

Introductory remarks at SBI 40 on administrative and financial matters

Agenda item 18(b)

Continuing review of the functions and operations of the secretariat

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Guided by the Parties' decision 18/CP.7 to reflect a 3% efficiency dividend in the 2012-2013 budget, the secretariat remains dedicated to the achievement of sustainable efficiency gains.

Document FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.4 summarizes the efficiency gains made during the biennium 2012-2013 and demonstrates the secretariat's level of commitment to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, as well as illustrating our transition towards a culture of innovation.

The efficiency programme has developed into a secretariat-wide effort during 2012-2013, with staff from each of the ten secretariat programmes having participated in efficiency workouts.

Thirteen efficiency projects were undertaken in 2012-2013 resulting in efficiencies and cost savings in areas such as staff travel, recruiting, CDM fee processing, election processes and meeting planning.

The report also provides a selection of innovative ideas, instigated by programmes themselves, generating improvements in meeting planning, strategic partnerships and use of technology, allowing for more cost-effective participation, promotion of information sharing, improved networking opportunities and awareness-raising among a multitude of stakeholders in the UNFCCC process.

Twenty-five staff have been trained and accredited as efficiency workout practitioners, ensuring necessary knowledge and resources are in place to develop future efficiency projects, thereby providing an in-house framework for continuous improvement.

2014-2015 should see the further development of the efficiency programme, with a number of efficiency projects already underway.

It is my hope that the endeavor for continuous improvement will become intrinsically linked to our daily working lives in the secretariat, in line with our mission to become a top-performing, innovative and efficient organization.

Thank you.