

Subsidiary Body for Implementation commences work, focus on loss and damage

Warsaw, 13 Nov (Zhenyan Zhu) – The 39th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC opened on 11 November 2013 with a focus on loss and damage.

The SBI Chair, Tomasz Chruszczow (Poland) highlighted the need to work efficiently and said results on critical issues were needed.

The SBI's 38th session could not begin its work in June 2013 in Bonn, Germany, due to wrangling over the adoption of its agenda, following a proposal by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine to add a new agenda item. At the SBI session in Warsaw, Parties adopted the provisional agenda and began work.

One of the items which was a key focus of developing countries under the SBI's work was the international mechanism for addressing loss and damage resulting from climate change impacts. When the agenda item 11 on loss and damage was considered, the SBI Chair invited Parties to make interventions specifically on this issue.

Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China said that climate change and related loss and damage is happening now at different scales on national, regional and international levels, that will require additional resources. Referring to the tragedy in the Philippines in the aftermath of super typhoon Haiyan, it said this is a reminder of why a mechanism is needed now, and the extreme and slow-onset disasters are hurting countries. At the heart of the challenge of loss and damage is addressing the needs and aspirations of communities and people, who have contributed least to the cause of climate change, yet are among its first and worst victims. The urgency and importance of responding to these challenges is beyond dispute and requires real

action. It reiterated the Group's call for an international mechanism to address loss and damage.

Bolivia said work needs to be meaningful and ultimately useful for developing countries struggling with how to develop and implement approaches to address loss and damage; it also wanted consideration of the financial needs associated with assessing and addressing loss and damage to be the focus of the work in the near-term. The G77 and China is prepared to work in a contact group to engage in text immediately.

Nauru for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Timor Leste for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Tanzania on behalf of the African Group also urged Parties to fulfill the Doha mandate by establishing a mechanism on loss and damage in Warsaw.

Nauru for AOSIS highlighted the function of the international mechanism on loss and damage must address the needs of SIDS and other particularly vulnerable developing countries. Expressing urgency, it called for a contact group to be established in Warsaw to negotiate a decision text.

Timor Leste for LDCs said that the impact of climate change already inflicted loss and damage that current levels of mitigation and adaptation cannot address. It also called for urgent action including the establishment of an international mechanism to enhance action and support to help developing countries to address the loss and damage issue. It called for the functions and modalities of an international mechanism to be established in Warsaw.

Tanzania on behalf of African Group said that Parties have worked for almost three years and this effort must end with the establishment of

the effective institutional arrangement. It stressed that the focus in Warsaw should be on elaborating functions and modalities of the international mechanism and activities of the work programme.

Egypt emphasized the linkage between loss and damage and adaptation. It said all the adaptation measures that had been done were not enough and we need to have more. It believed that some recommendations were highly important: (1) identifying the needs of developing countries; (2) funding a loss and damage mechanism; and (3) taking into account early warning systems.

The SBI Chair proposed and Parties agreed to defer to SBI 40 in 2014 the consideration of items on procedures, mechanism and institutional arrangements for appeals against decisions of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board, and privileges and immunities for individuals serving on constituted bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol. Saudi Arabia highlighted, and the SBI Chair reiterated, that this would not constitute a precedent for future rulings in the SBI.

Parties were then invited to make group statements.

Fiji for G77 and China expressed its view on several agenda items. It called on developed countries to enhance their financial support and technical assistance to Parties not included in Annex 1 of the Convention (i.e. developing countries), in order to build the capacities needed to facilitate the preparation of national communications and biennial updates. The continuation of the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on Non-Annex 1 National Communications will be crucial in providing necessary support requested by developing countries.

On Agenda item 5 in relation to the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), the Group called for more support from developed countries for helping developing countries to accomplish their obligations in this regard.

On Agenda Item 10 regarding National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), despite the clear mandate of the Cancun Adaptation Framework on the launching of a national adaptation plan process for the least developed countries and modalities for other developing countries, the Group deplored the lack of funding to start the

NAP process. There is need for expedited funding to kick off the NAP process. The Group also appreciates the work done by the Adaptation Committee on the NAPs for other developing countries and believes that funding and technical support is needed by other developing countries to prepare and implement their NAPs.

On the issue of loss and damage, the Group called for the establishment of an international mechanism under the Convention on loss and damage that addresses the needs of developing countries emerging from extreme and slow-onset events, and the urgency for this mechanism has only increased. This mechanism cannot be an empty shell, and expected substantive movement on this matter at this session.

The Group considered that the effectiveness and the sustainability of the resources of the Adaptation Fund are the main challenges for making the institutional mechanism dedicated to the adaptation operational. It is essential that a large debate must be engaged in order to resolve effectively the lack of functioning which characterizes this mechanism.

On Development and Transfer of Technologies, the G77 and China believed it is of crucial importance to ensure coordination between the two bodies of the Technology Mechanism, the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

In relation to capacity building, the G77/China said a two-year work programme should be prepared with a view to further strengthening the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity building, developing a comprehensive, integrated and balanced set of evaluation indicators, and assessing the activities by developed countries in supporting developing countries' capacity building.

It also reaffirmed the importance of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures at the Subsidiary Bodies and its work program to address these impacts.

Nepal on behalf of LDCs stressed the need to make progress on the agenda items such as loss and damage, finance, NAMA, etc. On the international mechanism of loss and damage, they looked forward to further discussion during this session. The LDCs called for funding for the work of the Adaptation Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Green Climate

Fund (GCF). It also highlighted the importance of the Consultative Group of Experts on Non-Annex 1 National Communications.

Panama on behalf of Countries of the Central Integration System (SICA) stressed the importance of loss and damage mechanism with links to other bodies and institutions such as Adaptation Committee, Technology Executive Committee (TEC), GCF and Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) as well as the Adaptation Fund.

Swaziland on behalf of African Group said on loss and damage, that developed countries should take the lead and highlighted that the institutional arrangement should include the components of compensation, rehabilitation and insurance. On finance, it expressed deep concern over the Adaptation Fund. On technology transfer and development, it wanted the barriers to be addressed.

The European Union said Parties should respond to the call from science and should deliver balance for advancing work under the ADP (Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform). On loss and damage, it said the decision in Doha gave us clear mandate to achieve in Warsaw.

The SBI Chair proposed the following agenda items and sub-items to be forwarded to informal consultations:

- Work programme to further the understanding of the diversity of NAMAs (item 5 (b))
- Capacity-building under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol (item 14 (a) and (b))
- Provision of financial and technical support (item 4 (c))

- Report of Adaptation Committee (item 8)
 - Matters related to least developing countries (item 9)
 - National Adaptation Plans (item 10)
 - Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism (item 13)
 - The 2013-2015 review (item 16)
 - Annex I national communication (item 3)
 - Non-Annex I national communication (item 4)
 - NAMA, including composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts under ICA (item 5 (a))
 - Matters relating to finance (item 12)
 - Matters relating to mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol (item 7 except sub-item 7 (e))
 - A second dialogue under the Convention Article 6 on public participation (item 19)
- The following agenda items and sub-items were also briefly considered and forwarded to contact groups for further work:
- Coordination of support for implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangement (item 6)
 - Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity (item 11)
 - Programme budget (item 18 (b)).