Virtual participation in the UNFCCC process

- **1.** Current status of virtual participation in the process
- 2. "Asynchronous" virtual participation
- 3. "Synchronous" virtual participation
- 4. Next steps to increase use of synchronous forms
- **5.** Some social, technical and financial aspects

Bonn, Germany, 8 June 2011



Kevin Grose, Coordinator UNFCCC secretariat, Information Services

Definitions: asynchronous and synchronous virtual participation

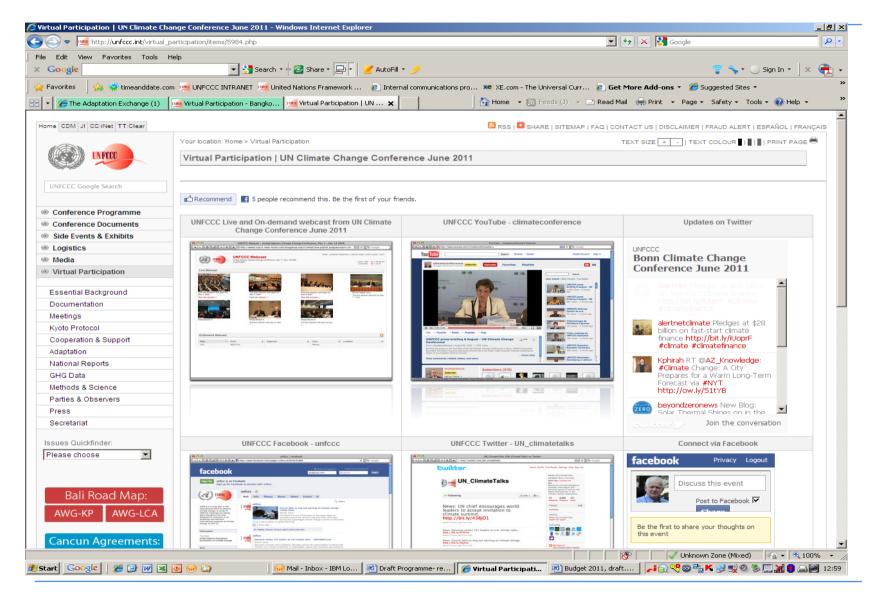
- Ongoing: <u>asynchronous</u> virtual participation
 - a) Webcast
 - b) Mobile.unfccc.int and the iPhone app "Negotiator"
 - c) Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Flikr and YouTube
 - d) Assistance to bloggers and other online communicators

Use increasing: <u>synchronous</u> virtual participation

- a) Telephone/Internet conferences (audio only)
- b) Telephone/Internet conferences with web enhancements
- c) Video/Internet conferences



UNFCCC already supports virtual participation





Asynchronous virtual participation; some statistics

- UNFCCC webcast
 - a) 2,295,861 views since 2004 of all UNFCCC sessions
 - b) 370, 568 views of all CDM/EB, JISC, Compliance Committee meetings
 - c) 18,600 downloads of the UNFCCC iPhone app
- Social media
 - a) 176,549 YouTube views
 - b) 7,273 Facebook "friends"
 - c) 14,417 followers of <u>Twitter/UNFCCC</u> (2008)
 - d) 1,735 followers of <u>Twitter/CFigueres</u> (2011)



Synchronous virtual participation: in place and next steps

IN PLACE

- Secretariat uses VoIP conference call rooms for small, official meetings
- Secretariat uses ISDN Video conferencing
- COP15/CMP6 Danish/Cisco project put in place "Telepresence" Global Climate Change Meeting Platform linking 77 countries

NEXT STEPS

- Virtual_Participation@UNFCCC exhibit 6-8 June 2011 showcases current possibilities
- Secretariat pilot project in 2011 will test telephone conferencing system with web enhancements, especially for CDM
- Exploration of telephone/video options for COP17/CMP7 side events and digital media centre to have interactive functionality, especially for observer organizations, in addition to ongoing asynchronous social media tools





Social, technical and financial aspects of virtual communication

SOCIAL

- Advanced planning, including technical requirements
- Take into account time-zones of participants
- Meeting format needs to be more structured
- Chairs or moderators need to be proactive
- Brevity and precision in presenting information is important in a virtual meeting

TECHNICAL

- Openness to new forms of communications for information exchange
- Access to hands-free telephone or computer with "VoIP" telephone technology and headset and/or webcam
- Access to installed video conference facilities

FINANCIAL

- Reliable virtual participation technologies may require purchasing of licenses and equipment
- Use of virtual technologies may have impacts on the cost of Internet access





"Virtual participation will, ideally, allow all countries fairer access to all sessions, workshops and side events. A greater number of Party delegates, participants from civil society and other observer organizations, will be able to attend and participate, free of both cost and venue constraints. As some or all participants remain in their offices, these participants may discuss and seek input from colleagues, allowing more input to and involvement in crafting responses. The availability of invited speakers is greatly increased, potentially adding a whole new dimension to side events.

