

AWG-LCA stock takes status of negotiations

Bonn, 23 May (Hilary Chiew) – The Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Actions (AWG-LCA) held a stock-taking exercise on Tuesday, May 22 to report back on discussions held in informal spin of groups and workshops.

Facilitators of the spin-off groups provided reports of what transpired so far in their respective groups on the following issues: shared vision, developed country mitigation, developing country mitigation, REDD-plus, sectoral approaches, various approaches, including markets and review.

Besides the progress reports of the informal groups, Chair Aysar Tayeb from Saudi Arabia also invited facilitators of the four workshops conducted under the AWG-LCA to present their respective summary reports. These workshops were on “equitable access to sustainable development” (addressed under the issue of shared vision); clarification of the developed country Parties’ quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets and related assumptions and conditions; nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries and various approaches, including market based mechanisms.

Shared vision

On the equity workshop titled Equitable Access to Sustainable Development (EASD) held on May 16, which was facilitated by Tayeb himself, he reported that the workshop showed that there is possibility for equity to be an enabler through the link between support and actions. Equity is about fairness and distribution of efforts. Equity is also fundamental for adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building, and national circumstances should be considered. He said there are different views on approaches to define equity and to elaborate historical responsibility, adding that there are views that equity is dynamic and transitional.

On possible way forward on this issue, he said there was a strong call for a work programme which is something that the AWG-LCA have to consider and to find time this year to continue the discussion.

Tayeb then invited Zou Ji of China to report on the spin-off group on shared vision.

On shared vision for long-term cooperative actions, Zou as facilitator, said the group had a good discussion and there were four types of views that emerged: (i) global goal of emission cut and the timeframe for peaking with specific numbers or figures; (ii) global goal of emission cut and timeframe of peaking with specific numbers or figures and associated with a context emphasised by some developing country Parties; (iii) global goal of emission cut and timeframe of peaking without specific single number or figure but with a quantitative range of global goal and peaking time or level; and (iv) implement a process and mechanism to review, identify, develop and establish a set of goals of emission cut, peaking, corresponding measures and support as quantitative as possible.

Parties identified three fundamental options for further discussion. They are:

1. Specific number on the global goal and peaking together with elaborating the corresponding context;
2. A numerical group of global goals and peaking together with elaborating the corresponding context;
3. A process and/or mechanism to review, identify, develop and establish a set of goals of emission cut. Peaking, corresponding measures and support as quantitative as possible.

He said Parties might wish to try to identify the ways to address overlapping areas, interests or views, and interpret these overlapping parts into key

elements or even text as a basis of negotiation. In this way, he expected to move forward and build up a new milestone as a new basis for future negotiation.

Mitigation of developed countries

On mitigation by developed countries, facilitator Andrej Kranjc of Slovenia said the workshop on *clarification of the developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets and related assumptions and conditions* was held on Thursday, May 17 where the lack of progress and the differences in approaches to accounting for emission reduction were highlighted as areas that need further work.

At the first informal group meeting of developed countries' mitigation, he said while many Parties acknowledged there is need to increase the ambition of Annex I Parties to achieve the goal of keeping temperature rise to 2°C, there were divergence of views on how and where these enhanced ambition should take place i.e. whether in the AWG-LCA or in the subsidiary bodies. He said Parties also highlighted the need for common accounting rules, adding that other issues raised included comparability of efforts by Annex I Parties in accordance with the Bali Action Plan (BAP) and that the AWG-LCA must complete its work in Doha.

(A debate on the interpretation of the termination of the AWG-LCA mandate took place in the meeting which saw China and India stressing that without agreement on comparability of efforts stipulated under 1(b)(i) of the BAP, Parties have not accomplished the mandate and therefore the AWG-LCA cannot be ended.

Paragraph 1(b)(i) of the BAP reads as follow: *Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances.*

The **United States**, in particular, reacted strongly by saying that it disagreed with those who are of the view that the AWG-LCA will continue as long as unresolved issues remain; and that Parties are not to renegotiate the outcome of Durban (1/CP.17) that said the AWG-LCA will terminate.

China also urged developed countries Parties to clarify their additional pledges and suggested the use of a common template for their submissions in

accordance to paragraph 5 of 2/CP.17 by July for the next AWG-LCA session in September.)

Andrej Kranjc of **Slovenia** said Parties also continued to seek clarification over the workshop and some preferred a thematic approach to allow for more thorough consideration and requested that the technical paper be updated to reflect new inputs.

Mitigation of developing countries

The facilitator of the workshop to *"further the understanding of the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing country Parties, underlying assumptions, and any support needed for implementation of these actions"*, Dr Gary Theseira of Malaysia said there were 11 presentations.

The developing countries presentations provided goals at the national level, programmes for one or multiple sectors and others on specific projects including at the community level, covering different greenhouse gases with carbon dioxide being the most common.

He said the projects are at different stages of being implemented - planning or identification of potential NAMAs, have formulated detailed NAMAs and seeking support for implementation, and some were already implementing them. Some Parties are seeking international support while others will implement their NAMAs using domestic resources.

Theseira said it was noted that these NAMAs are already contributing significantly in decreasing their emissions from business as usual development model and they are implemented in the context of wider national action plans and development strategies.

Parties, he added, also presented different approaches to measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) to meet the requirements of their NAMAs.

He said one presenter (referring to St Lucia, representing the Alliance of Small Island States) mentioned the benefit of applying common accounting rules in facilitating transparency and the provision of support and the fact that a number of developing countries have not submitted NAMAs was raised and the need to support and encourage these Parties to submit their NAMAs was also mentioned.

He also said some Parties suggested a technical paper to be compiled by the Secretariat on the

diversity of NAMAs and the support needed for their implementation and that it also organized a workshop to discuss the diversity of NAMAs in a structured manner as well as their state of implementation, including low emission development strategies.

REDD-plus

On reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and other forest-related activities (REDD-plus), facilitator Yaw Bediako Osafo of Ghana said Parties expressed clear determination to further work under the AWG-LCA but developing countries reiterated need for sufficient funds and they also requested for a technical paper to provide insight and further clarity for Party proposals at the next AWG-LCA session.

Cooperative sectoral approaches

On cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, the report prepared by facilitator George Wamukoya (Kenya) was read out by Chair Tayeb.

He said Parties expressed willingness to move forward in a multilateral setting and reiterated the importance of sectoral approaches and emphasised the importance of linkages to relevant United Nations specialised agencies such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation to address greenhouse gas emissions from aviation and maritime activities. There were diverse views on how this could be done.

Various approaches including using markets

On various approaches including opportunities for using markets, facilitator Alexa Kleysteuber (Chile) said Parties had suggested possible elements for a work programme.

Economic and social consequences of response measures

Chair Tayeb facilitated this spin off group and said that the issue of unilateral measures taken by developed countries in implementing response measures was identified as the main element of discussion.

Tayeb then proceeded to address the other elements and related aspects of the BAP where no spin-off groups have formed.

Catalytic role of the Convention in relation to mitigation

On ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention, Tayeb said there has not been any decision on this item in the past and there is no specific issue identified by Parties but urged Parties to consider the relationship between the Convention and other international bodies like the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Adaptation

On adaptation, Tayeb said Parties noted the need for enhanced action and evaluation of adaptation work such as financing for the period 2013 to 2020 and stressed the inter-linkages between adaptation and means of implementation i.e. finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Technology transfer

For technology development and transfer, he highlighted intellectual property rights (IPRs) as a key issue raised and how this can be addressed and the inter-linkages with the financial mechanism and the relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Another focus was the evaluation of the environmental impact of technologies and the need for improvement in South-South cooperation.

Finance

Tayeb identified uncertainties surrounding the funding gap between 2012 and 2020 and the link between this gap and the mitigation gap. He also noted that clarity on access to sources of long-term finance, the MRV of support, financing for adaptation for both LDC and non-LDC developing countries.

He said after listening to all the discussions of issues which are considered important by all Parties, he reckoned that there was no unwillingness to engage but to avoid duplication of work happening in other subsidiary bodies. He informed Parties that he is in constant consultation with the Chairs of those bodies to ensure that the work is complementary and not competing for issues to be taken under any particular body.

On the question about how long-term finance will be taken forward by the Conference of the Parties (COP), he said discussions with the Co-Chairs appointed to handle this suggested that there will be two workshops from now until Doha (venue of COP18 at the end of the year) to allow Parties to get into their work and aimed at the production of a

report six weeks prior to COP18 to give Parties the chance to consider how best to take it forward.

He added that the work will not be of political nature in terms of providing political decisions but rather input to facilitate the possibility of such decisions.

With regards to work taking place under the AWG-LCA contact group (on issues not addressed by the specific spin off groups, Tayeb said they could continue but would need to get into in-depth discussion of the various issues raised, adding that

they would be given a complete go through of the elements of the agenda before closing work on Thursday, 24 May.

On May 23, several informal spin off groups held further discussions such as the mitigation by developed country Parties, shared vision and REDD-plus. The contact group also met to hold focused discussions finance, technology transfer and response measures.

Reports on some of these sessions will follow.