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Item 8(a) of the provisional agenda

Impact of the implementation of response measures

Forum and work programme

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Thirty-eighth session

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Item 14(a) of the provisional agenda

Impact of the implementation of response measures

Forum and work programme

Summary of the discussion by Parties on area (f)

Note by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies

Summary

This document contains a summary of the discussion on area (f) of the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures (the relevant aspects relating to the implementation of decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 1/CP.16 and Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol), which was held on 29 November 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar. This discussion provided an opportunity for an exchange of views among Parties and relevant organizations on the status of activities relating to the impact of the implementation of response measures. This document may serve as input to relevant discussions and for consideration by the subsidiary bodies, in particular when conducting the review of the work of the forum at their thirty-ninth sessions, with a view to providing recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session, as mandated by decision 8/CP.17.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 8/CP.17, adopted a work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), with the objective of improving the understanding of the impact of the implementation of response measures in eight areas. It also adopted the modalities for the operationalization of the work programme.
2. The COP, by the same decision, established a forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures, to be convened by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, to implement the work programme.¹
3. At their thirty-sixth sessions, the SBSTA and the SBI requested the secretariat to support, under the guidance of the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI, the implementation of the work programme.² In response, the secretariat organized a discussion by Parties on area (f) of the work programme (the relevant aspects relating to the implementation of decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 1/CP.16 and Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol).

B. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies

4. The subsidiary bodies may wish to take note of the Chairs' summary of the discussion when conducting, at their thirty-ninth sessions, the review of the work of the forum, including the need for its continuation, with a view to providing recommendations to the COP at its nineteenth session, as mandated by decision 8/CP.17.

II. Summary of discussions

5. The discussion took place at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar, on 29 November 2012 and was chaired by Mr. Richard Muyungi, Chair of the SBSTA, and Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, Chair of the SBI. It was attended by 92 participants. Interventions and comments were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, the European Union, the Group of 77 and China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Vanuatu. A short intervention was made by a representative of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).
6. Discussions centred on the implementation of mandates related to response measures under decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 1/CP.16 and Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol outside the forum, and a possible review to identify gaps in this implementation.
7. Regarding the implementation of the above-mentioned mandates, a number of Parties felt that there is outstanding work to be completed under some of these mandates. The following examples were pointed out: decision 1/CP.10 contains the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures, which is yet to complete its work on issues related to reporting by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

¹ Decision 8/CP.17, paragraphs 1–3.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2012/2, annex III, and FCCC/SBI/2012/15, annex I.

(Annex I Parties) of detailed information in their national communications on the progress made on support programmes to meet the specific needs of developing country Parties arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures; and decision 1/CP.16 deals with cooperation by Parties to enhance understanding of the economic and social consequences of response measures, which is still under consideration.

8. These Parties were of the opinion that there is a need to focus on these gaps in the implementation in order to give full consideration to what actions are necessary under the Convention, including action related to funding, insurance and transfer of technology to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures. They noted that reporting by Annex I Parties on how they are striving to implement policies and measures in such a way as to minimise adverse effects on developing countries Parties was a key aspect for consideration.

9. Other uncompleted mandates were recalled. For example, the part of decision 15/CMP.1 that requires Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Annex I Parties that are in a position to do so to include supplementary information in their annual inventories on how they are implementing Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol is not yet fulfilled. Under the same decision, each Annex I Party is required to provide information on how it strives to implement policies and measures under Article 2 of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse effects, including the adverse effects of climate change, effects on international trade, and social, environmental and economic impacts on other Parties, especially developing country Parties and in particular those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, taking into account Article 3 of the Convention. Another mandate which these Parties felt was not yet fulfilled is under decision 31/CMP.1, in which the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol decided to develop guidelines to help determine if Annex I Parties are striving to minimize adverse effects, including the adverse effects of climate change, effects on international trade, and social, environmental and economic impacts on other Parties.

10. Some Parties referred to a report on a survey³ that was undertaken in 2011 by Mr. Aaron Cosbey on the information that Annex I Parties had provided in their national communications. The outcome indicated that 11 out of 25 respondents did not report any information on how they are implementing policies and measures under Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Kyoto Protocol and that those reports that were submitted lacked clarity and in some cases were incomplete. Many of these Parties indicated that they lacked reporting guidelines.

11. The following suggestions were made regarding the development of structured guidelines for reporting to be utilized by Annex I Parties when implementing policies and measures:

- (a) Consideration of the social and economic conditions of developing countries in the design and implementation of the guidelines;
- (b) Incorporation of information from consultations with potentially affected developing country Parties;
- (c) Consideration of the scientific basis of the measures and an assessment of whether they are the most effective means to achieve the objective of combating climate change;
- (d) Consideration of specific support to developing countries with regard to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building.

³ <<http://unfccc.int/6151.php>>.

12. A number of Parties agreed that in order to enhance the implementation of the uncompleted mandates, the following three actions need to be highlighted:

- (a) Enforcing developed countries' commitments on reporting related to response measures;
- (b) Obtaining information on the status of implementation of the commitments and the progress made;
- (c) Identifying the gaps in the implementation.

13. Other Parties argued that there was no need to consider undertaking any other work on response measures outside the forum as this would constitute duplication of work. According to these Parties, the work programme was quite comprehensive and inclusive. They called upon the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to reorganize their work with a view to closing the SBI agenda sub-item on progress on the implementation of decision 1/CP.10, since the work on response measures under this sub-item has been concluded and that on adaptation has been accommodated elsewhere. With regard to reporting on response measures in national communications, Parties were of the view that it was progressing quite well; perhaps the reporting could be streamlined to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, but there was no need to increase the reporting requirements in relation to response measures.

14. A representative of one Party informed the meeting that the support that developed countries committed at COP 15 to provide to developing country Parties for adaptation and mitigation was close to USD 30 billion in new and additional resources (in the 2010–2012 period). He said that the Umbrella Group had announced a total of USD 24.4 billion for fast-start finance and the European Union had announced that it had provided USD 9.2 billion in support of fast-start finance. Developed country Parties feel that contributions have surpassed what was expected.

15. A representative of one Party, speaking on behalf of 27 Annex I Parties, highlighted the evolving nature of reporting through the national communications and welcomed discussions on sharing knowledge and understanding of what can be improved and how improvement can be achieved. He informed the meeting that the group he was representing was following through with all the obligations regarding reporting. He referred to the in-depth review of the Party's fifth national communication, which commended the Party on its reporting. The representative noted, though, that as the group comprises many Parties some may not have done as well as others and therefore improvements may be needed, especially taking into consideration that there could be new tasks that require more time to be taken by the reporting countries. However, he pointed out the need to maintain a stable system of reporting in order to allow for feedback and improvement. He recommended continuing with the consolidation of any outstanding issues through the work programme, with a view to revisiting them in future.

16. Parties that insisted on the need to undertake the uncompleted mandates suggested establishing a review to evaluate the progress. Although the Chairs agreed to recommend to the COP the establishment of a review process for identifying gaps and suggestions to address them, some Parties insisted that the review should be undertaken by the forum in order to avoid a proliferation of discussions. Furthermore, one Party felt that the issues to be discussed under the forum need to be formally submitted by Parties.

17. The last intervention was made by the representative of ICTSD. He observed that while the forum is making some progress regarding transparency and on the requirement for reporting, there was a need to consider how to minimize the adverse impacts of response measures, and in particular the impacts on trade and sustainable development. He suggested that the discussion on response measures in the coming years could focus on

collectively finding solutions on specific areas, such as emissions trading schemes, unilateral measures and government support for climate action and eco-labelling.
