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CAPACITY-BUILDING

Compilation and synthesis of information related to the comprehensive reviews of the implementation of decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 of the Conference of the Parties

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This note presents a compilation and synthesis of the submissions received from Parties on their views regarding the comprehensive review of the implementation of decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 of the Conference of the Parties. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its seventeenth session, requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize the information provided by the Parties for consideration at its eighteenth session. The present note is submitted in response to that request.

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation may wish to take note of the present synthesis document when it considers the first comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries. It may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on its work to assist the Parties in the comprehensive review process.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. By decision 2/CP.7, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the framework for capacity-building in developing countries and decided to conduct a comprehensive review of its implementation at its ninth session and every five years thereafter. By decision 3/CP.7, the COP adopted the framework for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and decided to review the effectiveness of its implementation at regular intervals. In order to facilitate the first comprehensive review process, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its seventeenth session, invited Parties to submit their views on the detailed elements, methodologies and guidelines for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework in developing countries and elements for a review of the implementation of the framework in countries with economies in transition (see FCCC/SBI/2002/17, para. 35 (e)). Further, the SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis of information provided by Parties for consideration at its eighteenth session.

B. Scope of the note

2. The present note draws on the submissions of Bulgaria (on behalf of the Central Group 11), Canada, China, Greece (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Japan, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania (also on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), and the United States of America.

C. Approach to the compilation and synthesis of information

3. The present note synthesizes the views provided by Parties under three sections: (a) elements, methodologies and guidelines for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries; (b) elements for a review of the capacity-building framework in countries with economies in transition; and (c) conclusions. Reference should be made to documents FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.15, FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.9 and FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.10 as additional sources of information that will provide a better understanding of the views of the Parties regarding the comprehensive review process and the effective implementation of the capacity-building frameworks.

II. COMPILATION AND SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION

A. Elements, methodologies and guidelines for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

4. The secretariat organized the views of the Parties related to the elements, methodologies and guidelines for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under four headings, as set out below.

1. Proposed overarching principles in the comprehensive review process

5. The Parties proposed that the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries should be guided by the purposes, principles and approaches set out in the framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7. The Parties reiterated some of the guiding principles identified in the framework and were of the view that the following principles might also be considered in the comprehensive review process:

- (a) Capacity-building is a process rather than an end product;

(b) Capacity-building is a country-driven process that addresses the specific needs and conditions of developing countries, as reflected in their national development priorities and sustainable development strategies;

(c) Capacity-building activities related to Article 6 and Article 4.8 and 4.9 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, development and transfer of technologies, greenhouse gas inventories, policies and measures, research and systematic observations and cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should figure prominently in the review process;

(d) The comprehensive review should reflect the efforts of the international community and other institutions that are implementing capacity-building programmes specifically related to the objective of the Convention;

(e) The comprehensive review should provide an opportunity to learn and refine how capacity can be built to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the impacts of climate change;

(f) The comprehensive review must be thorough, consultative and flexible.

2. Elements of the comprehensive review

Definition of the scope of capacity-building activities and coverage of the review process

6. There is a need for a practical definition of the scope of capacity-building activities that will guide the Parties in the review process. The definition should reflect the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building activities and differentiate between broader capacity-building activities related to natural resource management, good governance, legal and regulatory frameworks and financial instruments and the capacity-building activities outlined in decision 2/CP.7. In paragraph 6 of the progress report on the status of activities to implement decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 (FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.15), the secretariat identified possible areas for capacity-building, including activities related to: mainstreaming climate change into sustainable development programmes, the development and implementation of national climate change policies and programmes, and active participation in the Convention and Kyoto Protocol process.

7. Some Parties proposed that the comprehensive review process should cover ongoing capacity-building activities that had been initiated before the adoption of the capacity-building frameworks, and should contribute to the objective of the UNFCCC. Other Parties were of the opinion that only capacity-building activities carried out in response to decision 2/CP.7 should be considered.

Proposed capacity-building areas to be analysed

8. Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7, which relate to the actions to be taken by Parties to enhance the implementation of the framework, may be considered in the comprehensive review. In particular, the following areas may be assessed:

(a) Whether key activities of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries are being, or are likely to be, implemented, and whether the objective of the framework to assist developing countries in building, developing, strengthening, enhancing, and improving their capabilities to implement the provisions of the Convention and in preparing for their effective participation in the Kyoto Protocol process are being attained;

(b) Whether the provisions contained in the framework are being implemented (eg, outputs are created, and/or evaluated and their impact assessed);

(c) Whether capacity-building projects and programmes are effective in building and sustaining capacities to participate effectively in the Convention and Kyoto Protocol process.

9. The comprehensive review should assess existing capacity to learn and identify the approaches that work, including identification of the factors and constraints that influence the effectiveness of capacity-building projects and programmes, success stories, challenges and opportunities, gaps and possible areas for improvement. It should also outline the steps to be taken by the SBI to monitor capacity-building activities undertaken pursuant to decision 2/CP.7.

10. Information on capacity-building activities may be drawn from the national communications of Parties and other sources of information, such as National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) and National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) reports, national poverty reduction strategy papers, and national sustainable development strategies, and reports of the Global Environment Facility, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

3. Proposed methodology to determine the effectiveness of capacity-building activities

11. The following proposed initial indicators may be selected to describe the status and measure the effectiveness of the priority capacity-building activities identified in the framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7:

- (a) Contribution to capacity enhancement in relation to the initial scope of needs and areas identified in paragraphs 15 and 17 of the framework;
- (b) Duration and frequency of activities
- (c) Regional and Convention-based coordination and synergies
- (d) Number and breadth of stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, the private sector, community organizations, etc.) benefiting from capacity improvement and involved in consultations
- (e) Attendance at international negotiations
- (f) Adoption of climate change concerns in national priority-setting
- (g) Engagement of national institutions and public access to information
- (h) Resource allocation and scale of funding
- (i) Sustainability of capacity-building activities
- (j) Important areas and priorities that require urgent attention.

4. Proposed process of the comprehensive review

12. At its eighteenth session, the SBI may consider and adopt possible terms of reference for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.

13. One Party proposed that an ad hoc expert group be established to conduct a technical review of the progress made in implementing the framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7. The group could analyse the capacity-building activities related to decision 2/CP.7, based on the terms of reference of the comprehensive review process that the Parties may adopt, and the results of the analysis could be reported to the SBI for consideration at its nineteenth session. The members of the group should have expertise in both capacity development and climate change.

14. Parties also suggested that the SBI request its Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, to convene, prior to its nineteenth session, an expert group meeting or workshop to address the provisions of the terms of reference of the comprehensive review that the Parties may adopt, discuss the National Capacity Self Assessments project and other capacity-building programmes, and identify possible synergies among bilateral and multilateral agencies, the Global Environment Facility and international organizations in implementing the capacity-building activities identified in decision 2/CP.7. The expert meeting could also discuss some of the questions raised in paragraph 70 of the progress report prepared by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.15) such as:

(a) Which specific tangible and time-bound capacity-building activities could be included in order to define better the scope of activities in each priority area? What are specific priority capacity-building needs of the Parties and what are the barriers to meeting those needs effectively? Consequently, what additional, and more specific guidance may be given to the financial mechanism so as to ensure the effective implementation of the capacity-building decisions?

(b) How can international organizations involved in capacity-building activities improve their cooperation so as to ensure the provision of more effective support to the Parties, taking into account the three possible areas for capacity-building identified in paragraph 6 above?

B. Elements for a review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition

15. Some elements relevant to the review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, such as the focus on country-driven priorities, the need for sufficient information to be made available and the consideration of a broad set of views on capacity-building, may be useful to consider in the review of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition.

16. One Party proposed that the review should be undertaken at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties, and every five years thereafter. Some Parties were of the view that the review should be done within the context of the review of national communications so as to allow Parties with economies in transition to identify and address the gaps in the implementation of the capacity-building activities identified in the framework.

17. Parties also proposed that the secretariat prepare a special annual progress report on capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition for presentation at the sessions of the SBI.

III. CONCLUSIONS

18. The submissions received from Parties contained detailed elements, methodologies and processes for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries that the SBI may consider at its eighteenth session. In taking note of the information provided in section II.A above, Parties may wish to consider the following questions in order to facilitate the conduct of the comprehensive review:

(a) What would be the appropriate terms of reference for, and content of, the comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries? What are the expected outcomes or results of the comprehensive review process?

(b) What are the possible next steps leading towards the conclusion of the comprehensive review at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties?

(c) What possible activities could the secretariat pursue in order to facilitate the implementation of the framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7 other than the preparation of progress reports?

19. Fewer views were provided by the Parties on the elements of the review process for the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition since the review is not expected to be undertaken at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties. There are, however, significant proposals with regard to the priority capacity-building needs of Parties with economies in transition (see FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.9) that the SBI may wish to consider in its deliberations on capacity-building.
