

**Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention
(AWG-LCA)
Fourteenth session, part four – Durban, Saturday, 3 December 2011
Second meeting of the AWG-LCA Contact Group**

**Introductory remarks by the Chair, Mr. Daniel A. Reifsnyder
on the amalgamation document¹**

Dear colleagues, good morning!

I welcome you to the second meeting of our contact group on agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6.

As laid out in the opening plenary of the AWG-LCA on Tuesday and at the last ‘touch base’ meeting of our contact group on Thursday, I have prepared a document containing an amalgamation of the draft texts resulting from the work undertaken by you in the informal groups since the opening plenary on Tuesday. This amalgamation has been issued this morning as document FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37 and its addendum FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37/Add.1.

This short meeting today is intended to provide a brief introduction to this document. I would like to give you an overview of its structure and organization.

Introduction to the document

As mentioned on Thursday, this amalgamation is intended to enable Parties to have an early overview of the entire draft AWG-LCA outcome. It is an intermediate product, not the final outcome of our work – a Saturday snapshot, if you will, of where we are at the end of the first week of COP-17. It should help Parties to identify where there are gaps, where there may be a lack of balance and where the document needs to be streamlined or strengthened.

Structure

The overall structure is based on the structure of the agenda of the AWG-LCA at its fourteenth session and the work undertaken in the informal groups under the AWG-LCA contact group.

Annexes of the draft texts resulting from the work of the groups are placed at the end of this document. As the work on the various texts will continue in the groups today and into the second week, the paragraph numbering has remained unchanged to facilitate continuation of this work.

The tables at the end of this introduction (on pages 4 and 5) present an overview of the texts contained in this document as they came from the informal groups. (The titles of the chapters and sub-sections are abbreviated to make the overview tables more readable.)

From the overview table you can see that the respective main bodies of the texts contained in the amalgamation document sum up to 73 pages. This is followed by the annexes that relate to the draft texts, mostly containing details that are equally as important but of a more technical nature, such as guidelines relating to biennial reporting, modalities and procedures for International Assessment and Review (IAR) and International Consultation and Analysis (ICA), lists of activities and timelines, composition of bodies and procedures.

Obviously, the document contains a large volume of text. Broadly speaking, there are two reasons for this. Our Executive Secretary told me last night that she learned that in Africa there are two kinds of rain – good rain and bad rain.

¹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37 and FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37/Add.1.

To a large extent, this document concerns implementation aspects of decisions reached in Cancun; and implementation necessarily involves detail. This is our good rain. For other parts, however, the length of the text is due to the diversity of views among the Parties and the difficulty they are having converging on agreed text. This is our bad rain.

The good news is that our good rain significantly exceeds our bad rain. Our good news is that Parties are truly working constructively and cooperating together. And our good news is that by the end of this COP, I am confident, you will turn our bad rain into good rain and we will see the kind of balanced, comprehensive and robust outcome from the AWG-LCA that you have all come here to produce.

I think it would be useful to walk briefly through the individual parts of this amalgamation to help you understand how they were assembled and what remains to be done.

Introduction of the Chapters

Chapter I: Shared vision

At the second Indaba held by the South African Presidency this week, one speaker noted that what we have here is neither a vision, nor is it shared. The Cancun Agreement called for Parties specifically to consider the issues of a global goal and global peaking. Furthermore, in Bangkok we agreed to consider other issues not concluded in Cancun.

The non-paper from Panama included all Parties views and submissions but was not agreed as a draft negotiation text. During this session there was only one informal on shared vision and Parties started to re-organize the text in Parties' consultations but no significant progress has been made.

Much remains to be done to streamline the text before serious negotiations begin. With the very limited negotiating time left, Parties will need to work very hard if we are going to have a shared vision text in the Durban outcome.

Chapter II: Mitigation

The Chapter on Mitigation is sub-divided in line with the sub-items of our agenda item 3.2 – Enhanced action on mitigation.

1. Mitigation by developed country Parties:

The text on developed country mitigation reflects progress under the informal group in three different areas.

- On biennial reports and international assessment and review, informal groups have worked throughout the week to streamline and clarify the texts forwarded from Panama which, as a result, reflect a fairly mature stage of discussions.
- While there are important issues left to resolved, the paper contains draft decisions in the main body of the paper. Draft guidelines for biennial reports and draft modalities and procedures for the international assessment and review process are contained in annexes. The tables, which are part of the annex on biennial reports, are not reproduced here, but are available on the website indicated in footnote 1 to annex 1 (accessible also via the AWG-LCA 14.4 in-session website²).
- On discussions on matters relating to paragraphs 36–38 of the Cancun Agreement, there is not yet enough convergence on key issues to yield draft text. Rather, the facilitators have reflected their assessment of the status of the negotiations. I recognize that this text is new to Parties and will require further consultation by the facilitators before it is ready for substantive discussion by Parties. Of course, all views and proposals are still on the table

² <unfccc.int/6560>.

2. Mitigation by developing country Parties:

On developing country mitigation, the paper captures the four areas of discussion under this issue.

- Similar to developed country mitigation, the paper contains draft decision text on biennial update reports and international consultation and analysis, and corresponding annexes on guidelines for these reports and draft modalities and procedures. Again, the tables, which are part of annex 3 on biennial update reports, are not reproduced here, but are available on the website indicated.³
- The paper also contains a draft decision on the registry.
- On matters relating to paragraphs 48–51 of the Cancun Agreement, there is not yet enough convergence on key issues to yield draft text. Here again, facilitators have reflected their assessment of the status of the negotiations. Again, I recognize that this text is new to Parties and will require further consultation by the facilitators before it is ready for substantive discussion by Parties, and all proposals remain on the table.

3. REDD-plus Finance:

Sub-section C of the Mitigation Chapter contains text on REDD-plus finance resulting from the work in the informal group so far consisting of four operative paragraphs with a brief preamble. This represents a significant and very hopeful advance in this important area.

4. Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions:

The current text resulting from the work of the informal group on cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions is contained in sub-section D, comprising the three main areas under consideration by this group – the general framework, agriculture, and international aviation and shipping.

On the latter topic, I note that Parties are currently working jointly on merging and thereby reducing the options, but there has not been sufficient time to include the results of this exercise in this morning's document.

As in the other groups this is work in progress and I encourage Parties to continue working toward agreed text in all three areas.

5. Various approaches:

The text on various approaches is very long, but the fact is that considerable progress has been achieved in this group in the past week.

You will find that the draft text now contains four options, of which two options simply provide for "no decision" and "deferral to COP 18".

The two other options however reflect discussions in progress where streamlining is on-going. One of these options presents a short and concise version of the text – Option 1. The other of these options may be likened to "a basket full of juicy fruit" as one of the delegates put it yesterday – Option 2.

The challenge will consist of combining the overall intent and brevity of option 1 with the flavors and variety in Option 2.

6. Response measures:

In the sub-section on response measures you will find only a title. That is because there is as yet no common text on which Parties have been able to agree – even as a negotiating text.

But the absence of text here should not be viewed as a setback – in fact, you have advanced significantly in the past week and there are now six proposals from Parties on the table with more possibly coming and a new willingness among Parties to find common ground.

³ <unfccc.int/6560>.

To capture this progress and provide a clear basis to advance next week, these proposals are included in a new document (FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/CRP.37/Add.1), that is an addendum to this amalgamation.

Chapter III: Adaptation

What you see contained in the chapter on adaptation is the draft decision text from Panama.

What is important to understand here, is that all Parties agree on the need for a substantial outcome on this critical issue here in Durban. However, because the community of negotiators who deal with this issue has been consumed in our first week with a broad array of other vital adaptation issues in other bodies, including national adaptation plans, loss and damage and the Nairobi Work Program, they have simply not yet had time to progress on adaptation in the AWG/LCA. I am confident that this will change radically next week.

Chapter IV: Finance

The finance group has taken a significant step forward this week. Parties have worked diligently and constructively and have delivered a coherent and advanced draft text on the **Standing Committee**, reducing it considerably in size.

I understand that after this meeting Parties will go back into negotiations and in a similar vein turn their attention to streamlining the text on **long-term finance**. (NB: The text included in the amalgamation did not reflect the most recent discussions in the informal group on finance due to a technical error. In their discussions the facilitators and the Parties are using the correct text which is available on the UNFCCC web site.)

Chapter V: Technology

The technology group has been progressing through what is a very detailed and technical implementation text to launch a selection process for the Climate Technology Centre and Network (**CTCN**). I am very glad that the Parties have engaged the services of the secretariat to help in this task and I would encourage you further in this direction given the nature of the work you are doing.

On the question of the governance of the CTCN, I believe that while Parties would like to keep all options on the table, they are actively working together on a compromise option; it is a work in progress and discussions will continue today after this meeting.

There are other parts of the text that may need further discussion in terms of substance and format. For the purpose of this overview document they are currently placed in the Annex.

Chapter VI: Capacity Building

The text on capacity-building, consisting of seven almost clean paragraphs, reflects the consensus reached by Parties on portions of the Panama non-paper in the course of the past days here in Durban.

Chapter VII: Review

On the review, Parties worked among themselves and came up with further structuring and streamlining of the text, which you find marked in italics in Chapter VII.

Chapter VIII: Legal Options

Regarding legal options I understand that discussions on this sensitive but important topic are constructive, while difficult.

The options discussed by Parties have been summarized by the facilitator in Chapter VIII of the document and broadly reflect the different views presented by the Parties.

The text has been prepared under the facilitator's responsibility. The text has not been negotiated by Parties nor is it a negotiating text. Furthermore, the text represents work in progress and consultations are continuing

Chapter IX: Other matters

The texts concerning Annex I Parties undergoing the transition to a market economy (EITs) and Parties whose special circumstances are recognized by the COP reflect the discussions on these two issues by Parties from Bonn in June, Panama in October, and here in Durban.

The texts summarize where Parties are now in their discussions, and I recognize that further discussions will be held on the proposals on the table from Annex I EIT Parties and from Turkey.

I encourage Parties to continue their discussions on the proposals.

Remarks on the way forward

As said at the outset, this amalgamation is an intermediate and incomplete product. Much work remains to be done but it is my hope that this amalgamation will help you visualize the AWG-LCA outcome here in Durban.

I thank all Parties for their engagement, hard work and creativity this past week. In addition, I thank our facilitators for their dedication and willingness to help all of us find a path forward.

As I mentioned on Thursday, we will hold a plenary meeting on Monday morning to exchange reactions to the amalgamation. But, as I also noted on Thursday, our most important task now is not to criticize the shortcomings of this intermediate document but to fix them in our continued negotiations in the informal groups.

For this reason, I will urge again that we do not have a prolonged plenary on Monday. Instead, we should put the time to better use by working diligently in the informal groups to achieve an outcome from the AWG-LCA that is balanced, comprehensive and robust.

We will continue our work in the informal groups today, on Monday and on Tuesday next week.

I anticipate that there will be a need to refine this amalgamation and present Parties with a new document by Wednesday next week that will reflect our further progress in the informal groups and point the way to resolving the most difficult remaining issues.

We have a lot of work ahead and little time left. I urge you to be constructive in your work on text on the various issues and to work hard among yourselves and with your facilitators to find common ground and reach agreement.

Thank you very much.