

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Twenty-first session

Buenos Aires, 6–14 December 2004

Agenda item 7

Capacity-building

Meeting of capacity-building practitioners

Report by the Chair of the meeting

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twentieth session, requested the secretariat to convene a meeting of capacity-building practitioners with the aim of contributing to the comprehensive review of the frameworks for capacity-building in developing country Parties and in Parties with economies in transition at the tenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP) and to present the outcome of the meeting of practitioners to the SBI at its twenty-first session.
2. The meeting was held at Bolsa de Comercio, Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 3 December 2004, with 35 participants from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, (non-Annex I Parties), Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and non-government organizations (NGOs). The objectives of the meeting were:
 - (a) To provide an opportunity for capacity-building practitioners to exchange experiences in project and programme implementation
 - (b) To provide additional inputs to fill the information gaps on the range and effectiveness of capacity-building activities in developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition (EIT Parties) aimed at implementing decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7
 - (c) To contribute to the comprehensive review of the implementation of decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 at COP 10.
3. The meeting facilitated a useful exchange of experiences based on information provided by four non-Annex I Parties and four EIT Parties. The exchange of information centred on five presentations on the following themes:
 - (a) Capacity-building priorities, gaps and opportunities
 - (b) Capacity-building programmes
 - (c) Sustainability of capacity-building activities
 - (d) Availability of, and access to, resources, and the effectiveness of their deployment
 - (e) Key outcomes, challenges and effectiveness in implementing capacity-building activities.

4. Further discussions following the presentations were held in four break-out sessions to exchange further views and experiences on the above-mentioned themes; one of them was devoted to issues relating to EIT Parties. Several key outcomes pertinent to the comprehensive review of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries and the effectiveness of capacity-building activities in developing country Parties and EIT Parties, were identified.

5. In respect of the priorities for capacity-building in developing countries, the participants confirmed that the scope and priorities identified in decision 2/CP.7 were still valid. Some of the priorities were highlighted, including the need:

- (a) To make institutional capacity-building a priority for the creation and strengthening of basic institutional infrastructure
- (b) To raise awareness at various levels on climate change issues and increase the involvement of NGOs in capacity-building activities
- (c) To integrate climate change issues in various sectors of the economy and in poverty reduction strategies and programmes, as well as into general sustainable development strategies
- (d) To develop and, where appropriate, promote exchange of experiences and information on financial resources, case studies and tools for capacity-building.

6. On the effectiveness of capacity-building activities, participants recognized that:

- (a) Capacity-building is effective if it influences change, and supports the fulfilment of the obligations of the Convention;
- (b) Successive national communications provide a good measure of successful capacity-building as it relates to the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Capacity-building is effective if it is integrated as a priority by policy and decision makers;
- (d) Integration or mainstreaming of capacity-building in planning processes is important for the long-term sustainability of such activities.

7. On the issue of the availability and accessibility of resources, the following key outcomes were highlighted:

- (a) Many sources exist, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a principal source, other multilateral and bilateral sources, regional initiatives, national governments and the private sector
- (b) There is a need for improved donor coordination at national and international levels in the provision of financial resources among the donor community
- (c) There is a need to ensure that resources are also made available for the implementation of capacity-building activities, not just for assessments
- (d) There is a need to have strong institutional arrangements at the national level to coordinate implementation and promote integration of climate change issues into the national planning processes
- (e) There is a need for improved policy coherence between the GEF operations and COP guidance.

8. With regard to the needs of EIT Parties, participants confirmed that the scope of needs and priorities identified in decision 3/CP.7 was still valid, and that there is a need:

- (a) To increase the capacity to conduct national capacity self-assessments and to develop national action plans for capacity-building based on the scope and priorities identified in decision 3/CP.7
- (b) To continue bilateral donor support for capacity-building activities
- (c) To enhance the exchange of experiences and best practices among EIT countries
- (d) To strengthen the institutional arrangements.

9. It is expected that the key outcomes of the meeting, as indicated in above, will contribute to the comprehensive review of the capacity-building framework at COP 10.
