

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Thirty-fifth session**

**Durban, 28 November to 3 December 2011**

Agenda item 3

**Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

**Report on the joint SBSTA/SBI in-session workshop to consider the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme, to highlight the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change most relevant to the SBI**

**Note by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Mandate**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirty-fourth session, requested the secretariat to organize a joint SBSTA/Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in-session workshop to consider the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, to highlight the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change most relevant to the SBI.<sup>1</sup>

**B. Scope of the note**

2. This report draws upon Parties' interventions and discussions at the joint workshop<sup>2</sup> and contains:

- (a) Proceedings (chapter II);
- (b) Summary of the issues addressed during the workshop (chapter III);
- (c) Next steps (chapter IV).

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 23(d).

<sup>2</sup> The relevant documentation related to the joint workshop is available at <<http://unfccc.int/4300>>.

## II. Proceedings

3. The joint SBSTA/SBI in-session workshop to consider the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme took place in Durban, South Africa, on 30 November 2011. The workshop was opened by Mr. Richard Muyungi, Chair of the SBSTA, and Mr. Robert Owen-Jones, Chair of the SBI, and was facilitated by Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago).

4. In his introductory presentation, the facilitator reminded Parties of the relevant information and advice emerging from the implementation of the first phase of the Nairobi work programme. He also reminded Parties that the new context for adaptation created by the Cancun Adaptation Framework will provide new avenues to facilitate implementation of adaptation actions.

5. Following the facilitator's introductory presentation, representatives of five groups of Parties (Argentina on behalf of the G77 and China, the European Union, Ghana on behalf of the African Group, Kiribati on behalf of the Pacific island countries, and Timor Leste on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs)), and 17 Parties (Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Grenada, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Tuvalu, Uganda and United States of America) made interventions focusing on the following guiding questions:

(a) What information and advice arising from the Nairobi work programme's work could the SBSTA invite the SBI to consider?

(b) How could the SBI best use the advice and information from the Nairobi work programme to enhance the implementation of adaptation action?

6. In closing, the facilitator provided an overall summary of the interventions and ensuring discussion.

## III. Summary of the issues addressed during the workshop

### A. What information and advice arising from the Nairobi work programme's work could the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice invite the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider?

7. Parties acknowledged the wealth of useful information and advice generated under the Nairobi work programme, including contributions made by partner organizations.

8. Parties considered that the information and advice resulting from the nine work areas of the Nairobi work programme are relevant and comprehensive and that they provide a basis for consideration by the SBI.

9. Some Parties suggested that the wealth of information generated under the Nairobi work programme could contribute more effectively to the implementation of adaptation actions, particularly for vulnerable developing countries, and that information could be further disseminated to reach stakeholders at the national and local levels. It was noted that increased financial resources and capacity-building could also contribute to the improved implementation of actions arising from the Nairobi work programme.

10. Parties also recognized the need to promote information generated under the Nairobi work programme through various existing means, such as the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from

Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Global Environment Facility, and regional and national adaptation programmes.

11. Some Parties questioned the extent of consideration of information and advice forwarded to the SBI by the SBSTA at its twenty-ninth session<sup>3</sup> and stressed the need to draw lessons from this exercise, with the objective of enhancing the effectiveness of the use of this advice under relevant agenda items.

12. In the same context, one Party suggested the need for a decision to enable regular reporting on how the information and advice arising from the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme have been implemented through various processes under the SBI.

## **B. How could the Subsidiary Body for Implementation best use the advice and information from the Nairobi work programme to enhance the implementation of adaptation action?**

13. Parties recognized the new institutional arrangements under the Convention that contribute to advancing the implementation of adaptation on the ground. Parties noted that the information and advice arising from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme should not be considered in isolation by the SBI, but within the broader context of the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

14. Parties stressed the need to ensure a two-way interaction with the SBI, such that it could also request information from the Nairobi work programme on concrete scientific, technical and socio-economic matters needed to inform adaptation actions.

15. Parties suggested that the SBI could promote ways and means to ensure that the advice stemming from the Nairobi work programme can inform the implementation of adaptation actions, for example in the context of the following :

- (a) Providing technical support for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation plans and the work programme on loss and damage;
- (b) Providing guidance to the financial mechanism;
- (c) Exploring actions to be undertaken in the context of existing agenda items under the SBI, such as capacity-building, national communications, matters related to LDCs and technology development and transfer;
- (d) Facilitating more collaborative actions among countries and partner organizations to enhance capacity-building and adaptation efforts.

## **C. Other issues raised by Parties while responding to the two guiding questions**

### **Linkages with the Cancun Adaptation Framework**

16. Parties recognized the need to ensure linkages of the Nairobi work programme with the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in particular the Adaptation Committee, the national adaptation plans and the work programme on loss and damage, as these provide new avenues for implementation of adaptation actions on the ground.

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<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13, annex I.

17. Parties recognized that the Nairobi work programme could be refocused as the knowledge hub of scientific, technical and socio-economic information to facilitate the implementation of adaptation actions in support of the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

### **General considerations**

18. Parties welcomed the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme, including the many useful knowledge products.

19. Parties considered the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including Parties, organizations and experts under the Nairobi work programme, to be one of the most useful contributions of the programme. Parties recognized the role of partner organizations in translating knowledge into action, and emphasized that partner organizations could be better mobilized for enhancing adaptation actions on the ground, including through action pledges.

20. One Party mentioned that the role of partner organizations in facilitating adaptation actions is important, but that this should be complementary to the responsibilities that Parties have in addressing adaptation in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

21. The need to enhance human, technical and institutional capacity as well as access to financial and technological support under the Convention was highlighted by many developing country Parties as critical, in order to enable them to build upon the knowledge generated and implement adaptation actions.

22. One Party mentioned that the scope of the work programme should not differentiate among different groups of vulnerable developing countries.

23. In terms of achieving overall coherence on adaptation under the Convention, one Party suggested that this would be best achieved by addressing specific aspects of adaptation under different bodies and agenda items, underlying the need to continue the Nairobi work programme under the domain of the SBSTA.

### **Possible areas of further work under the Nairobi work programme**

24. Several Parties highlighted the importance of focusing on sectoral approaches, in particular water, health, food security (including agriculture, forestry and fisheries), tourism and ecosystem services, and noted the need to incorporate gender considerations in the context of the Nairobi work programme.

25. Several Parties underlined the need to improve the collection and processing of data and to develop the regional scenarios necessary for developing national adaptation plans.

26. Parties mentioned new potential areas of work, including the following:

- (a) Developing policy impact indicators for adaptation in order to assist long-term national policy on adaptation;
- (b) Providing guidance to consider trade-offs between sectors in the light of scarce resources, for example allocating water in the event of drought or glacial retreat for agriculture and human consumption;
- (c) Promoting the integration of assessment models for regional downscaling;
- (d) Evaluating potential damage from sudden and slow onset events.

27. Some Parties noted the need to establish adaptation focal points in countries to facilitate dissemination of knowledge and implementation of adaptation actions at the national and subnational levels. One Party expressed the need for financial support towards this effort.

28. Parties recognized that regional centres and networks could facilitate support for adaptation at the national and subnational levels, as well as the need to strengthen regional networks and to foster collaboration with regional institutions, in particular on data collection systems, data management and analysis.

29. Parties noted the need to better integrate work undertaken under the Nairobi work programme with relevant work on disaster risk reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

#### **IV. Next steps**

30. The Chairs welcomed the specific proposals and contributions made by Parties. These provide direction for the way forward, particularly by the following:

(a) As the adaptation landscape under the UNFCCC process has changed since the establishment of the Nairobi work programme, the information and advice arising from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme should not be considered in isolation, but within the broader context of the Cancun Adaptation Framework;

(b) Building on its existing work, the Nairobi work programme should be recast as the knowledge hub of scientific, technical and socio-economic information to facilitate the implementation of adaptation actions in support of the Cancun Adaptation Framework;

(c) The Nairobi work programme should give priority to activities targeting specific sectors and areas, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 24 above.

(d) The Nairobi work programme should embrace innovative ways to disseminate information and knowledge products to reach adaptation stakeholders at the national and local levels, to tailor information to end-users and to create better communication channels between the suppliers and users of information;

(e) The information and advice resulting from the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme forwarded by the SBSTA to the SBI at its twenty-ninth session also remain relevant and continue to provide a basis for active consideration by the SBI under different SBI agenda items.

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