

Summary of the ADP Co-Chairs' special event ADP 2, part 2 Bonn, Germany, 8 June 2013

Note by the Co-Chairs

26 July 2013

I. Introduction

1. Building on the fruitful experiences of the special events held in Doha, Qatar, on 1 December 2012 and in Bonn, Germany, on 2 May 2013, the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) convened the third special event with observers at the second part of the second session of the ADP on 8 June 2013 at the Maritim Hotel in Bonn. The purpose of the event was to follow up on the special event held in May through further engagement with observers. The discussion covered both workstreams under consideration by the ADP.¹ Observers were invited to explore in more concrete ways the potential role, involvement and contributions of non-State actors in the context both of the 2015 agreement and of pre-2020 ambition.

2. The Co-Chairs of the ADP, Mr. Jayant Moreshver Mauskar (India) and Mr. Harald Dovland (Norway), opened the meeting, outlined the approach to the discussion and gave the floor to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Ms. Christiana Figueres, for her opening remarks. The Executive Secretary noted that this point in time was a good moment to step back and take stock of both the progress made and the further progress that would need to be made in the work of the ADP. She highlighted that, with the completion of their term at the end of the June session, the Co-Chairs would have the opportunity to capture this progress in some form, which they could turn over to the new Co-Chairs and the Parties to build on in their further work. She stressed that this was a strategic moment for observers to influence this transition with helpful, concrete input.

3. Following up on the question raised at the end of the special event held in May, the Co-Chairs invited the participants to present their views and engage in an exchange on two aspects of involvement of non-State actors:

- How could the 2015 agreement promote and catalyse actions by non-State actors?
- How could non-State actors further contribute to collective actions on climate change?

4. Virtual participation was facilitated during the meeting. Participants outside the conference were able to follow the event via webcast and provide reactions, views or questions as inputs to the discussion via Twitter. Towards the end of the discussion, the secretariat presented a selection of the tweets to the audience.

II. Discussion

A. How could the 2015 agreement promote and catalyse actions by non-State actors?

5. Regarding the question of how the 2015 agreement could promote and catalyse actions by non-State actors, a number of participants stated that a 2015 agreement that was clear, fair, practical and effectively implemented by governments at the national level would be inclusive of a wide range of actors and help to promote and catalyse their actions. The agreement would need to be clear and simple so as to be understandable for the public and to provide certainty by setting clear parameters for actions by sub-national actors in the countries. Strong commitments by Parties and transparent national plans would be needed, leading to practical policy development, supporting business, and incentivizing and driving investment and action. It was also recommended that the 2015 agreement recognize local and municipal governments as key partners.

¹ During the first part of its first session, the ADP initiated two workstreams, one addressing matters related to paragraphs 2–6 of decision 1/CP.17 (workstream 1, relating to a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties (the 2015 agreement)) and another addressing matters related to paragraphs 7–8 of the same decision (workstream 2, relating to pre-2020 ambition).

6. Several participants highlighted the importance of keeping the principles of the Convention prominent in the new agreement; acknowledging human rights, encompassing gender-sensitive responses and safeguarding indigenous cultures was also highlighted. It was suggested that this may be particularly pertinent to a possible preambular part of the future agreement. One participant said that the agreement could take note of the existing human rights framework, and another stated that the inability to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention and the agreed temperature goal could be considered a human rights violation. It was also mentioned that in order to support developing country farmers the institutionalization of intellectual property protection for seeds should be avoided and that the 2015 agreement need not stipulate any new rules regarding agriculture or food security as these are areas of competency of other organizations outside the UNFCCC.
7. Many participants stressed that an agreement that operationalized and institutionalized a broad concept of equity would support actions by non-State actors. One participant called for an equity reference framework that could operationalize the Convention's core equity principles via a well-defined set of equity indicators. Such a framework would establish the global emission-reduction target required for the post-2020 commitment period and allow for commitments – both for mitigation action and for the associated finance and technology support – to be evaluated. Fairness and the adequacy of mitigation and finance commitments could be set and reviewed within the reference framework, helping to guide Parties as they formulate and revise their commitments. As a practical matter in this context, it was suggested that non-State actors could assist Parties in elaborating on how equity principles could be operationalized and clarify what Parties need to get on track to collective post-2020 emission reductions and the associated finance and technology support.
8. Another participant called for the institutionalization of the principle of intergenerational equity via an intergenerational ombudsman who would help to defend the interests of youth and future generations, as well as arbitrate between Parties, non-State participants and other organizations.
9. Other participants emphasized the central importance of science, including social science, for the new agreement, stating that the 2015 agreement should be grounded in good science.
10. It was suggested that the agreement should explore and incorporate non-market approaches, such as subsidy reforms, financial transaction taxes and special drawing rights. Building on the discussions on non-market approaches under the subsidiary bodies' work programme, the 2015 agreement should also explore addressing consumption, with one suggestion being to invite experts to quantify the mitigation potential of reducing consumption levels.
11. Several participants stressed that the way finance is addressed in the new agreement will have a tremendous impact on non-State actors and their ability to act. The 2015 agreement should fulfill existing promises of finance provisions, promote non-State actor access to finance, and ensure a strong loss and damage mechanism to assist affected communities.

B. How could non-State actors further contribute to collective actions on climate change?

12. Regarding the question of how non-State actors could further contribute to collective actions on climate change, many participants elaborated on their ongoing work in this respect and how it could be further increased.
13. One crucial area of involvement of observer organizations is capacity- building and awareness-raising. In this context, several participants noted the possible substantial role for non-State actors in influencing behavior patterns, such as for the reduction of consumption. Projects and programmes coordinated by local and national women's organizations, for example, could be replicated and scaled up to reach more women and households to reduce consumption as well as develop tools to implement gender-sensitive projects, raise the capacity, skills and profiles of women and girls in technical professions and schools, and increase women's access to energy and mobility services. These developments would aid in the paradigm shift in transportation and energy.
14. It was mentioned that observer organizations, such as researchers, can assist in developing communication and outreach to the public and negotiators to bridge the gap between those well-versed in science and those who are not. They could also support policy makers and key actors to become more involved in adaptation and mitigation activities within their communities.
15. Many participants also described how they work with policy makers at various levels (local, sub-national, national, and international) in order to educate and raise awareness regarding the policies needed to reduce emissions and to build resilience, including, for example, through the accelerated deployment of mitigation and

adaptation technologies. However, participants stressed that they could enhance their contribution to collective action on climate change by engaging with Parties and stakeholders throughout the year and outside the process at a technical level in order to receive better guidance from Parties as to what the process needs (e.g. information, best practices, success stories, technical inputs, policy advice, etc.). This would help observers to contribute such information and inputs at the right level, at the right time, through the right people (e.g. practitioners, experts, business leaders etc.).

16. One participant outlined how cities and local communities are already contributing to bridging the ambition gap and how they could further enhance their contributions, for example through the development, in coordination between Parties and local and municipal governments, of a 10-year climate action plan, similar to that which occurred in the context of biodiversity protection. This action plan could be adopted under workstream 2 or some other outside process. The idea to focus on urbanization as part of the work under workstream 2 at the next session of the ADP was welcomed.

17. A number of participants noted the importance of incorporating technical experts in order to support more technical and results-oriented discussions on mitigation efforts. Several proposals made by Parties were highlighted as offering interesting ideas and options to involve observer organizations in this regard. Inviting and recognizing inputs from experts and practitioners, including from business – as it is already envisaged in some of the constituted bodies, for example, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) – could help to build momentum for progress, change and support for pre-2020 action as well as for the new agreement. Experts and researchers could also be engaged in the ADP process on certain issues (e.g. the intellectual property rights) to help to find innovative and pragmatic solutions.

18. It was illustrated that observer constituencies can contribute to bridging the gap by offering traditional knowledge and experience. For instance, indigenous peoples' sustainable livelihoods can be complementary to, and supportive of, mitigation and adaptation measures. Some organizations help communities to adapt to impacts from climate change by implementing ecological agriculture methods, improving soil, developing and exchanging seeds, and reviving traditional water harvesting and management techniques. In this context, one participant called upon the ADP to further enhance capacity-building for indigenous peoples.

19. Another participant pointed out that reducing and/or removing tariffs on environmental goods and services would lead to a greater deployment of cleaner technologies into the market, incentivize greener investment and enhance the involvement of the business community.

20. It was suggested that the scaling up of climate finance by developed country Parties would support both workstreams and allow more non-State actors to contribute to collective action on climate change. In this context it was stated that Parties needed to ensure concrete decisions on finance and support the operationalization of the GCF by 2014.

C. Broader issues of involvement of non-State actors in the ADP process

21. Most of the participants called for greater involvement in the ADP process overall as well as for the ADP and the UNFCCC secretariat to take further action on particular issues. Many called for an interactive and continuous dialogue between observer organizations, Parties and the secretariat that could include briefings, participation in workshops and high-level events and other forms of focused exchange.

22. One participant suggested briefings where businesses could bring forward substantive recommendations, technical expertise, and information to support public-private partnerships, such as those already ongoing (e.g. Momentum for Change, Clinton Government Initiative, SE4ALL) and those yet to become operational (e.g. the CTCN). Another participant highlighted workshops as opportunities to bring technical, practical business experience into the process by sharing the latest industry data and knowledge of policies that work for clean energy centres.

23. Another participant encouraged high-level dialogues between mayors and ministers, such as mayor-ministerial round tables and other events that could be held during the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw and at future meetings. In this regard, the Secretary-General's World Leaders' Summit was also highlighted as an opportunity to channel input from civil society groups. In broader terms it would be important to foster an interactive dialogue between local and municipal governments and the Parties and negotiators, across different subject areas relevant to climate change, such as disaster reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the process around the sustainable development goals beyond 2015.

24. One of the Party representatives who attended the special event, following the Co-Chairs' invitation to the Parties, stressed the key role of civil society organizations in advancing the work under the two ADP workstreams, both by providing inputs, experience and insights in order to develop a framework that is appropriate to address the climate challenge and by mobilizing local community organizations that can implement actions on the ground. Such participation could also be instrumental in promoting enforcement and the compliance of Parties with their commitments. She expressed her country's strong support for further enhancing the participation of civil society organizations in the negotiations as well as in the implementation and announced the development of a proposal by a group of Parties for a platform for continuous dialogue with civil society in this regard.

25. A representative from another Party highlighted the proposal made by another group of Parties, which aims at enhancing civil society involvement by ensuring input and participation from all relevant stakeholders, including those at the technical expert level, and by encouraging Parties to engage with these stakeholders in specific discussions on policies and technologies in order to overcome key barriers to further emission reductions within the given urgent timeframes. He stressed that positive engagement with civil society is needed now to positively impact the 2015 agreement. He further stressed that his group would like to see both Party and civil society capacity built and improved to advance investment in green technology in order to leapfrog carbon-intensive development, particularly in developing countries.

III. Virtual participation

26. The comments and questions received via Twitter included the following:²

- NGOs are already actively engaged in responding to climate change. We have no choice, as the climate is already changing;
- How can NGOs help bridge the gap between \$340bn committed to climate finance and the \$2.2bn actively working on projects?
- Really interesting; emphasis on three levels of equity: between countries, within countries and intergenerational;
- YES – equity 'within' states, not just 'between' states is important. Agree with the need for a wider conceptualisation of equity;
- Non-State actors from developing countries may need financial support to engage in the UNFCCC processes;
- RINGO are asking for ways to communicate the climate research related to both public and negotiators. Maybe the youth can help?

IV. Closing

27. At the end of the meeting, the Co-Chairs thanked the participants for their active participation and for sharing their experiences, contributions and suggestions. In light of the many ideas and proposals that were cross-referenced and mirrored by others, the Co-Chairs noted that there may be many potential areas for collaboration across constituencies, for example through information-sharing and awareness-raising.

28. The Co-Chairs encouraged participants to make further submissions at any point in time, given the standing invitation for submissions to the ADP, so that they are recorded and accessible and that Parties are aware of their thoughts, contributions and proposals. Finally, the Co-Chairs, noting that it was their last interaction with observers, expressed their belief that holding such a special event was a good practice and that they would encourage their succeeding Co-Chairs to continue engaging actively with observer organizations.

² During the special event viewers could follow the conversation, post comments (using the hashtag #ADPchat) and also address questions or comments to the Co-Chairs and the participants at the conference venue. Selected comments and questions (listed in paragraph 26) were presented to the participants towards the end of the event.