

WORKSHOP ON LOW-EMISSION DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, 30 April 2013, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Take home points from the Facilitator
Ms. Alexa Kleysteuber (Chile)

Participants in the workshop on low-emission development opportunities held on Tuesday, 30 April 2013, engaged constructively in a very rich discussion and information exchange. Delegates expressed many views, suggestions and reflections on the opening presentations and the questions in the Informal Note on the session (what national action can be undertaken at the national level to increase ambition, what incentives are needed for Parties to undertake these actions, barriers which Parties face and how they overcome them, and how international initiatives can contribute to strengthening national action). I would like to highlight some of the many points I heard:

1. Breadth of actions are already taking place both at national and international levels, and ample opportunities exist to further scale up these actions at all levels.
2. Several Parties referred to the following as thematic areas where untapped mitigation potential lies:
 - Energy efficiency, in particular in housing, industry and transport;
 - Use of renewable energy sources;
 - Land use and forestry, including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD);
 - Fossil fuel subsidy reform;
 - Phasing out of hydrofluorocarbon emissions (HFCs).
3. Parties spoke about their experiences in developing and implementing low-emission development strategies, the success of which depends on setting the right enabling environment and effective cross-sectoral cooperation at the Government level as well as provision of sufficient financial means of implementation in order to achieve transformational change. In many thematic areas making technologies affordable represent a practical way to enhance further national action, as is the case for renewables.
4. Parties highlighted that benefits, such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection, reducing air pollution, job creation, etc., represent a major driving force behind national action that bring also sizeable mitigation benefits.
5. Parties listed as major barriers for climate change strategy implementation the following:
 - Insufficient financial and technical support for developing countries as well as high risks and market uncertainties for long-term investments;
 - High up-front capital cost of many key technologies and lack of public and private financing to cover such capital costs;
 - Development and planning decisions made based on short-term costs rather than long-term benefits of low-emission development.
6. Four international initiatives, such as the Low-Emission Development Strategy Global Partnership, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the C40 Cities-Climate Leadership Group, had a chance to present their views on their role in enhancing national action through providing advisory support, collecting relevant information on success stories, capacity-building, networking, financing opportunities and direct support for implementation of activities at all levels.
7. Parties shared views on the importance of facilitation of international cooperation beyond the UNFCCC and potential involvement of other international organizations in areas such as, for example, HFC gases, where the Montreal Protocol Secretariat could be invited to cooperate with the UNFCCC on phasing out HFC gases.
8. Parties appreciated the opportunity to engage in the discussion at the workshop which lead to building a solid foundation to enhance the understanding of challenges and opportunities to increase ambition. This in turn can help to build up a political momentum for a decision on robust action by Parties in the lead-up to and beyond Warsaw.