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Cooperation with other international organizations

Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the work under the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The secretariat engages in collaborative activities, initiatives and programmes with United Nations entities, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations in order to facilitate an effective international response to climate change. The report covers major collaborative activities that the secretariat has been involved in since the thirty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The report addresses: (1) activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; (2) specific areas of cooperation; and (3) collaborative initiatives and programmes. Supporting the implementation of the Convention is a key objective of the secretariat's work with international organizations.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on cooperation with relevant international organizations is taken up, an information paper, summarizing relevant cooperative activities.¹

B. Background

2. Cooperation among international organizations, United Nations entities, other convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) is important for an effective international response to climate change. The Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall “seek and utilize...the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies” (Article 7, para. 2(l)).

3. The secretariat has been the entity responsible for supporting the policy formulation process and for entering into cooperative arrangements to further the implementation of decisions taken by the COP. The focus of the secretariat has therefore been on providing support to negotiations, while working with other parts of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, to advance implementation in their respective areas of responsibility.

4. The COP and its subsidiary bodies seek to ensure that the climate change related activities of other international organizations are coherent with the UNFCCC process and respond to the needs of the Parties, taking into account the potential linkages and synergies that may exist.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

5. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information provided in this document. It may wish to invite Parties to comment on the activities summarized below in chapters II–IV and provide guidance on the scope and direction of these and other cooperative activities so that they further contribute to the effective implementation of decisions adopted under the Convention.

II. Activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

6. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the principal instrument for supporting and reinforcing the coordinating role of United Nations intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters.

7. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, the CEB has initiated a process to align the strengths of all organizations of the United Nations system in coordinated action

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 128.

to meet the challenges of climate change. The objective of the CEB with regard to climate change is twofold: to support the process for an international agreement under the Convention; and to assist Member States at the national, regional and global levels in their efforts to address the impacts of climate change. On climate change, the CEB is supported by the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), which promotes global policy coherence, including through the development of common policy tools.

8. Programmatic work at the headquarters level through the HLCP is connected to United Nations system activities at the country level through the United Nations Development Group and the individual United Nations country teams. The United Nations regional commissions correspondingly work at the regional level, while the secretariat of the UNFCCC serves as the link to the global climate change negotiation process.

9. Based on the basic principles of the ongoing negotiations, the CEB developed a framework for action, which is made up of focus and cross-cutting areas and is coordinated by a working group currently chaired by a UNFCCC secretariat staff member. This framework for action was recently revised to better align the focus of the group's work with the negotiations. The revised framework now comprises the following:

- (a) Focus areas:
 - adaptation
 - technology transfer
 - forestry and agriculture
 - financing mitigation and adaptation action
 - capacity-building
- (b) Cross-cutting areas:
 - climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
 - supporting global, regional and national action
 - public awareness and education
 - social dimensions of climate change.

10. In 2011, the working group will continue to align its focus of work with the ongoing negotiation process and will give priority to addressing country-level implementation, adaptation and capacity-building.

11. A number of activities and initiatives have been undertaken by the CEB since SBSTA 32. The UNFCCC continues to collaborate on a number of initiatives of the CEB including, but not limited to:

- (a) The Global Framework for Climate Services;²
- (b) The Finance Portal for Climate Change;³
- (c) The One UN Training Service Platform for Climate Change (UN CC:Learn);⁴
- (d) The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD).

² See paragraph 49 below.

³ See paragraph 25 below.

⁴ See paragraph 41 below.

12. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, the United Nations system presented its joint work by highlighting concrete examples of how it supports implementation of climate change action. Nineteen joint United Nations system side events were convened in which information on joint United Nations system activities in 13 thematic areas undertaken under the CEB umbrella were presented. The CEB high-level side event took an innovative approach and brought together the Secretary-General, five heads of agencies and high-level Party representatives in a moderated discussion on how the United Nations system can help countries to reach their development goals by addressing climate change.

III. Specific areas of cooperation

13. This chapter provides an overview of areas of cooperation. It is not intended to be a comprehensive account of all activities, initiatives and programmes undertaken and it should be noted that some thematic areas, such as adaptation, are not covered in this chapter. Adaptation is addressed in chapter IV, in which the work undertaken under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is highlighted.

A. Technology

14. The secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the preparation and distribution of the updated UNDP *Handbook for Conducting Technology Needs Assessment for Climate Change*,⁵ which was officially launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010. The secretariat continues to cooperate with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in relation to the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer.⁶

15. The secretariat, in partnership with the Climate Technology Initiative, the GEF, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, organized a series of regional workshops to assist Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in preparing technology transfer projects for financing. The latest workshop in a series of three regional workshops was held in Singapore in October 2010. Additional subregional workshops in French and Spanish are scheduled for 2011 and 2012.

16. Many of the operational activities of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer involved collaboration between the secretariat and other organizations of the United Nations system such as UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Intellectual Property Organization and international organizations such as the International Energy Agency, including on the preparation of documents for consideration by the subsidiary bodies.

⁵ United Nations Development Programme. 2009. *Handbook for Conducting Technology Needs Assessment for Climate Change*. Available at <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pdf/TNAHandbook_9-15-2009.pdf>.

⁶ Previously referred to as the strategic programme of the Global Environment Facility (FCCC/SBI/2008/16) and renamed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session in decision 2/CP.14.

B. Biodiversity, issues related to lands and desertification, and land-use and forest-related issues

17. The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UNFCCC collaborated on a number of communications projects during 2010. These include:

(a) Support to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the corresponding nomination of an IYB UNFCCC focal point;

(b) The 2011 Rio Conventions Calendar dedicated to the International Year of Forests, with its theme "Forests for People, Forests for the Earth". Twelve thousand copies of the calendar were distributed at the conferences of CBD and UNCCD and at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010 and through other channels;

(c) The Rio Conventions Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion organized by the CBD secretariat in cooperation with UNCCD and UNFCCC. At both the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, a physical pavilion and a virtual online pavilion promoted linkages between biodiversity, land management and climate change to increase awareness, to enhance understanding, to build capacity and to maximize co-benefits and minimize negative interactions. The secretariat contributed substantively to theme days and events on adaptation, forest, land and Article 6-related issues;

(d) Outreach and communication activities for the launch of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).

18. In addition to the above, secretariat staff provided assistance, as requested, to climate change related deliberations at the fourteenth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity and at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and participated in relevant meetings of UNCCD, such as the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-2) and the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9). They also contributed to expert meetings related to impact indicators.

19. In the context of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity and the Issue Management Group on Land, both of which are part of the Environment Management Group (EMG) of UNEP, the UNFCCC secretariat participated as an EMG member in related meetings. The secretariat also contributed to the special report entitled *Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda: A UN-System-wide Contribution*, which was presented to the sixteenth meeting of the senior officials of the EMG, the United Nations General Assembly special session on biodiversity and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and included a United Nations system-wide joint statement on biodiversity. At the sixteenth meeting of the senior officials of the EMG, it was decided to extend the work programme on biodiversity by two years. Similarly, the UNFCCC secretariat contributed to the report *Global Drylands: A UN System-wide Response*, a draft of which was presented to CST S-2 and CRIC 9 in February 2011, and which is expected to be concluded by the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in October 2011. Key findings of the report will also be presented to the high-level event on desertification, land degradation and drought at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011.

20. The secretariats of CBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC are members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). They collaborate with other members in various activities to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. All members of CPF are contributing to outreach activities during the International Year of Forests. In addition, the UNFCCC secretariat continued to contribute to the CPF joint initiative on forest degradation, established in 2009. Outcomes of the work have been presented at several forestry-related conferences and events and at relevant United Nations sessions. The outcomes of the initiative are expected to be finalized in 2011.

21. Furthermore, the secretariat is following closely, as an observer, the work of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Program under the Strategic Climate Fund of the World Bank; both initiatives support activities in relation to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The secretariat is also an observer on the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Programme.

C. Finance

1. Global Environment Facility

22. The secretariat continued its engagement with the GEF on an ongoing basis in order to facilitate implementation of Convention guidance related to the operation of the GEF Trust Fund, as well as the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. This engagement includes participation by the secretariat as an observer in GEF Council meetings, providing inputs to the programme priorities in the climate focal area for the fifth replenishment of the GEF, participating in the discussions of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, sharing of information and documents to be discussed by the GEF Council and collaboration between the GEF secretariat and the UNFCCC secretariat on issues such as technology transfer, national communications from non-Annex I Parties, capacity-building and support to the least developed countries (LDCs).

23. In providing support to the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) the UNFCCC secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF and its agencies, has helped in the development of a training programme for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). This is elaborated further in paragraph 36 below.

2. Adaptation Fund

24. The secretariat has continued its follow-up on the work of the Adaptation Fund Board throughout the year and supported the presentation of the report of the board to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). The secretariat also coordinated with the Adaptation Fund Board and its secretariat on relevant issues to ensure that coherent inputs are available at all times. Following the mandate from the CMP at its sixth session, the secretariat has also started collaboration with the Adaptation Fund Board, through its secretariat, and with international organizations for the organization and implementation of regional and subregional workshops for the period 2011–2012 to familiarize Parties with the processes, procedures and requirements for the accreditation of national implementing entities.⁷

⁷ Decision 5/CMP.6, paragraph 8.

3. Finance Portal for Climate Change

25. The national communications module of the Finance Portal for Climate Change, mentioned in paragraph 11(b) above, was developed by the secretariat in response to a mandate⁸ from the COP requesting the secretariat to collect information from multilateral and regional financial institutions on activities funded in developing countries to implement Article 4.1 of the Convention. The UNFCCC and GEF secretariats have also started work on a complementary module dedicated to information on financial flows being channelled through GEF administered funds under the Convention. The beta versions of the two modules were presented at COP 16 and are expected to be available on the UNFCCC website by the end of the first half of 2011. The full version of the Finance Portal for Climate Change will serve as a central point for bringing together information on available climate financing resources and identified climate financing needs. The information is expected to be used by Parties as a way of better informing the intergovernmental process on the availability of financial resources and identified resource needs.

26. One of the initiatives of the CEB is a Climate Finance Options Platform to help to match developers of projects with donors. The secretariat has worked in close collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank Group on this initiative. UNDP and the World Bank Group have developed a complementary portal⁹ that supports addressing information needs on the funds available for climate action in developing countries. The UNDP/World Bank Group portal aims to provide relevant examples of how an enabling policy environment can leverage public and private funds for climate change. Based on experiences documented in project portfolios, the portal highlights successful cases of combining different types of finance such as grants and concessional and commercial funds.

4. National Economic, Environment and Development Study project

27. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twenty-eighth session, in its consideration of the fourth review of the financial mechanism, requested the secretariat to provide, upon request, information to non-Annex I Parties on the assessment of financing needs to implement mitigation and adaptation measures.¹⁰ In response to this mandate, 11 Parties requested assistance from the secretariat in conducting financial needs assessments. The project involved close collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank to ensure complementarity in the implementation of the project and in identifying follow-up activities at the national level. The participating Parties completed their assessments and a final report was made available for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-third session. At that session, Parties took note of the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat on the National Economic, Environment and Development Study (NEEDS) for climate change project. It was decided that the SBI would continue its consideration of the NEEDS report at its thirty-fourth session and in this regard Parties were invited to submit their views on the report prior to the session.

5. Issue Management Group on a Green Economy

28. The secretariat is engaged in the discussions of the UNEP-led Issue Management Group on a Green Economy and is contributing to this work. The group was established at the fifteenth senior officials meeting of the EMG, held on 23 September 2009 in New York, United States of America, to assess how the United Nations system could more coherently support countries in making the transition to a green economy and to work on communicating the common understanding of the green economy in a consistent manner

⁸ Decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 2.

⁹ <<http://www.climatefinanceoptions.org/cfo/>>.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2008/8, paragraph 30.

and on measures needed to support the transition. The group is tasked with preparing a focused and forward-looking inter-agency assessment report on the United Nations system and a green economy, building on and complementing relevant initiatives, reports and country studies. The report is expected to be completed in mid-2011.

6. MDG Gap Task Force Report 2011

29. The secretariat is part of the MDG Gap Task Force and is providing inputs to its 2011 report. The 2011 report, as in previous years, will continue to monitor the progress made in achieving the targets of Millennium Development Goal 8, which is to develop a global partnership for development. However, this year's report will also consider the outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York, while paying particular attention to the issue of policy coherence across the various dimensions of the global partnership for development. The report is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2011.

7. Cooperation with multilateral development banks

30. The secretariat participates in meetings of the committees and sub-committees of the climate investment funds (CIFs) as an observer and participates in and provides input to the partnership forum of the CIFs. The secretariat also participates in and substantively contributes to the Bali dialogues organized by the World Bank on the margins of World Bank/International Monetary Fund annual meetings. There is also continued collaboration through informal and formal dialogues with multilateral development banks on issues regarding the measuring, reporting and verifying of support.

8. Collaboration relating to the Green Climate Fund

31. Following the adoption of decision 1/CP.16, Parties have invited the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the President of the COP, to make arrangements enabling relevant United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, the GEF secretariat and international financial institutions to second staff to support the work of the Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund.¹¹ The secretariat has invited these institutions to provide offers and more than ten of them have responded favorably. A technical support unit with staff from these institutions is being set up with the guidance of the Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund.

9. Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing

32. The Secretary General established a High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF) in February 2010 to study potential sources of revenue that will enable the achievement of the level of climate change financing that was promised during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009. The Group was co-chaired by Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, and Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. The UNFCCC secretariat provided substantive input to the AGF work on key political issues related to sources of climate finance.

10. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

33. The secretariat has been actively providing inputs to the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in the development of Rio markers on mitigation and adaptation, which are used to track official development assistance activities to achieve the objective of the Convention. Also related to this work is the discussion on

¹¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 110.

measurement, reporting and verification, to which the secretariat provided inputs, particularly as it relates to the national communications to the UNFCCC.

11. International Energy Agency

34. The secretariat collaborates closely with the International Energy Agency on their annual publication of the *World Energy Outlook* report.

D. Technical assistance to developing countries

1. Technical support to least developed countries

35. As outlined in chapter III.C.1 on cooperation with the GEF, the secretariat continues to work with the GEF and its implementing agencies to build capacity in LDCs under the work programme of the LEG, also referred to in paragraph 22 above. The LEG regularly invites the GEF and its implementing agencies to its meetings, including the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the LEG, organized by the secretariat, in October 2010 and March 2011, respectively.

36. In 2009–2010, the LEG organized, in collaboration with the GEF, five regional training workshops for LDC Parties in the design of strategies for the implementation of NAPAs. The fourth and fifth workshops took place in the second half of 2010. The fifth workshop, which targeted Pacific LDCs, benefited from the active engagement of a regional centre, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

37. In the second half of 2010, the secretariat supported the LEG in enhancing its collaboration with UNCCD to look at ways of integrating UNCCD national action programmes with NAPAs. In parallel, collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) was strengthened in recognition of the synergies that could be explored to facilitate the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, in which African countries agreed to establish a strategic alliance between the health and environment sectors. In addition, WHO conducted an analysis of health considerations in NAPAs and has formally submitted it to the secretariat.

38. The COP, at its sixteenth session, renewed the mandate of the LEG and requested the expert group to engage a wide range of organizations to support implementation of its work programme.

39. The secretariat cooperated with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and contributed to the preparation of a high-level pre-conference event held at the United Nations premises in New York on 28 February 2011. The event was part of the activities undertaken in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which took place from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The secretariat led the review entitled “Climate change, climate variability and extremes, land degradation and biodiversity loss: challenges and opportunities”.

2. Review of the capacity-building framework

40. The secretariat collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNCCD, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNEP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the annual monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the

framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7.¹²

3. The One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (UN CC:Learn)

41. UN CC:Learn under the CEB, mentioned in paragraph 11(c) above, is a collaboration of more than 20 United Nations agencies that seeks to foster knowledge-sharing and strengthening of climate change learning and skills development in Member States. UN CC:Learn was developed in a step-by-step manner and includes three linked activity areas: (1) knowledge management; (2) development of a “One UN Climate Change Training Package”; and (3) support of country-driven learning and skills development strategies on climate change.

42. Training on climate change in the United Nations system, in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and UNITAR, is ongoing. UNITAR assisted with the regional workshops on Article 6 of the Convention for Latin America and the Caribbean in April 2010, for Africa in September 2010 and for the small island developing States in November 2010. At the workshops, UNITAR made presentations on UN CC:Learn.

4. Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change

43. Under the Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change, participating United Nations agencies and youth organizations launched the publication *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*¹³ at SBI 32 and SBSTA 32 in June 2010. They also held a series of inter-agency conference calls between September and November 2010 to prepare for activities at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010 and to share lessons learned in working with children and youth organizations engaged in climate change related issues. With the input from United Nations agencies and youth organizations, the secretariat also designed and carried out various events to support and enhance the effectiveness of the participation of young people at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010. The objectives of these events were to facilitate dialogue between youth and influential actors in the intergovernmental process and to promote the active contribution of youth in climate change decision-making.

E. Mitigation

1. Cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization

44. Cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) continued during 2010. During the year the issue of limiting and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international aviation and maritime transport was addressed by each organization. ICAO and IMO reported separately on their work relevant to GHG emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport to the SBSTA at its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions, respectively.¹⁴ The SBSTA, at its thirty-third session, invited the secretariats of ICAO and IMO to continue to report, at future sessions of the SBSTA, on relevant work on this issue. The secretariat substantively contributes to the work of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection and actively participated in the eighth meeting of the Committee.

¹² FCCC/SBI/2010/20.

¹³ <http://unfccc.int/files/cc_inet/information_pool/application/pdf/unfccc_youthparticipation.pdf>.

¹⁴ See documents FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.5 and FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.14.

The secretariat also substantively contributed to the IMO Expert Group on Feasibility Study and Impact Assessment of Possible Market-based Measures.¹⁵

2. Cooperation under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

45. The secretariat continued to cooperate with the secretariat for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Ozone Secretariat), in particular on the need to ensure consistency between the UNFCCC process and the work under the Montreal Protocol, with a focus on three topics: the environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances; the proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol to control hydrofluorocarbons under the ozone regime; and the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbon-23 as a by-product emission of the production of hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22.

F. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation

46. The secretariat has continued to actively enhance cooperation with scientific programmes, agencies and organizations to facilitate increased availability of scientific climate change information to the UNFCCC process. Similarly, the work of scientific programmes, agencies and organizations, some of which are sponsored by United Nations organizations such as WMO and UNESCO, has also been a major support to the implementation of the Convention in the area of science, research and systematic observation.

47. The research dialogue under the SBSTA that takes place with the participation of regional and international global change research programmes and organizations, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has continued to play a valuable role in informing deliberations within the UNFCCC process. In the context of that dialogue, the secretariat organized a side event during the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, where representatives from those major research programmes and organizations, as well as the IPCC, presented updated information on emerging scientific findings and the results of their research.

48. Close cooperation with the relevant global observing systems, such as the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Terrestrial Observing System and the Global Ocean Observing System, as well as cooperation with relevant entities coordinating observations from space, has continued to constitute a key element in the work under the Convention on the systematic observation of the climate. Through their contributions, significant progress has been made to address national and international needs for climate-related observations.

49. The IPCC, as the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC process, has continued to respond to a number of COP mandates and invitations from the UNFCCC secretariat (e.g. under the SBSTA) and has contributed information through a range of activities (e.g. events, statements and reports) on issues under consideration in the UNFCCC process.

50. The secretariat has also continued its collaboration with WMO on a number of activities, including on the ongoing developments of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

¹⁵ The report of the expert group is available at <http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/AirPollution/Documents/INF-2.pdf>.

51. Under the cross-cutting area of climate knowledge, science, assessment, monitoring and early warning under the CEB Climate Change Action Framework, the secretariat has continued its close cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, for example, in organizing and coordinating relevant activities in the context of the Convention.

G. Gender

52. The secretariat has been working actively with other United Nations agencies on the integration of gender into climate change issues discussed in the context of the UNFCCC process. In this regard, work is being coordinated with FAO on the development of NAPA projects, including those projects that have a focus on women, ensuring that NAPA guidelines contain gender equality as one of the guiding elements.

53. The secretariat has been undertaking outreach and networking activities with other United Nations agencies, IGOs and non-governmental organizations on gender and climate change issues, including with the secretariats of the other Rio Conventions and the GEF, and has provided inputs to United Nations publications on gender, climate change and development. A coordinated framework on gender mainstreaming in the Rio Conventions and the GEF secretariat is also under discussion. To this end the secretariat participated in workshops to share Convention mandates and the secretariat's existing work on gender in the context of the UNFCCC process.

54. The issue of gender is also taken up under the Nairobi work programme, through which the secretariat is collaborating with United Nations agencies, including UNEP and UNDP, in identifying ways to enhance the capacity of different stakeholders, including representatives of women, to better utilize the information and tools provided by the Nairobi work programme.

55. At its eleventh meeting, the Joint Liaison Group¹⁶ considered cooperation on gender integration into thematic areas. It was proposed that gender integration be undertaken through (i) targeted political commitment at the highest level, (ii) clustering activities for increased impact and common messaging on gender and (iii) taking the opportunity of the ongoing revision and alignment process of the National Action Plans (NAPs), NAPAs and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to ensure gender mainstreaming and gender-proofing during the capacity-building process. It was agreed that gender would be showcased in the context of the Ecosystem Pavilion at future COPs of the conventions.

IV. Collaborative initiatives and programmes

A. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

56. One of the objectives of the Nairobi work programme is to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the work programme. To date, the Nairobi work programme has engaged 205 partners, of which 34 are United Nations agencies and affiliated organizations and 13 are IGOs. The active and sustained engagement of these partners has helped to ensure the full and effective implementation of the work programme. A progress report on implementing

¹⁶ See chapter IV.C below.

activities under the Nairobi work programme can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2.

57. Collaboration with United Nations agencies and IGOs as partners to the Nairobi work programme has also catalysed a number of activities through the submission of action pledges, including joint pledges, such as the Action Pledge to Develop a Global Forum for Indigenous Peoples, Small Islands and Vulnerable Communities submitted by UNESCO, CBD, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations University. Action pledges are commitments to act, which are made by partners in response to calls for action, the objective of the Nairobi work programme, and/or needs identified through mandated activities such as workshops.

58. Workshops and meetings under the Nairobi work programme also provide opportunities for collaboration. A technical workshop on the costs and benefits of adaptation options was held in Madrid, Spain, in June 2010, and an informal meeting of experts and representatives of Parties and organizations to consider the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme was held in Manila, Philippines, in September 2010. These activities engaged a wide range of organizations and stakeholders, including IGOs and United Nations entities.

59. The fourth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum was held in Cancun on 6 December 2010, at the margins of the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The Forum was attended by approximately 65 participants from Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations. Parties and partners considered the Forum as an effective mechanism to facilitate the exchange of views on adaptation gaps and needs, and a platform to share practical experiences, good practices and information on adaptation actions on the ground. Participants highlighted the facilitative role of the Nairobi work programme in enhancing coordination and collaboration between partner organizations, and between organizations and Parties. The ability of the Nairobi work programme to influence adaptation activities through workshops bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders was also recognized.

B. Nairobi Framework

60. The Nairobi Framework¹⁷ to support the participation of developing countries in the clean development mechanism (CDM) and to enhance the geographical distribution of CDM projects was launched in 2006 by the Secretary-General at COP 12 in Nairobi, as a joint effort of the African Development Bank, UNDP, UNEP, the UNFCCC secretariat and the World Bank. More recently, additional partners, including UNCTAD, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNITAR, have joined the Nairobi Framework. The Nairobi Framework has made substantial progress since its inception and represents a good example of successful inter-agency cooperation through promoting CDM activities and building capacity on the CDM.

61. The partner agencies continue to build capacity in developing CDM project activities on the basis of their respective areas of expertise and in a coordinated fashion to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts. The partners are also involved in engaging and promoting private-sector investment in CDM projects and organizing regional carbon forums. One such collaborative effort coordinated by the secretariat was the organization of a side event at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, presenting the Nairobi Framework partners' activities and collaborative efforts in promoting CDM in developing countries. The partners are now jointly preparing the

¹⁷ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Nairobi_Framework/index.html>.

organization of the third Africa Carbon Forum, to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in July 2011.

62. Scaling up the coordinated activities of the Nairobi Framework is seen as a priority in 2011, with a work programme currently under preparation to support the identification of barriers to project the realization and development of key performance indicators for progress in promoting regional distribution. The secretariat will continue, as requested by the CMP at its fifth session in decision 2/CMP.5, paragraph 52, to facilitate coordination among the partner agencies and will expand its support to designated national authorities and potential project participants by providing training opportunities, facilitating exchange of information and best practices, and supporting the realization of potential CDM project activities.

C. Cooperation through the Joint Liaison Group

63. At its tenth session, the SBSTA encouraged the UNFCCC secretariat to continue consultations with the UNCCD and CBD secretariats in order to strengthen cooperation on issues of common interest¹⁸. Since then, cooperation with other conventions has become an integral part of the work of the SBSTA. At its fourteenth session, the SBSTA endorsed the formation of a joint liaison group (JLG) between the UNFCCC secretariat and the CBD secretariat, and requested the UNFCCC secretariat to invite the UNCCD secretariat to participate, with the aim of enhancing coordination between the three conventions and exploring options for further cooperation.¹⁹

64. Since SBSTA 32, the JLG has met twice. JLG 10 was convened on 23 September, 2010 in New York at the margins of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and JLG 11, on 11 April, 2011 in Bonn, Germany. JLG 10 considered the initiative to have a Rio Conventions' Ecosystem and Climate Change Pavilion²⁰ at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, further explored the need to explore synergies among the NAPs, NBSAPs and NAPAs and discussed how the conventions could collaborate in the preparations for the Rio 2012 Conference. In an effort to increase coordination among conventions, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests was invited to the meeting to outline the plans for the International Year of Forests to be celebrated in 2011.

65. JLG 11 sought to clarify how to address proposals for joint activities as an outcome of mandates given to the JLG by the COPs and/or respective bodies of the CBD and UNCCD. In this regard, the meeting explored options for joint implementation of the NAPs, NBSAPs and NAPAs on a pilot basis. Plans are already underway to undertake a series of sub-regional workshops aimed at seizing the opportunity to bring together at national level, participants who are experts for the three conventions. It was agreed that such an initiative presented a unique opportunity to promote synergies in implementation of the Rio conventions.

66. The meeting further explored how the secretariats could jointly prepare for the Rio 2012 Conference. Some initiatives considered include the showcasing of the Pavilion and the organization of a special event during the Summit to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the conventions.

¹⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/1996/6, paragraph 22(b).

¹⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, paragraph 42(d).

²⁰ See paragraph 17 (c) above.

V. Moving forward on the implementation agenda

67. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, Parties adopted a set of decisions (the Cancun Agreements) that set in motion a phase of institution-building in the areas of adaptation, finance and technology, and initiated work on the cornerstones of a new mitigation framework. According to decision 1/CP.16, developed and developing countries should develop low-carbon development strategies or plans in the context of sustainable development²¹. The importance of climate-resilient development was also recognized whereby Parties were invited to strengthen institutional capacities and enabling environments for adaptation, including for climate-resilient development and vulnerability reduction.²²

68. The United Nations system has an important role to play in supporting governments to pursue adaptation programmes and mitigation programmes aimed at promoting green growth and low-carbon, climate-resilient development, mobilizing and channelling finance, integrating climate change into national development plans and strategies and building capacity on the ground. As Parties look to the United Nations system to respond to the needs of developing countries on capacity-building and adaptation action, it will be particularly important to scale up joint work on these two areas at the global, regional and national levels.

69. The secretariat will continue to collaborate with United Nations agencies and IGOs to ensure effective implementation of the Convention to achieve its ultimate objective.

²¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 45 and 65

²² Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 14.