

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

Second session

Bonn, 2–12 June 2008

Agenda item 3 (c)

**Enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation
of the Convention through long-term cooperative action now,
up to and beyond 2012, by addressing, inter alia
Enhanced action on adaptation**

**Report on the workshop on advancing adaptation through finance and
technology, including national adaptation programmes of action**

Summary by the chair of the workshop

I. Introduction

1. In response to guidance from the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), the workshop sought to clarify and deepen understanding of the elements of the Bali Action Plan¹ related to adaptation, to provide Parties with the opportunity to share their specific experiences, views and proposals in these areas and thereby to help the AWG-LCA make the transition to undertaking more focused work leading to negotiations on the elements of the Bali Action Plan.

2. Background to the discussion in the workshop was provided by the Parties' submissions to the AWG-LCA at its first session,² the Chair's summary of the debate at that session,³ the secretariat's information note on ongoing work related to the Bali Action Plan⁴ and presentations by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation⁵ and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice⁶ on the related work of those bodies. This background highlighted the challenge of using the Bali Action Plan to add value and impetus to ongoing processes – in the Chair's words, to move the work of the Parties beyond "business as usual".

3. The discussion at this workshop revolved around presentations by 10 Parties: Bangladesh on behalf of the least developed countries; China; Cook Islands on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; Gambia; India; Japan; Philippines; Slovenia on behalf of the European Community and its member States; South Africa; and the United States of America. Presenters responded to questions put to them by Parties. Many Parties intervened in the debate. A representative of the Climate Action Network made a statement.

¹ Decision 1/CP.13.

² FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/MISC.1 and Add.1–3.

³ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/6.

⁴ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/INF.1.

⁵ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/sbi_awgcla2_adaptation_workshop.pdf>.

⁶ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/sbsta_awgcla2_adaptation_workshop.pdf>.

4. The Vice-Chair of the AWG-LCA, Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, chaired this workshop. This note summarizes his impressions of the content of the discussion.

II. Main points raised at the workshop

5. The workshop addressed:

- **Adaptation** to climate change as a challenge to and a responsibility of all Parties, noting that the Convention enjoined all Parties to implement programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation;⁷
- **Adaptation assistance** to developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and African countries affected by drought, desertification and floods.

6. It was recognized that, in order to limit the global adaptation challenge to a manageable scale, adequate and urgent action on **mitigation** is needed in accordance with the Convention, as envisaged in the Bali Action Plan.

7. There was a convergence of views on the importance of **national planning for adaptation**. This was considered as an instrument to raise national political awareness and mobilize national capacities and resources for adaptation actions, and – in the case of developing countries – as a means of attracting external financial and technological support.

8. Gambia shared its positive experience with its national adaptation programme of action (NAPA). With regard to **NAPAs** in general, it was remarked that 33 out of 48 LDC Parties had completed NAPAs, containing over 300 project ideas, but these had resulted in only 11 project proposals being submitted to the Global Environment Facility. This discrepancy needs to be analysed and rectified. The limited focus of NAPAs on immediate and urgent needs was noted as an inherent feature.

9. A range of presenters (Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Gambia, Slovenia and United States of America) considered that **national adaptation action plans or programmes** should be undertaken by all developing countries, with external support. Views in the discussion highlighted the need for such plans to have a broader scope than NAPAs, to identify national adaptation priorities, to be integrated with national sustainable development plans or programmes, to encourage enabling policy and institutional environments for adaptation, and to be coherent with national communications to the Conference of the Parties. Such an extension of planning processes under the Convention should not detract from the focus on adaptation assistance for particularly vulnerable people and countries.

10. With regard to external **financial support** for national adaptation actions, the difficulty of accessing a multiplicity of funding sources was a common theme of presentations and interventions on behalf of developing country Parties, as was the need to understand and remedy this constraint by streamlining funding mechanisms. A preference was expressed for a funding mechanism for adaptation governed within the ambit of the Convention.

11. Cook Islands proposed a “convention adaptation fund”, to complement the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol, to which particularly vulnerable developing countries would have access and countries would contribute according to their national greenhouse gas emissions. Japan described its bilateral and multilateral initiatives to increase support for adaptation in vulnerable developing countries. The United States of America referred to a diversity of appropriate bilateral and multilateral funding sources for adaptation actions.

⁷ Article 4, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention.

12. Bangladesh, China and Cook Islands drew attention to the vulnerability of people and infrastructures to natural disasters resulting from climate change, and to the need for **risk reduction** strategies, including insurance. Cook Islands proposed an “international insurance mechanism” to help SIDS manage financial risk from extreme weather events.
13. The **technological dimension** of adaptation was mentioned in several presentations (China, Cook Islands, India, Slovenia and South Africa). Views expressed highlighted the need to include adaptation technologies in processes aimed at technological needs assessment, research and development, and diffusion and transfer of technology. India accorded a place to traditional knowledge in the spectrum of technological options.
14. There was a lively and inconclusive debate – enriched by some presenters (India, South Africa and United States of America) – on the balance between, on the one hand, adaptation responses that can and should be “mainstreamed” into national development strategies and into external support for these; and, on the other hand, “stand-alone” adaptation needs arising from additional burdens and specific vulnerabilities that can be directly attributed to climate change and thus justify new and additional funding from developed countries that are historically responsible for climate change.
15. A link was made between the consideration of **economic diversification** to build resilience in the adaptation building block of the Bali Action Plan and of economic and social consequences of response measures in the mitigation building block.
16. The bottom-line issue with respect to external support for national adaptation efforts by developing countries was the **scale of funding** available, which is currently inadequate when compared with estimates of needs for large-scale interventions. Interest was also shown in the example given in the presentation by the Philippines of small-scale, cost-effective and initially self-financed local adaptation action.
17. It was considered that the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change provides a well-structured framework for **sharing knowledge** and best practices in support of adaptation. The adequacy of its delivery mechanisms was discussed. Interest was expressed in a coordinated delivery effort led by the United Nations system, encompassing synergy with the work of other conventions.
18. Some presenters (Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands and South Africa) referred to the scope for regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing, the first three of these proposing a network of **regional centres**.
19. Slovenia proposed that cooperation in addressing the adaptation needs of developing countries should be carried forward in a “framework for action on adaptation” that would delineate the respective responsibilities of developed and developing countries.
20. The **role of the UNFCCC** in catalysing, stimulating or coordinating adaptation action was addressed by some presenters (Cook Islands, China, Slovenia and United States of America) and by discussants. China proposed a “climate change adaptation committee” under the Convention, outlining its aims and functions. Cook Islands proposed a coordinating body for work on adaptation technology, linked to the Expert Group on Technology Transfer.
21. The Chair of the workshop encouraged Parties to develop their specific ideas and proposals further in the discussions under item 3 of the agenda of this session of the AWG-LCA and in submissions, for which an open invitation had been issued by the AWG-LCA at its first session.⁸

⁸ FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/3, paragraph 23.