

17 August 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention

Fourth workshop

Vienna, 27–31 August 2007

Dialogue working paper 11 (2007)

Submission from South Africa*

* This submission was submitted on 17 August 2007 and has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

**Working Paper by South Africa
as input to the fourth workshop of
the Convention Dialogue on long-term cooperative action on climate change**

In their Scenario Note on the fourth Dialogue workshop, the co-facilitators invited Parties to provide their views on “how to integrate the ideas and proposals presented into coherent international responses to climate change”. South Africa hereby submits its input, based on its intervention at the third workshop.

At the third workshop of the Convention Dialogue Brazil stated that “discussions in the absence of negotiations cannot prosper”. South Africa outlined four possible options for converting the discussions under the Dialogue into negotiations. The co-facilitators invited the submission of a working paper, which South Africa is pleased to hereby provide. After placing options for the Dialogue in the context of the overall challenge facing us, the working paper elaborates the suggestions made in Bonn.

Considering the recent IPCC reports, it is very clear to South Africa that the pace of the climate negotiations is out of step with the urgency indicated by climate science. All countries need to take more urgent action. What is needed are stricter targets for all developed countries, including re-engagement of non-Kyoto AI Parties in the full multilateral process, and enhanced & incentivised action by developing countries.

In Montréal, we all agreed that we needed to proceed on a two-track process. One track needs to set deep and ambitious binding GHG reduction commitments for all Annex I Parties. A second track started discussion on enhancing further action by developing countries in accordance with their differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities and in line with their national circumstances. The challenge that we face is how to dramatically accelerate progress on the effective implementation of action under both of these tracks by 2009, and particularly the critical question “what we do with the Dialogue”.

Building on the Convention Dialogue: ‘Dialogue Plus’

The Convention Dialogue has provided a valuable opportunity to explore options, under the authority of the COP. But the Dialogue will come to a formal end at COP 13. We must now build on what has been achieved in this creative space and formalise the recognition of and incentives for enhanced action by developing countries.

In the scenario note for the third workshop, the co-facilitators reminded us that the fourth workshop will have to “bring together all the ideas and proposals put forward during the Dialogue, to explore how they fit together in a coherent way and into an appropriate international response to climate change, and to address overarching and cross-cutting issues, including financing”.

South Africa would like to present a number of options that we may have in moving forward on long-term cooperative action by developing countries during COP 13 in Bali. These are of course not the only options:

- We could agree to set a new agenda item on long-term cooperative action to enhance implementation of the Convention by developing countries on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties. This could assemble some of the creative proposals made

in the course of this Dialogue. This agenda item could have a number of sub-items, for example:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries
 - SD-PAMs
 - Multi-lateral funding for technology research, deployment and commercialisation
 - Positive incentive approaches
 - Expanded technology cooperation
 - 360° approach to adaptation
 - Cross-cutting discussions on finance
 - This list should be extended to include all the major proposals raised in the Dialogue
- A second option is a variant on the first, in that we could introduce an agenda item as described above, whilst continuing the Dialogue. We could hold further, regular workshops under the Dialogue, to generate further creative ideas – and then design and agree a mechanism to bring new ideas from those discussions into the negotiations as further sub-items under the COP agenda item referred to under option 1 above. Possible ideas for a mechanism could include annual reports by the co-facilitators of the Dialogue to the COP; or a standing sub-item under the agenda item on consideration of reports from the Dialogue workshops.
 - A third option would be to create some kind of platform, a strengthened Dialogue, or Dialogue PLUS, for enhanced action on enhanced implementation of developing country commitments under Article 4.1 of the Convention. We would need to discuss what a ‘platform’ might be. It could be established as an Open-ended Working Group, Ad hoc Group or an Expert Group, to mention three of the possibilities.
 - A fourth option is to re-organise and consolidate our existing multiple agendas into five areas of work:
 - Firstly, adaptation, particularly for the poor and most vulnerable, but ultimately for all.
 - Secondly, on mitigation, enhanced voluntary action by developing countries, with technological and financial support. Evolution of the CDM and the creative development of market mechanisms underpin this area of work.
 - Thirdly, managing the unintended consequences of our adaptation and mitigation policies and response measures for the economies of other countries.
 - Fourthly, the cross-cutting area of technology, with an emphasis on research, development and diffusion in support of adaptation, the decarbonisation of our economies, and economic diversification.
 - And finally, the means of implementation, which includes financing, capacity-building and awareness.

We would be interested in hearing from other Parties their thoughts on these and other options.

Ultimately, these options would feed into our preparations for Bali “where decisions on the next steps in the development of an appropriate international response to climate change will need to be determined”. The options that we and others have presented could be considered in preparing the report from this Dialogue.
