



Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

Fourteenth session

Bangkok, 5–8 April 2011, and Bonn, 6–17 June 2011*

Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Organization of the work of the session

Scenario note on the fourteenth session

Note by the Chair**

I. Introduction

1. Under Mexico's inclusive leadership and with the patient, skilful navigation of the previous Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), the Parties produced an extraordinary outcome at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico.

2. The Cancun conference marks a significant step forward in the effort of Parties collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost adaptation, while enhancing technology cooperation and financing for adaptation and mitigation. With the momentum from that session, the AWG-LCA now has the opportunity and the responsibility to complete the design of the new arrangements put in place in Cancun, to make those arrangements operational and effective as soon as possible, and to continue shaping the direction of the long-term evolution of the climate change regime.

3. The decisions reached in Cancun create an extensive programme of work, not only for the AWG-LCA but also for the Convention's subsidiary bodies and for new bodies established in Cancun. For example, decision 1/CP.16 gives the AWG-LCA multiple specific tasks (e.g. elaboration of the Adaptation Committee, the work programmes for

* The second part of the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention will be held in conjunction with the second part of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the thirty-fourth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The exact dates of the resumed sessions of the ad hoc working groups will be announced in due course.

** This document was submitted after the due date owing to the short interval between the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

mitigation, setting up a registry, exploring financing options for REDD-plus, roles and functions of the Standing Committee, and the work programme on technology development and transfer).

4. At the same time, decision 1/CP.16 gives the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) specific tasks (e.g. regarding national adaptation plans and the work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage) and gives the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) specific tasks (e.g. the work programme for REDD-plus). Decision 1/CP.16 likewise gives to both subsidiary bodies specific tasks related to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.

5. In addition, decision 1/CP.16 gives specific tasks to new bodies (e.g. to the Transitional Committee with respect to the design of the Green Climate Fund, and to the Technology Executive Committee). Other decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its sixteenth session also bear on the specific tasks enumerated in decision 1/CP.16 (e.g. decision 10/CP.16 on capacity-building).

6. These various tasks given by the COP are noteworthy for at least two reasons. First, Convention bodies other than the AWG-LCA play important roles in the further elaboration of the climate change regime. This is positive, because the AWG-LCA is a body of limited duration – its work will end at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Durban, South Africa, in late 2011, unless the Parties decide to extend it. However, the work of the subsidiary bodies and other new bodies will continue.

7. Second, in undertaking its work, the AWG-LCA will need to bear in mind the roles of other Convention bodies and the tasks being undertaken by them. The AWG-LCA will need to maintain an overview of the entirety of these efforts, but time constraints will require that it work as efficiently as possible and that Parties seek to avoid overlaps and duplication of effort.

8. Parties were not able to find a way forward in Cancun on all the issues addressed in the Bali Action Plan. The Chair will consult with delegations in order to gain a full understanding of the concerns related to the issues left unresolved and will seek their guidance on what further contribution the AWG-LCA can make to the resolution of these issues.

9. The AWG-LCA faces new challenges in carrying out its work in 2011. In order to achieve successful results in Durban, it will be essential to maintain the constructive spirit that prevailed in Cancun and to maintain the political momentum.

10. The Chair is committed to guiding and facilitating the work of the AWG-LCA to the best of his ability and to working with all Parties in a transparent and inclusive manner. The Chair will also work in close collaboration with the current and incoming Presidencies of the COP.

II. Tasks ahead and general approach to the work

11. Decision 1/CP.16 specifies some of the tasks that the AWG-LCA is requested to carry out in a very precise manner, in terms of requests made to the AWG-LCA as well as subsequent actions to be taken by the COP. Other tasks are less specific in terms of their outcome. The AWG-LCA will capture the progress made through the elaboration of draft decisions or elements of such decisions.

12. As per decision 1/CP.16, such decisions will not prejudice the prospects for, or content of, a legally binding instrument in the future. The AWG-LCA will continue discussing legal options, with the aim of completing an agreed outcome.

13. The COP, by decision 1/CP.16, invited Parties to submit their views on a range of issues; the Chair greatly appreciates the efforts Parties have made in responding to these invitations. These submissions will facilitate the work of the session. Other issues might benefit from the further solicitation of submissions or of technical inputs prepared by the secretariat. The first part of AWG-LCA 14 will provide an opportunity to determine where additional inputs would be helpful.

14. The progress made in Cancun will in many cases allow the AWG-LCA to address issues from a different angle or to focus on a particular aspect. In the case of mitigation action in the forest sector, for example, the AWG-LCA has been requested to explore financing options for the full implementation of those actions, thus putting emphasis on the finance aspects. Other aspects of mitigation action in the forest sector will be addressed by the SBSTA, as noted in paragraph 4 above.

15. As mentioned in the introduction above, coordination among the various bodies undertaking related tasks will be essential. In preparing the work of the AWG-LCA, the Chair will consult the chairs of these bodies. In particular, in preparing for the upcoming session of the AWG-LCA, the Chair will consult with the Chair of the SBI on matters related to the organization of the work regarding the work programmes on mitigation for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, and will inform the AWG-LCA of the results of these consultations.

III. Organization of the work of the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

16. The secretariat has issued a note containing the provisional agenda and annotations for the session.¹ Background information on the tasks before the AWG-LCA as well as the respective associated actions are outlined in the annotations to the provisional agenda.

17. In the light of the extensive workload ahead, the Chair will aim to organize the work of the AWG-LCA in a flexible way that allows for it to be adjusted according to needs and progress made. The work of the AWG-LCA will be transparent and inclusive.

18. Arrangements will be made to initiate consideration of all items on the provisional agenda during the first part of the fourteenth session. It is the intention of the Chair to launch informal work on each of the items at its first plenary meeting, recognizing that it may be worthwhile to group some of these items together. This will allow delegates to develop a common understanding of the tasks before the AWG-LCA and will allow work to resume without delay at the second part of the fourteenth session.

19. The workshops on mitigation and on the Technology Mechanism preceding the first part of the fourteenth session will, respectively, facilitate consideration of the work programmes referred to in paragraph 15 above and the work on arrangements to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational.

20. The opening plenary of AWG-LCA 14 will be held on Tuesday, 5 April 2011. The session is for three and a half days only, and as the opening plenary meetings of the two ad hoc working groups are scheduled to take place consecutively in the afternoon, efficient use of time will be essential.

¹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/1.

21. The Chair suggests that, as has been practice, the AWG-LCA start its work as soon as possible and that, to this end, only delegations speaking on behalf of a group of Parties make brief opening remarks.
22. Parties will have an opportunity to share information on initiatives taken since the last session in Cancun that are relevant to the work of the AWG-LCA.
23. On Friday, 8 April, a second plenary meeting is planned in order to take stock of progress made during the first part of the session and to prepare for the second part of the session.
24. As in the past, the Chair will seek assistance from the Vice-Chair and from delegates to facilitate the work of the session.
