

**WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM RELEVANT EXPERIENCE OF OTHER
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**
Wednesday, 13 November 2013, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Take-home message from the Co-Chairs of
the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action,
Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh and Mr. Artur Runge-Metzger

The workshop on lessons learned from relevant experience of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), held on 13 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, was aimed at exploring approaches, ways and arrangements leading to increasing ambition by learning from relevant experiences accumulated by other multilateral environmental processes. It discussed how these could be relevant for the work under the UNFCCC in tangible delivering under workstream 2, within the context of the existing institutions, mechanisms and arrangements under the UNFCCC.

Following the three presentations made by representatives of the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the participants in the workshop engaged in a discussion and shared their views on the approaches and arrangements to increase ambition that have been used by other MEAs.

Participants reflected on the questions put forward for discussion by the ADP Co-Chairs, such as:

- (a) What could the UNFCCC process learn from the implementation of other MEAs in terms of approaches, ways and arrangements to assist Parties in enhancing implementation at the national level?
- (b) Which provisions and incentives could lead to enhanced cooperation with regard to the implementation of commitments under the UNFCCC?
- (c) How could the UNFCCC catalyse action at all levels – international, national and subnational?

During the questions and answers session, participants posed questions on the means to increase national capacity and enhance the implementation of commitments of the other MEAs, on the reporting and review requirements, the application of the principles of those MEAs and the provisions to opt in and out for Parties. The answers provided further details on the relevant experience and the approaches that have been proven successful under the three other MEAs.

The main issues raised at the workshop include the following:

- The experience from the other MEAs presented at the workshop covers different aspects of multilateral cooperation in the broad area of environmental management, namely biodiversity conservation and trade regulation, chemical waste management and ozone layer protection. The MEAs referred to above have produced considerable experience in promoting the implementation of relevant provisions of the conventions at national and international levels, and have been recognized as effective in advancing international cooperation in fulfilling the ultimate objectives of those MEAs and in their implementation at the national level. The success in the implementation of the MEAs was achieved through a gradual approach based on success stories, incentives to participate and trust-building measures that lead to creating confidence and willingness in Parties to do more and take on more challenging commitments, as was mentioned in the intervention made by the representative of the Montreal Protocol.

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- The implementation work under the other MEAs is guided by the principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and fairness, and recognition of specific national circumstances of Parties. The approaches to the differentiation of Parties are embedded in the texts of the conventions and have been elaborated through the legal provisions. The actual operationalization of those principles and the ways the provisions of the three MEAs are applied vary across the different MEAs. For example, they differ in their provisions for the application of adjustments, amendments and exemptions applied for different types of Parties.
 - The MEAs exhibit significant variation in the nature of mechanisms used for to trust-building and confidence-building among the Parties, approaches to implementation at the national level, mechanisms used for provision of support, and the way the secretariats of the three MEAs provide services to their constituencies.
 - With regard to mechanisms related to trust-building and confidence-building, the CITES relies on the use of scientific impact-monitoring tools to inform the decision-making process and ensure an effective science-policy interface. The gradual approach applied to the phasing-down of ozone-depleting substances is based on scientific assessments and information on available technologies and alternatives and contributed to stronger confidence among Parties in expanding the scope of their commitments to phase down new substances over time.
 - As for the implementation at the national level, the role of national implementation plans, multi-stakeholder teams, national authorities and national ozone units was recognized as a successful approach to mainstreaming the issues covered by these three MEAs into national development strategies and to advancing implementation on the ground.
 - In terms of the mechanisms used for provision of support, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was highlighted as an effective financial mechanism enabling cooperation between developed and developing countries in supporting national implementation work.
 - The compliance and enforcement mechanisms applied by the three MEAs differ. The Montreal Protocol exercises a non-compliance procedure built on trust and assistance provided and is based on self-reporting by Parties, while the CITES uses compliance measures linked to the reported levels of trade and enforcement provisions leading to possible trade suspensions.
 - Lastly, the ways the secretariats of the three MEAs provide services to their constituencies are different and range from the catalytic role performed by the CITES secretariat that relies on partnerships with international organizations and regional agreements to the technical assistance and guidance provided by the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
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