

Working document

[Section A - Preamble]

Version of 3 September 2015 at 23:55

Main observations:

- During the first facilitated group meeting on Monday, 31 August 2015, Parties highlighted the importance of the Preamble in framing the context of the draft Agreement. Many noted that preambles set underlying philosophy and serve as a tool for implementation. Most agreed that the Preamble to the draft Agreement should be concise, but many also emphasized that it should set out key ideas and critical issues. A number of Parties considered that a meaningful discussion on the preamble was premature. Others wanted to flesh out conceptual ideas already at this stage to be further considered in the light of the outcomes of the negotiations on their sections.
- There was a general feeling that it could also be premature to address the preambular language of Part II (draft Decision 1/CP.21) and that more clarity would be needed on the content of the possible draft Decision 1/CP.21 as well as on the number of other relevant decisions that may be adopted at COP 21.
- The Co-Facilitators noted that a range of preambular provisions reflected in Part III of the Co-Chairs' Tool were referred to by Parties in their interventions. With regard to some of those provisions, a certain convergence of views was emerging. The Co-Facilitators identified the following possible areas for consideration and consolidation in the informal consultations on Wednesday, 2 September 2015:
 1. Reference to the Convention: as a whole/ principles/objective (Part I, Pp1, Pp2; Part III, Pp1);
 2. Global nature and urgency of climate change (Part III, Pp8); IPCC AR5 (Part III, Pp9), Science (Part III, Pp10);
 3. Rio+20 Conference (Part III, Pp5), Post-2015 development agenda (Part III, Pp31); Sustainable social and economic development (Part III, Pp33);
 4. Equality, environmental integrity and rights (Part III, Pp30); Health (Part III, Pp34);
 5. Role of private sector in capacity-building (Part III, Pp28); Action by non-State actors (Part III, Pp32);
 6. Challenges faced by SIDS and LDCs (Part III, Pp29);
 7. Adaptation as a global challenge (Part III, Pp18), Relationship between adaptation and mitigation (Part III, Pp19), Relationship between adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage (Part III, Pp20), Loss and damage and adaptation (Part III, Pp21);
 8. Means of implementation (Part III, Pp25).
- During the informal consultations on Wednesday, 2 September 2015, Parties exchanged views on the content of the eight areas identified above. There were suggestions to further merge some of the areas. Some noted that negotiations on substantive sections could inform whether there is a need to address some of these issues in the preamble and, if so, how they could be framed. In this regard, issues related to the area of adaptation and the role of the private sector and non-State actors were identified as areas to revisit later in the context of the preamble.
- Parties agreed to further discuss the following five general areas with a view to further identifying key elements and any possible bridging or consolidating of provisions:
 1. Reference to the Convention: as a whole/ principles/objective (Part I, Pp1, Pp2; Part III, Pp1) and Means of implementation (Part III, Pp25).;
 2. Global nature and urgency of climate change (Part III, Pp8), IPCC AR5 (Part III, Pp9), Science (Part III, Pp10);

3. Rio+20 Conference (Part III, Pp5), Post-2015 development agenda (Part III, Pp31); Sustainable social and economic development (Part III, Pp33);
 4. Equality, environmental integrity and rights (Part III, Pp30); and Health (Part III, Pp34);
 5. Challenges faced by SIDS and LDCs (Part III, Pp29);
- The Co-Facilitators invited Parties to submit any textual proposals, which would build on the provisions contained in the Co-Chairs' Tool but aim to bridge the various positions or preferences expressed and consolidate the provisions into a more concise and coherent text. Those materials would assist the Co-Facilitators in preparing a non-paper for posting online. Parties will be invited to provide feedback at a short facilitated group meeting to be held on Friday, 4 September 2015, from 3 to 3.30 p.m.
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