:iNet). After the launch of a prototype version in December 2005 and its evaluation in December 2007, several suggestions were made for enhancing the system. The resulting, full-scale version of CC:iNet was released in October 2010 with improved functionalities that are reviewed in this report. The report also provides recommendations on how to further enhance the full-scale version.

---

* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the timing of the regional workshops.

Please recycle

Contents

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 9/CP.13, decided to adopt the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and to extend it for five years. The COP further decided to undertake an intermediate review of progress in the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme in 2010, to evaluate its effectiveness and to identify emerging gaps and needs, and a review of its implementation in 2012.

2. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-second session, endorsed the terms of reference for the intermediate review of progress in the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme,[1] and requested the secretariat to prepare reports to support the intermediate review, in accordance with the terms of reference.[2] In particular, the secretariat was requested to prepare a report on the full-scale implementation of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet).[3]

B. Scope of the note

3. This report reviews the functionalities of CC:iNet since the inception of its full-scale version in October 2010. It draws on the recommendations from the evaluation report of the prototype version of CC:iNet undertaken in 2007;[4] the views and recommendations relating to CC:iNet expressed by participants of regional workshops on Article 6 held in 2009 and 2010;[5] and suggestions from Parties and relevant organizations in their submissions presented in document FCCC/SBI/2010/MISC.7 on information and views that may be relevant to the completion of the intermediate review of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6.[6]

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

4. The SBI may wish to take note of the information contained in this document and identify further steps for improvement or enhancement of the full-scale implementation of CC:iNet.

---

[1] FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 66.

[2] FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 68.

[3] FCCC/SBI/2010/10, Annex III, paragraph 7 (b).

[4] FCCC/SBI/2007/26.

[5] Regional workshop for Europe, 18–20 May 2009, Sweden (FCCC/SBI/2010/2); regional workshop for Asia and the Pacific, 14–16 October 2009, Bali, Indonesia (FCCC/SBI/2010/3); regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, 27–30 April 2010, Dominican Republic (FCCC/SBI/2010/9); regional workshop for Africa, 13–16 September 2010, The Gambia (FCCC/SBI/2010/19); and regional workshop for small island developing States, 2–4 November 2010, Seychelles (FCCC/SBI/2010/22).

[6] FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 67.

II. Background and progress made

A. Context and timeframe

5.   The COP, by its decision 11/CP.8, adopted the New Delhi work programme. To facilitate the implementation of the work programme and improve exchange of information and experiences between Parties, and intergovernmental (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the six key areas of Article 6, the COP, by the same decision, requested the secretariat to work on the development of an information clearing house.

6.   After the development of a small-scale model that served as a basis for further consultations and guidance from Parties, the prototype version of CC:iNet was launched in December 2005. Based on the lessons learned by Parties and registered users over the first two years of operation of the prototype, an evaluation report was presented to the SBI at its twenty-seventh session in December 2007, outlining recommendations on how to improve the clearing house and move towards its full-scale implementation.

7.   The SBI, at the same session, acknowledged the role of CC:iNet as an important tool for promoting the implementation of Article 6,[7] and made suggestions towards a fully functional, multilingual and user-friendly clearing house. The COP, by its decision 9/CP.13, requested the secretariat to further enhance the usefulness and relevance of CC:iNet, in line with the evaluation report on the clearing house, and facilitate dissemination of information from CC:iNet and other sources.

8.   The prototype version of CC:iNet was discussed at the regional workshops[8] referred to in paragraph 3 above. The two-phase implementation approach and the planned progression to enhance the system and its information was presented at most workshops. The presentations closed with a short guide to the website[9] showcasing how to enter and retrieve information from the perspective of a registered user.[10] Following the presentations, participants tested and assessed the features and functionalities of the prototype version and offered ideas on how to further enhance it.

9.   A few additional suggestions for enhancement were provided in submissions from Parties contained in document FCCC/SBI/2010/MISC.7.

10.   The full-scale version of CC:iNet, which draws on these recommendations and suggestions, was deployed in October 2010, to enable visitors and registered users to make use of the enhanced features, while concurrent testing and amelioration is undertaken by the secretariat.

11.   The official launch of the full-scale clearing house will be announced at a side event during the sixteenth session of the COP to be held in Cancun, Mexico.

---

[7] FCCC/SBI/2007/34, paragraph 51 (c).

[8] Detailed information on these workshops can be found on the secretariat website:
     http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/3143.php.

[9] *Contributing to CC:iNet - A quick-start guide*, available online at
     <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/information_pool/simple_search/items/3522.php?displayPool=874>.

[10] *CC:iNet Video presentation – Registration and submitting content*, available online at
     <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/information_pool/simple_search/items/3522.php?displayPool=1384>.

B. Summary of proposed improvements

12. The recommendations presented in the evaluation report covered four main issues, as follows:

(a) **Enhancement of functionality**: the report outlined the need to provide information on all six elements of Article 6, that is education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation,

"Full-scale implementation of the clearing house should broaden content and functionality to support the six elements of Article 6, with careful matching of content and delivery to the intended targets under each element."

(b) **Inputting and managing data**: recommendations entailed expanding the information pool by actively engaging users to promote and contribute to CC:iNet,

"A flexible approach is suggested to expand the size and relevance of the information pool, including active promotion by the secretariat to increase the number of registered users able to submit information.

Increasing the amount of content to address the objectives of the clearing house fully will require the active participation of Parties, especially the national focal points for Article 6. Partnerships with IGOs and NGOs, especially at the regional level, would greatly enhance these efforts"

and addressed the issue of quality control,

"To facilitate quality control, inputs could be screened by the secretariat, tagged with expiry dates or with automated messaging to contributors and site managers to update information after a specified time. A history of additions could also be maintained to facilitate regular assessment of new content."

(c) The report further identified the needs for enhanced **user-friendliness**,

"Many enhancements are possible to encourage repeated and frequent visits by users to the clearing house and to facilitate interaction and access for different needs under each of the elements of Article 6. Customized menu structures under each element, including a mix of browsing and searching as the main access to information, would improve flexibility"

as well as a greater **flexibility** to respond to the digital divide some countries and regions face,

"To facilitate access to information for those limited by hardware and internet speeds, information can be bundled by theme onto CD-ROMs and/or DVDs and distributed at regular intervals, or upon request by those in developing countries – especially in least developed countries where Internet access is limited."

(d) Finally, a recurring theme of the report is the **language issue**,

"Building on lessons learned from other sites that manage content in multiple languages, the secretariat could be mandated to seek and input content in multiple languages, and to implement navigation in several United Nations languages, as well as offer browsing based on the language of the materials. Such efforts would need to be scaled subject to the availability of resources."

13.   The suggestions from Parties presented in their submissions as well as those shared at regional workshops widely concur with the assessment and recommendations outlined in the evaluation report. Particular emphasis was placed on the following needs:

(a)   Multi-language navigation and content;

(b)   Enhanced functionality and user-friendliness;

(c)   Enhanced content;

(d)   Provision of new services such as free access to photographs;

(e)   Improved registration process;

(f)   Development of training tools and identification of training opportunities;

(g)   Broad promotion of the system, possibly through Article 6 national focal points, newsletters and other websites;

(h)   Provision of contact information on Article 6 national focal points;

(i)   Links to relevant United Nations source material, such as reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or GRID-Arendal outreach materials;

(j)   Creation of wiki tools.

C.   Progress made in the full-scale implementation of CC:iNet

14.   The time frame for full-scale implementation of the clearing house depended largely on the financial resources available. Partial funding to cover the technical development of the full-scale clearing house was secured in December 2009. While funding to cover the annual operational costs has not been secured, development and production of the system has progressed.

15.   Following the refinement and identification of business requirements, the development towards full-scale implementation was initiated taking into consideration the UNFCCC information technology development standards and capitalizing on the initial prototype and the UNFCCC content management system with numerous enhancements and additions being implemented to achieve the functionality gains requested by Parties and users. Furthermore, existing internal resources have been, to the extent possible, used to translate navigation and keywords.

16.   Development work as regards full-scale implementation of the clearing house has made every effort to address the suggestions and guidance received from Parties, in the form of additional and enhanced functionality presented in the figure, including:

(a)   Addition of multimedia content streaming through embedded YouTube links;

(b)   Incremental addition of navigation in French and Spanish;

(c)   Dynamic sub-sites/special sections within CC:iNet to cater to a specific target group or theme (i.e. youth, regional portals, etc.);

(d)   Enhanced search capabilities, cross-referencing multilingual terms, search suggestions, and ranked results based on language preference, content rating and popularity;

(e)   All visitors to the clearing house can now register, maintain a profile and provide suggestions for information to be included in CC:iNet;

(f)   Automated notifications sent to information contributors to assist in keeping content up-to-date;

(g)   An improved content submission system to facilitate the inclusion of translations, if available, without the need to re-categorize the content;

(h)   All visitors can subscribe to a news feed to get updates on newly published content in CC:iNet;

(i)   Promotion of CC:iNet and initial training sessions at most of the regional workshops for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention,[11] and a demonstration video presented at COP 15.

17.   The secretariat continued to foster partnerships with IGOs as an effort to expanding the information pool and enhancing synergies. In particular, the secretariat is regularly exchanging experience and views with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) on the development of their respective climate change clearing houses focusing on training and education issues to complement CC:iNet.[12]

18.   The full-scale version will be launched at COP 16 during a side event which will demonstrate the enhanced functionalities of the system. A leaflet will also be distributed highlighting the new functionality provided by CC:iNet with a view to promoting its usage.

III.   Conclusions and issues for further consideration

19.   While most recommendations have been met on the technical part, the content still needs to be improved. To ensure that the amount and quality of content can be increased, the following points should be further addressed:

(a)   Explore ways to enhance the promotion of CC:iNet and its usage. This could be done through presentations at relevant UNFCCC workshops and side events or dissemination of information through, for example, a dedicated newsletter to climate change national focal points, Article 6 national focal points and other relevant stakeholders, and links to other relevant platforms;

(b)   Identify further opportunities for training of users. This could be done through dedicated training workshops targeted at Article 6 national focal points who could in turn provide training to relevant stakeholders in their countries. Other opportunities include side events at intergovernmental sessions of the UNFCCC and other relevant conventions, or training sessions organized during relevant inter-sessional workshops;

(c)   Conduct user satisfaction surveys on CC:iNet to collect views on how to further improve the system;

(d)   Engage other United Nations agencies and organizations with relevant expertise on the six themes of Article 6 to collaborate with, and contribute to, sharing information in CC:iNet; and

---

[11] Regional workshop for Europe, 18–20 May 2009, Sweden; regional workshop for Asia and the Pacific, 14–16 October 2009, Bali, Indonesia; regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, 27–30 April 2010, Dominican Republic; and regional workshop for Africa, 13–16 September 2010, the Gambia.

[12] UNITAR is working on the One UN Training Service Platform for Climate Change (UN CC:Learn) that aims at becoming a comprehensive tool for accessing and sharing climate change training materials: <http://www.uncclearn.org/>. UNESCO is currently working on the development of a climate change education clearing house.

(e)   Invite Parties in a position to do so to provide funding to cover the annual running costs of CC:iNet.

20.   Parties may wish to conduct an evaluation of the full-scale implementation of CC:iNet in 2012, as part of the review of the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6.

Enhancement of CC:iNet functionalities

Prototype	Full-Scale
Main types of content	
Links Web-sites DOCs & PDFs	Links Web-sites DOCs & PDFs Audio / Visual
Navigation	
English	English French Spanish others
By scope	By scope Special focus
Search	
indexed Full-text meta	indexed Full-text meta Multilingual cross references suggestions Ranked results
Users	
Guests Registered	Guests Registered browsers Registered contributors
browsing	browsing
searching	searching
contributing	subscribe to RSS
	contributing
Registered: 85 as of December 2007	Registered: 265 as of October 2010