



**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION
UNDER THE CONVENTION**

Fifth session

Bonn, 29 March to 8 April 2009

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Organization of the work of the session

Scenario note on the fifth session

Note by the Chair*

1. The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) will be held in Bonn, Germany, from Sunday, 29 March to Wednesday, 8 April 2009. The purpose of this note is to share with delegations the plans and expectations of the Chair of the AWG-LCA for the session, focusing on the organization of work. The secretariat has issued annotations to the provisional agenda for the session¹ and an information note on pre-session events.²

A. Organization of work of the fifth session

2. The fifth session of the AWG-LCA completes the programme of workshops and marks the shift by the group into full negotiating mode as agreed by the AWG-LCA in its third session³ and as welcomed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Poznan.⁴ With fewer than nine months left until the AWG-LCA is to present the outcome of its work to the COP at its fifteenth session in Copenhagen, urgency and focus of the negotiations as well as the best and most efficient use of time are of utmost importance.

3. At its fourth session the AWG-LCA invited its Chair to prepare, under his own responsibility, a document for consideration at its fifth session that would further focus the negotiating process on the fulfillment of the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13) and on the components of the agreed outcome, describing areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals of Parties, exploring options for dealing with areas of divergence and identifying any gaps that might need to be filled in reaching an agreed outcome.⁵

* This document was submitted after the due date because there was insufficient time to finalize it before the document deadline.

¹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/1.

² <http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/20090212_awg_pres.pdf>.

³ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/12, paragraph 33.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.14, paragraph 5.

⁵ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/17, paragraph 26 (a).

This document (hereinafter referred to as the focus document) has been made available in two parts.⁶ It will be introduced and explained by the Chair in an informal event on Friday morning, 27 March 2009, at which there will be the opportunity for questions and answers by Parties,⁷ and in the opening plenary on Sunday, 29 March.

4. As regards the organization of work, the Chair will invite the AWG-LCA to establish the same four contact groups as for the fourth session of the AWG-LCA in Poznan, namely on:

- (a) A shared vision for long-term cooperative action;
- (b) Enhanced action on adaptation and its associated means of implementation;
- (c) Enhanced action on mitigation and its associated means of implementation;
- (d) Delivering on technology and financing, including consideration of institutional arrangements.

5. In order to make best use of the time available, the Chair will propose that the contact groups focus their work on specific topics, such as those suggested in the Chair's focus document. This could be done by dedicating meetings of a contact group to a specific topic or by assigning topics to focus groups which would seek to narrow down options or flesh out promising ideas. The work of focus groups could, in some cases, be facilitated by individuals identified by the Chair of the respective contact group, to whom the facilitators would report.

6. While the summaries by the Chair prepared after previous sessions have proved to be a useful device, the Chair proposes that further Chair's summaries need not be prepared in a phase of work in which progress may be captured in negotiating texts.

7. The Chair intends to consult informally with Parties regarding the organization of work of the sixth session (June 2009).

B. Workshops and other events

8. At its first session, the AWG-LCA agreed that its work should be facilitated by workshops and other activities to clarify and deepen understanding of the elements contained in the Bali Action Plan.⁸ As agreed by the AWG-LCA at its third session, the following three workshops will be organized in conjunction with its fifth session:⁹

- (a) Workshop on subparagraphs 1 (b) (i) and 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan,¹⁰ to be held on Wednesday, 1 April 2009 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.;¹¹

⁶ FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/4 (Parts I and II).

⁷ The event is scheduled to take place from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at the venue of the fifth session of the AWG-LCA, Hotel Maritim, Bonn, Germany.

⁸ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/3, paragraph 26.

⁹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/12, paragraphs 34 and 35.

¹⁰ Subparagraphs 1 (b) (i) and 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan read as follows: "(i) Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances"; "(ii) Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner".

¹¹ As agreed by the AWG-LCA at its third session, this workshop will be organized in two parts, each dealing with one of the respective subparagraphs and together covering the substance of both subparagraphs in their entirety (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/12, para. 34).

- (b) Workshop on economic and social consequences of response measures (para. 1 (b) (vi) of the Bali Action Plan), to be held on Tuesday, 31 March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;¹²
- (c) Workshop on opportunities and challenges for mitigation in the agricultural sector, to be held on Saturday, 4 April from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

9. The Chair has invited Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) to chair the workshop on response measures and Ms. Lilian Portillo (Paraguay) to chair the workshop on the agricultural sector, while the workshop on subparagraphs 1 (b) (i) and 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan would be chaired by the Chair of the AWG-LCA.

10. The approach to the workshops will be the same as at former sessions of the group. All Parties are invited to contribute to the interactive exchange and to bring to the workshops their ideas and proposals.¹³ Further information on the structure and approach of the workshops is included in the provisional agenda and annotations.¹⁴

11. Furthermore, a technical briefing on estimates of required emission reductions for stabilization scenarios will be organized by the Chair on Monday, 30 March 2009 from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. The objective of this briefing is to present information on the underlying assumptions and the approach taken to arrive at these estimates.

C. The question of additional meeting time in 2009

12. At its fourth session, the AWG-LCA requested its Chair to keep the need for additional meeting time in 2009 under review in consultation with Parties, the Bureau of the COP and the Executive Secretary, and to propose any action that might need to be taken by the AWG-LCA in a manner that would ensure the effective participation of all Parties, in particular developing country Parties.¹⁵ On that occasion, the Executive Secretary informed the AWG-LCA that, owing to logistical and organizational constraints and the time required to raise funds, any decision on additional meeting time would have to be taken no later than the fifth session.

13. Taking account of the current schedule up to COP 15¹⁶ the Chair initiated consultations on the basis of the following options on the understanding that additional meeting time would be supported by additional funding for participation by developing countries:

- (a) An additional two-week session from 2 to 13 November 2009;
- (b) Additional meeting time from 10 to 14 August 2009.

14. These blocks of meeting time would occur midway between the sessions already scheduled. The Chair had in mind that two scenarios could be considered for the possible additional meeting time in

¹² Under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, a workshop on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties will be held on Monday, 30 March 2009, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

¹³ Parties are invited to make either brief and focused presentations on proposals (no more than 10 minutes and, if needed, up to five slides) or short interventions (no more than three minutes). Parties wishing to make presentations are invited to contact the secretariat at <lca workshops@unfccc.int> as soon as possible but not later than 29 March 2009.

¹⁴ FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/1, paragraphs 9 to 12, and annex I.

¹⁵ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/17, paragraph 28.

¹⁶ The sixth session of the AWG-LCA will be held in Bonn from 1 to 12 June 2009. The seventh session has been scheduled to take place in Bangkok from 28 September to 9 October 2009.

August: to hold a resumed sixth session or to hold in-depth consultations open to all Parties. The latter option would be less costly,¹⁷ more flexible and possibly more productive in that it would allow Parties to focus on particular issues under negotiation.

15. The Executive Secretary has confirmed that facilities could be available in Bonn from 10 to 14 August and at certain non-United Nations venues from 2 to 13 November 2009. After further consideration, the Executive Secretary has also indicated that, in light of the number of sessions already envisaged for 2009 and the short time frame, it would be very difficult to organize an additional formal meeting with all the related facilities in August.

16. The Chair hopes that these consultations will proceed speedily so that a conclusion may be reached after he consults the Bureau of the COP at its meeting on 3 April 2009.

¹⁷ Significant costs associated with conference services and facilities for plenary meetings as well as for observers and side events would be avoided.