

SBI: Developing countries stress pre-2020 actions and support

Kuala Lumpur, 31 May (Hilary Chiew) – Developing countries, led by the Group of 77 and China, reiterated that the work of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) "must enhance pre-2020 actions and support, which will lay a solid foundation for post-2020 implementation".

This was stated by **Thailand**, speaking for the **G77 and China** at the closing of the SBI's 44th session in Bonn, Germany, on 26 May, which also saw the adoption of a number of draft conclusions and recommended several draft decisions for adoption at the 22nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) at Marrakech, Morocco in November this year.

The G77 reiterated that the SBI's work must proceed in a comprehensive, coherent, balanced and Party-driven manner, emphasising the urgent need to enhance pre-2020 actions and support.

"In this regard, the Group has engaged constructively in the Technical Expert Meetings on mitigation and adaptation held during this session (in Bonn). On the path to Marrakech, we look forward to an early engagement in the facilitative dialogue, in order to assess the progress in implementing decision 1/CP.19 paragraphs 3 and 4, and identify relevant opportunities to enhance the provision of financial resources, including for technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support," it stressed.

(Paragraph 3 and 4 of decision 1/CP.19 adopted in Warsaw in 2013 concerns the full implementation of the Bali Action Plan that includes the enhancing of ambition of the pre-2020 period in terms of mitigation targets of developed country Parties and the provision of means of implementation by developed countries to developing countries.

(COP22 in Marrakech, billed as an "implementation COP", will hold a facilitative dialogue to assess the progress of decisions taken in Warsaw on enhancing the mitigation ambition as well as in enhancing the

provision of financial resources by developed countries.)

The SBI adopted draft conclusions in two separate closing plenary meetings on 25 and 26 May respectively which were marred by procedural issues (see below as well as [TWN Bonn Update No. 14](#) pertaining specifically to conflicts of interest of non-state actors with commercial interests).

During the recent Bonn session, the SBI also organised the first workshop for the facilitative sharing of views under the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process for 13 developing countries. These Parties had completed the first step of the ICA process where a technical analysis of their first biennial update reports (BUR) was conducted by a team of technical experts, resulting in a summary report for each Party that was finalised by 29 February 2016. The 1.5-day workshop saw presentations by all 13 Parties followed by a question-and-answer session.

SBI 44 launched its work after its opening on 16 May and concluded discussions on all its agenda items on 25 May. Apart from the staple agenda items, this session also saw items that were mandated by COP21 in Paris last year.

These items were: the development of modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Articles 4(12) (relating to mitigation) and 7(12) (relating to adaptation) of the Paris Agreement (PA) which were considered separately; scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism to support the implementation of the PA; terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building; modalities, work programme and functions under the PA of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures; and the scope of the next periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it.

The staple items that were dealt with included: matters related to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the Third Review of the Adaptation Fund, matters relating to the mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol; Capacity-building in developing countries; reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex 1 to the Convention and reporting from Parties not included in Annex 1.

The draft decisions to be recommended for consideration at COP22 are the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention (on education, training and public awareness); review of the joint implementation guidelines; outcome of the first round of the International Assessment and Review process (2014-2015); the Terms of Reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building; and the Third Review of the Adaptation Fund.

Parties also made their closing statements at the SBI session.

Thailand, speaking for the **G77 and China**, also noted the successful organisation and the conclusion of the first round of the facilitative sharing of views under the ICA process, reiterating that the ICA should be facilitative and leads to identification of capacity-building needs of developing countries in order to facilitate the reporting of information in subsequent BURs to promote transparency.

It welcomed the conclusions on matters related to the LDCs, while noting with concern that the current financial resources under the LDC Fund (LDCF) is inadequate for supporting the work programme of the LDC Experts Group (LEG) as well as formulation and implementation of NAPs, and implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAS). In this regard, it urged developed countries to provide financial contributions to the LDCF.

On gender and climate change, the G77 welcomed the conclusions on furthering the work, and the support for continuation and enhancement of the Lima work programme on gender.

Welcoming the completion of the terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for consideration and adoption at COP22, the G77 also hoped that in Marrakech, a decision on the third review of the capacity-building framework under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol would be finalised.

On response measures, the G77 reaffirmed the importance of giving full consideration to identify necessary actions to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the

impact of the implementation of response measures and to avoid the negative economic and social consequences of response measures on developing countries.

It also welcomed the progress made to operationalise the work programme of the improved forum on the impact of implementation of response measures, and the terms of reference developed for the *ad hoc* technical expert groups that will support the work of the improved forum.

Representing the **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**, **Maldives** welcomed progress made in promoting best available science relating to the target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius and the task now is to operationalise and build coherence into the ambition cycle including the 2018 facilitative dialogue.

(Maldives was referring to the decision in Paris where Parties agreed “to convene a facilitative dialogue among Parties in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal.)

Maldives called on Parties to update their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) towards the goal to close the emission gap that exists at present between the aggregated INDCs and the pathway consistent with the 1.5C target.

Also of priority, it said, is the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to lay the ground work for enhancing and strengthening to ensure that the mechanism is fit for purpose.

With regards to the review of the modalities of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), it was of the view that further improvements are needed to ensure environmental integrity of the CDM and to generate greater confidence in it as a tool to secure genuine emission reductions.

It expressed regret that the review has not addressed the need for a shorter crediting period and make clear accounting issues that are related to the avoidance of double counting of certified emission reductions. “In our view, to contribute in a meaningful way to the reductions of greenhouse gases, the CDM should be redesigned to generate substantial net emission reductions from its operation,” Maldives added.

Speaking for the **Least Developed Countries**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo** hoped that the successful completion of most of the agenda items will be realised in due course particularly on matters related to the LDCs, NAPs, capacity-building and provisions of financial and technical support for reporting of non-Annex 1 Parties.

It would like to see the closure of remaining items such as the review of modalities and procedures for the CDM, the third review of the Adaptation Fund, scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism, the scope of the next periodic review of the long term global goal under the Convention, and the development of modalities and procedures for the operation of public registry referred to in Article 4(12) and 7(12) of the PA.

Mali, representing the **African Group**, reiterated the significance of adaptation as of utmost importance for the implementation of the PA, welcoming the progress made in the NAP consideration during this session and looked forward to constructive discussions on enhanced reporting on adaptation at the next session.

It called for the SBI to send clear signals to the Adaptation Committee to be opened to the participation by all with relevant expertise, particularly those from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

It welcomed the terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building to be considered and adopted at COP22, noting that the provision of resources for the Committee remains a priority. It added that it hoped to see in Marrakech, a decision on the third review of the Capacity-building Framework under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

On the public registry referred to in Article 4(12) and 7(12), Mali called for the discussions on modalities and procedures to create a clear linkage between the two.

Stressing the importance of the Adaptation Fund to support concrete adaptation activities in Africa, it said predictability and sustainability of financial resources of the Fund is important and welcomed the conclusions reached on the third review of the Adaptation Fund.

On the Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage, it expressed concerns over the slow progress of work specifically in the implementation of the initial two-year workplan.

Mali believed that resources and time are both essential for the full implementation of the two-year workplan which is very key for setting the direction of travel of the whole Mechanism's activities including its review. It urged developed countries to support and prioritise the work of the Mechanism in order to

enable it to deliver on its functions, particularly on enhancement of actions.

Costa Rica representing the **Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC)** noted the importance of a coherent approach across all three subsidiary bodies (referring to the SBI, Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the first session of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Paris Agreement).

Speaking for the **Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)**, the **Republic of Korea** said lessons learnt from the facilitative sharing of views workshop are valuable for the establishment of the new transparency mechanism under the PA and encouraged developing countries to join the process to build their capacities over time.

Recognising the need to balance the approach on mitigation and adaptation, it said the development of modalities and procedures for the (operation and use of the public registry referred to in Article 4.12 and 7.12) needs to move further in a timely manner.

"We noticed some Parties had very strong positions ... and even wanted to revisit the PA. We must respect the Agreement and follow the mandate which is the fundamental basis for the on-going negotiation," it said.

The **European Union** saw the public registry as an important tool for transparency and overview of NDCs to help make all our plans visible to the public, noting that discussions started in Bonn but were not able to go much into details and substance. "We hope to tackle this discussion further in Marrakech," it added.

Australia, speaking for the **Umbrella Group** welcomed the first facilitative sharing of views, noting that the exchange of views showed how participation in the reporting system can help developing countries build their capacities and identify needs. "Sharing of experiences in a multilateral forum provides the venue for clarity of individual actions and for countries to learn from each other," it added.

It was pleased with the outcome of the 2013-2015 review in Paris and looked forward to considering and refining the scope of future periodic reviews to avoid duplication once Parties had further clarity of the global stocktake.