



**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION
UNDER THE CONVENTION**

First session

Bangkok, 31 March to 4 April 2008

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Organization of the work of the session

Scenario note on the first session

Note by the Chair*

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.13, decided to launch a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012.
2. For this purpose, the COP established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWGLCA). The working group was mandated to complete its work in 2009 and present the outcome of its work to the COP for adoption at its fifteenth session. The COP instructed the group to develop its work programme at the first session, in a coherent and integrated manner. In order to prepare for this session, the COP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 22 February 2008, their views regarding the work programme for consideration at the first meeting of the working group. The first session will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 March to 4 April 2008.
3. The response to the invitation to submit views has been encouraging and suggests that Parties will come well prepared to make the first session of the AWGLCA a success. This document presents the thoughts of the Chair of the AWGLCA on the task ahead of the working group in Bangkok, and suggests how the work might be organized at the session.

II. Elements for the work programme

4. The COP clearly identified the essential blocks to be addressed in the comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, as follows:

* This document was submitted late because there was insufficient time to finalize it between the deadline for the submissions and the document deadline.

- A shared vision for long-term cooperative action;
- Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change;
- Enhanced action on adaptation;
- Enhanced action on technology development and transfer;
- Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment.

5. Decision 1/CP.13, paragraph 1, provides the AWGLCA with clear direction in terms of the elements to be addressed in each of the blocks. The AWGLCA will therefore need to structure its work programme in a coherent and integrated manner, in such a way that it addresses all blocks and their elements.

6. Almost 30 Parties and several observer organizations submitted views on how to organize the work of the AWGLCA to ensure the implementation of the mandate in two years.¹ Many Parties also put forward their ideas on what they see as the main elements of an agreed outcome. They also identified inputs that would be required in order to arrive at a common understanding and agreement on how these elements should be addressed. These views and ideas provide an excellent basis on which to plan the work ahead.

7. Most submissions emphasize strong interlinkages between the main action areas (mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance) and call for explicit attention to be paid to the interaction among them. To this end, some suggestions were made to combine related subjects or to structure the work into clusters, which would ensure integration while keeping clear focus on the main action areas. Many Parties also suggested that some clusters of issues could be addressed in focused workshops.

8. Many Parties further noted that the Bali Action Plan set out in decision 1/CP.13 introduces new concepts that will require additional clarification and technical work. Therefore, in planning the work, attention needs to be given to other activities, such as workshops, which could promote common understanding of various elements of the Bali Action Plan.

9. Some Parties expressed preferences in terms of the order in which different elements should be addressed. Some suggested that a preliminary discussion of a shared vision and a long-term goal would enlighten the process. Others understood that technology development and transfer, and provision of financial resources and investments, are enabling actions to support enhanced mitigation and adaptation actions and would therefore be a good place to start. And others stressed the need for dealing with all thematic blocks at each session of the AWGLCA, as the issues are closely linked. Several Parties emphasized that the process should be iterative.

III. Planning the work

10. It will be important to remain focused and results-oriented at this session. The Chair will make efforts to facilitate discussion on:

- “How” and “when” issues will be addressed;
- What arrangements will be needed to facilitate the work.

¹ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/MISC.1 and Add.1.

11. The Chair will seek inputs, in particular on the following:
- (a) How to ensure that issues that are closely interrelated are **addressed in a coherent manner**?
 - (b) What **issues** need to be clarified and what **information** is required, including **submissions** from Parties and preparatory **work by the secretariat**?
 - (c) What **in-session and intersessional activities** will be needed and what should they focus on?
 - (d) What inputs from other **ongoing UNFCCC processes** will be useful for the work?

IV. Working arrangements in Bangkok

12. The AWGLCA will be in session for five days in Bangkok. There will be an opening plenary on the first day, for exchange of initial general views, and a closing plenary on the last day, to adopt the work programme.

13. From the submissions, it appears that there is a preference to develop the work programme in **one common setting**, rather than assigning parts of the task to sub-groups, given the need for full participation, as well as for coherence and integration. The working group will therefore operate in an **informal plenary setting** when it enters into the planning of the work after initial exchange of views in a formal plenary setting. This arrangement will allow all delegations and observers to contribute.

14. In terms of the content of the work programme, the Chair will invite an initial exchange of views on the shared vision for long-term cooperative action and then ask for views on each of the four action areas. This will allow the identification of specific issues and how to address them in order to reach an agreed outcome in 2009. Answers to the questions in paragraphs 10 and 11 above will help the AWGLCA to focus on what needs to be done in each area.

15. As the AWGLCA addresses the shared vision and the four action areas in the informal plenary setting, the Chair hopes to be in a position to **convene consultations** in order to help him to prepare advance wording for the draft work programme, with a view to submitting it to the plenary of the working group, for final consideration and adoption, on Friday, 4 April.
