

Oral report to the Contact Group

Economic and social consequences of response measures (agenda item 3(b)(vi))

Contact group meeting, 24 May 2012

Framing elements of the discussion

- Parties agreed that discussions on economic and social consequences of response measures are important.

- However, Parties had different views on whether there is need for further work under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action in this area:
 - A number of Parties argued that economic and social consequences of response measures under paragraph 1(b)(vi) of the Bali Action Plan has not yet been fully addressed by the AWG-LCA; this includes proposals made earlier and contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.39.
 - Other Parties argued that all work on this agenda sub-item has been completed under the AWG-LCA.
 - Some Parties called for further work under the AWG-LCA to ensure that space is provided to continue negotiations related to economic and social consequences of response measures.
 - Other parties argued that such space already exists.

Issues discussed

- On the role of the forum to implement a work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures established by decision 8/CP.17:
 - Some Parties argued that this forum created under the subsidiary bodies is rather for enhancing understanding and for implementation of a specific work programme, and does not provide the space required for political decisions.
 - Some other Parties argued that the forum is the central place for further discussions on impacts of economic and social consequences based on decision 8/CP.17 consolidating all such discussions under the Convention. It could be expected that any issue related to response measures could be raised by Parties in the forum if they wish to do so.

- On unilateral measures:
 - Some Parties stated that response measures are taken with the primary objective to combat climate change, therefore the UNFCCC is the appropriate forum to address such measures, including unilateral ones.
 - Some other Parties argued that issues relating to unilateral trade measures should not be raised within the UNFCCC process, but rather under the World Trade Organization as the most competent forum on these matters.

Further remarks

- A submission on this agenda sub-item was received by a group of Parties.¹

¹ Available at: < unfccc.int/ 4578 >.