

UNFCCC still talking about 'pilot' technology transfer projects after 17 years

Geneva, 30 May (Fauwaz Abdul Aziz) – Concerns that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has produced little results was underscored last Friday, 25 May, at the closing plenary of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in Bonn, as regards implementing technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries.

The SBI considered various matters including technology development and transfer, national communications of developing countries, the Adaptation Fund, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus).

Technology development and transfer

The **Philippines** pointed out that after 17 years since it was decided that there be technology transfer to developing countries, draft conclusions formulated by the SBI to be presented to the Conference of Parties (COP) for adoption end of this year still refer to “support... for the implementation of technology transfer pilot projects” and the enhancement of “outreach and awareness-raising efforts on funding opportunities for projects related to technologies for adaptation.”

The Philippines was referring to paragraphs 2 and 5 of the draft conclusions proposed by the SBI Chair Tomasz Chruszczow (Poland) on the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer for approval by the COP at its 18th meeting in Doha this December.

“We are now in 2012... We are still at the stage of pilot projects. What have we done for technology transfer?” asked the **Philippines'** representative Bernarditas Muller, who also serves as the coordinator for the **G77 and China** for technology and finance matters. “I hope Parties will reflect on this – that 17 years after (the drafting of) the Convention, we're still at (stage of) pilot projects,” the Philippines lamented.

Earlier, the facilitator (UK) for the contact group formed to consider the report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on progress in the Poznan Strategic Programme on technology transfer, said there were agreements on three points: the importance of adaptation and the need for a balance between adaptation and mitigation projects, including by enhancing outreach and awareness efforts; for the speeding up of GEF work over remaining work under the Poznan strategic programme; and the need to implement the COP 17 decision made in Durban last year relating to the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

In a related matter, on the selection of the host of the CTCN and constitution of its advisory board, the facilitator of the contact groups and informal consultations over the issue said a good outcome resulted from the negotiations, which agreed to rank a consortium led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ahead of the other two (one led by the GEF, the other by the Norwegian Det Norske Veritas, a private company) for the hosting of the CTCN and for the UNFCCC secretariat to start discussions with the UNEP-led consortium in parallel with the others in parallel tracks, and for the draft host agreement to be considered.

The short-list of candidates had been drawn up by an evaluation panel based on criteria specified and agreed upon at COP 17 in Durban.

On the constitution of the advisory board of the CTCN, a draft text is to be drawn up as the basis of discussion with a view to its adoption at the next COP. This was one of the major outcomes of the SBI's 36th meeting in Bonn, said the facilitator, and it is hoped that work on the CTCN could start as soon as possible.

The **Philippines**, on the selection of the host of the CTCN, said the link of governance between the CTCN and the COP was important. Without

the approval of COP, there's no approval of the host for this centre, it said.

Developing countries were looking to the establishment of a Centre that would strengthen expertise and capabilities of access to technologies for adaptation, and mitigation. The Philippines wanted to see effective transfer of technology. There is an obligation for the CTCN to follow the decisions of the COP, and it cannot make use of its capacities to implement other programmes, especially in relation to technology transfer.

On the report of the Technology Executive Committee, the facilitator of the contact group had agreed to welcome the workplan of the TEC and to encourage its implementation and the organisation of thematic dialogues, including one on enabling environments and barriers to technology development and transfer.

There were also initial ideas of the TEC on modalities and arrangements, and the nature of linkages between the TEC modalities with other arrangements may evolve over time, it was noted. The TEC will, furthermore, consult with the relevant institutional arrangements once these become operational, and report on its activities and performance through the SBI to COP 18 in Doha.

National communications and support

On the draft conclusion for the provision of financial and technical support under 'National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention,' the **Philippines** noted the increasing number of obligations on developing countries, particularly on the need to provide an inventory of greenhouse gases.

The current extent of the provision of technical and financial support show, said the Philippines, that there is still not indication as to how Parties will receive the necessary support at full-cost funding for the preparation of biennial update reports. "We were told that the GEF ... has already finished its replenishment. We want to record (here) that financial and technical support ... remains on very uncertain ground."

The Philippines was reiterating an earlier call by the G77 and China on the need for adequate, stable and predictable funding to support developing countries in the preparation of their national communications. The G77 and China

had recalled that since Cancun, additional reporting obligations for developing countries had been were established and had placed new burdens on developing countries.

Adaptation Fund and NAPs

On the issue of the 'Initial review of the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol' under 'Matters relating to finance' the **Philippines** speaking on behalf of the **G77 and China** stressed again the importance of this matter for the developing countries.

The Adaptation Fund is in crisis, said G77 and China. This was because the shares of proceeds (for the Fund) are dependent on the vagaries of the carbon market. It hoped the review of this Fund and interim measures are able to chart and see how to help developing countries. This is the only Fund that undertakes completely adaptation efforts of developing countries free from conditionalities.

The Philippines pointed out that the difficulty over the Adaptation Fund lies in the management of these funds by the GEF. The Adaptation Fund needs the predictability of funds. Countries could not make adaption planning long term without predictability and sustainability of financing.

Bangladesh encouraged the Adaptation Fund to support more national adaptation activities so as to ensure adaptation takes place at the ground level. National governments need more direct access to the Fund. It also stressed predictability, reliability and sustainability should be flagged high for attention.

The **African Group** also stressed predictable and adequate funding for the Adaptation Fund, and expressed concern with the negative effects related to the carbon market.

On 'matters relating to the least developed countries', Bangladesh said National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) should be promoted and supported for the LDCs, specifically, and developing countries as a whole.

Pakistan expressed support for Bangladesh's proposal. The Philippines, similarly, warned of the serious gap in the implementation. It called for implementation of adaptation actions, stand alone adaptation actions and long-term adaptation actions.

In their closing statements to the plenary, the **European Union** wanted further deliberation on issues such as NAMAs (nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries), progress on the discussions over 'loss and damage' associated with the impact of climate change and the impact of implementation measures.

Australia on behalf of the **Umbrella Group**, said it will continue to support SBI work, its financial support to developing country Parties, moves to step up operationalization of mechanisms, while hoping that transparency could be a basis for understanding and to take measurable, reportable and verifiable work forward on mitigation actions.

Swaziland, on behalf of the **African Group** said the SBI is important in catalysing on the means of implementation, technology transfer and capacity building.

Ecuador, on behalf of the **Coalition of Rainforest Nations**, welcomed the compromise reached on NAMAs by developing country Parties, in particular on the issue of the composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts for International Consultations and Analysis (ICA). It highlighted the urgent need of developing countries to get

adequate, predictable and scaled-up support in order to fulfil all reporting requirements under the Convention. There is need to dedicate some time to address the issue of the implementation of REDD-plus activities by developing countries and the lack of adequate funding to fully operationalize them. All interim instruments created outside the UNFCCC to promote phase 1 of REDD-plus such as the UN-REDD, World Bank initiatives and the REDD-plus partnership, should be mainstreamed into the Green Climate Fund as soon as this institution is fully operational.

Honduras, on behalf of the **Central American Integration System**, reiterated the need for development capacity and the provision of resources and to compensate for loss and damage. COP 18 should work towards the prevention and reduction of damages and other main priorities, and not simply focus on risk assessment (in relation to loss and damage).

Nepal on behalf of the **Mountain Alliance Initiative**, also said adequate, sustained and unhindered support was immensely critical for the implementation of decisions on NAPAs and other activities. Climate adaptation is a matter of survival strategy, it said.