

SBI 40 agenda item 15 / SBSTA 40 agenda item 10

In-session submission by the European Union

Bonn, 10 June 2014

Review of the work of the forum on impacts of the implementation of response measures

The EU welcomes the opportunity to submit its assessment of the work of the forum on the impacts of the implementation of response measures (RM), including recommendations on the way forward.

1. Assessment of the work of the forum

Our overall assessment of the work of the forum is that some aspects worked well, while other aspects could be improved upon.

What worked well:

- Moving from the procedural discussions to more substantive discussions.
- Having as single platform for all discussions and negotiations on the issue.
- Open exchanges that included experts, observer organisations and civil society.
- Presentations by experts and observer organisations, which highlighted both positive and negative impacts, including co-benefits, and provided many new insights.

What didn't work well and could be improved upon:

- Number of submissions was very low, with only 3 or 4 Parties contributing between sessions.
- Sharing of information was somewhat limited, in part due to a lack of concrete information, e.g. of impacts actually experienced and how the information provided by developed country Parties is being used by developing country Parties.
- There was a significant overlap in content between several of the items of the work programme. This led to repetitions.
- Some of the elements of the work programme were not sufficiently clear and therefore discussions at times provided little insight on the issue.

- Discussions at forum sessions during COPs, given the many other things going on, were somewhat rushed.
- Duplication with established international cooperation structures was also an issue. We learned that a lot of work is going on outside of the UNFCCC that covers many of the same issues discussed in the forum.

2. Recommendations

On the basis of the above assessment, we would like to recommend the following:

1. The question of an extension of the forum should be seen in the context of the work to be undertaken. A targeted work programme would enable us to bring the issue forward and allow Parties to engage in more in-depth exchanges on the issue, including on possible implementation;
2. With a targeted work programme in place, the forum should remain the single platform for discussions and negotiations of response measures under the Convention, hence avoiding duplication of efforts/exchanges.
3. We should streamline the areas of work, avoiding the overlap that was evident in the work programme as contained in decision 8/CP.17 and be more specific in the definition of the areas at the same time. Areas of work should be selected based on interests and concerns of all Parties, with a particular focus on interests and concerns of developing country Parties. They should focus on both positive and negative impacts.
4. To this end, we would suggest a more targeted work programme to focus on positive and negative impacts of response measures in the following three areas:
 - a. Economic diversification, with a focus on:
 - i. economic diversification in the context of low-emissions development including economic co-benefits;
 - ii. development of the private sector in emerging economic segments in the economy, including creating an investment enabling environment;
 - iii. development of sustainable industrial policy;
 - iv. circular economy and resource demand management in the context of diversification of resources and resource scarcity;
 - b. Promotion of just transition and decent work, with a focus on:
 - i. development of employment policies in transition towards sustainable economy and promotion of decent work, including job creation through supporting private sector development;
 - ii. education policy and measures in the context of economic transition and diversification;
 - c. Food security, health and gender.
5. Given the success we have seen in bringing discussions under one roof, we think it would also be a good time to further streamline the agenda, replacing existing sub-items with a single item “forum and work programme on the impacts of the

implementation of response measures” under the agendas of SBI and SBSTA, respectively.

6. We should redouble our efforts to share substantive information and seek more interaction among Parties, including specific reinforcement of the role of experts in the respective fields.
7. The discussion should go more in depth (hence focussing on more technical aspects including how the respective concrete issues may be addressed) rather than broadening the spectrum of discussion with additional topics but staying on the surface of the problems.
8. We should avoid duplication by paying closer attention to what is happening elsewhere. To this end, we should invite to the appropriate workshops relevant international organisations with broad membership of both developed and developing countries such as ILO, WHO and WTO to regularly report to us on the state of their respective discussions and on respective activities.
9. We should meet once a year, during the June session of the SBs, similar to the Durban Forum on capacity building, as COPs are busy and discussions there tend to be rushed and procedural, not open and inquisitive.

Way forward

We look forward to constructive discussions and negotiations with Parties on the future of the forum and the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures, with a view to providing recommendations to the COP this year.