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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention

Fourth workshop

Vienna, 27–31 August 2007

Dialogue working paper 6 (2007)

Scenario note on the fourth Dialogue workshop

Note by the co-facilitators

I. Introduction

1. At the third workshop under the dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (the Dialogue), which took place from 16 to 17 May 2007 in Bonn, Germany, our discussions focused on Addressing action on adaptation and Realizing the full potential of technology.
2. This note outlines our approach for the fourth workshop. Once details have been decided on, the schedule for the fourth workshop will be issued in a separate working paper.

II. Organizational matters

3. The fourth workshop under the Dialogue will take place during the intersessional event to be held from 27 to 31 August 2007 in Vienna, Austria, in conjunction with the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG). More information on the intersessional event is available on the UNFCCC website.¹
4. As mentioned in our scenario note for the third workshop (see Dialogue Working Paper 1 (2007)), the discussions at our fourth workshop will focus on how to bring together the ideas and proposals put forward during the Dialogue, on exploring how they may fit together in a coherent way and into an appropriate international response to climate change, and on addressing overarching and cross-cutting issues, including financing.
5. At the conclusion of the third workshop, we sought guidance from Parties on organizational and substantive matters regarding our fourth and final workshop under the Dialogue. Since the fourth workshop will be the last opportunity to present proposals for further actions, activities and approaches regarding the Dialogue, we invited Parties to provide their views on how to integrate the ideas and proposals presented into coherent international responses to climate change. You will be invited to speak to your submissions and/or provide additional information at the opening session of the Dialogue workshop. The secretariat will publish all responses to this invitation on the UNFCCC website as

¹ <http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg_4_and_dialogue_4/items/3999.php>.

working papers. We also invited observer organizations to provide their views on the same matter and asked the secretariat to make their contributions available on the UNFCCC website.

6. Our exchange so far during the Dialogue process has produced a range of suggestions regarding what you see as the essential building blocks of a post-2012 climate change regime. While there is not yet consensus on the detail, some common elements are as follows:

- A long-term goal, consistent with what the science tells us, which would provide overall direction to the regime. Within that framework we have discussed short-term reduction objectives for developed countries and strategies for cleaner development paths for developing countries, all of these reflecting different national circumstances;
- National climate change strategies covering both mitigation and adaptation, including how positive incentives could be provided for actions put forward by developing countries in line with sustainable development policies and objectives;
- Market mechanisms, including the carbon market, and other enabling mechanisms such as fiscal and regulatory approaches that can reduce the cost of mitigation, provide incentives for cleaner development and help mobilize the required investment;
- The need to ensure that adaptation is addressed with a sense of urgency and in a comprehensive manner by all Parties, supported by effective regional and international cooperative action;
- Efforts to stimulate the diffusion, transfer and deployment of existing lower emissions technologies and to promote investment in the development and demonstration of additional technological solutions;
- Mitigation opportunities in specific sectors that would allow countries with varying national circumstances to contribute actively to the effort. For example, initiatives have been launched, sometimes with the direct engagement of business and non-government organizations in sectors such as cement and in reducing emissions from deforestation.

7. We can now turn our attention to how such component parts might be welded together into an effective and appropriate international response to climate change, recognizing that for some Parties such a response will be multi-faceted. Our task is to focus on how to enhance implementation of the Convention to promote long-term cooperative action. Given recent international developments, we have a clear opportunity in Vienna to build substantially on the discussions of the three previous Dialogue workshops, and in Bali to seek consensus on a shared vision of the overarching aims and the elements of an international response to climate change – sometimes referred to as a ‘road map’.

8. At the third workshop, we received an update by the secretariat on the progress of its work on existing and planned investment flows and finance schemes relevant to the development of an effective and appropriate international response to climate change.² The input from the secretariat will be made available, in the form of a working paper, before our fourth workshop and will help underpin the development of approaches to stimulate investment flows and financial schemes and better align them with the ultimate objective of the Convention. The paper will be introduced by the secretariat and you will have the opportunity to discuss its findings and provide additional information.

9. In addition, perspectives of the investment community are important when finance and investment issues are discussed. For this reason, we will invite individuals who are actively involved in this area to provide input that would enrich our discussions during the workshop.

² This work was requested by the secretariat during the second workshop under the Dialogue and was also endorsed by Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session (FCCC/CP/2006/5, paras 61–62).

III. Questions for discussion

10. We have identified below some of the key questions that we need to address as we conclude our work under the Dialogue:

- What are the required building blocks for long-term cooperative action to address climate change taking into account sustainable development goals and the ultimate objective of the Convention?
- How can these building blocks be coherently integrated into an appropriate and effective international response to climate change? What steps need to be taken to achieve this?
- How could the Conference of the Parties build on the progress made in the Dialogue and continue to develop an effective and appropriate international response to climate change?

IV. Dialogue report to the Conference of the Parties

11. At COP 12, our report was procedural and focused on what occurred during the two workshops that took place at the first year of the Dialogue.³ In fulfillment of the mandate given to us by decision 1/CP.11 (para. 7 (c)), we will report to the COP at its thirteen session (Bali, December 2007) “on the dialogue and on the information and diversity of views presented by Parties”. We will make every effort to prepare our report as soon as possible after the fourth workshop in order to allow you to prepare for COP 13 where decisions on the next steps in the development of an effective and appropriate international response to climate change will need to be determined.

12. Our final report to the COP at its thirteenth session will be the major outcome of the Dialogue and will be one of the substantive inputs to the development of strategic approaches for an appropriate future international response to climate change.

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³ The full text of our report to the COP at its twelfth session can be found at <http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/dialogue/application/pdf/oral_report_at_cop12_061117.pdf>.