

ADP meeting suspended; adopts conclusions on way forward

Bonn, 14 June (Hilary Chiew and Meena Raman)
The second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) was suspended on 13 June, with the adoption of conclusions proposed by the Co-Chairs on the way forward for future work.

Since Friday, 7 June, the ADP had been having informal meetings (which were closed to observers) to discuss draft conclusions proposed by the Co-Chairs on 'Implementation of all the elements of decision 1/CP.17' (the 2011 Durban decision on the Durban Platform).

The closing plenary was delayed for an hour as developed countries questioned the necessity of a technical paper on adaptation [see paragraph 8 (b) below on the conclusions] which was requested by developing country Parties to inform further work of the ADP.

According to sources, what developing countries had wanted was a technical paper "presenting information on the costs and benefits of, and opportunities for, adaptation under different scenarios of global average temperature increase, considering linkages between adaptation and mitigation".

The final compromise reached as reflected in paragraph 8(b) of the conclusions is for a "technical paper synthesizing submissions on the costs, benefits and opportunities for adaptation based on different drivers of climate change impacts, including the relationship between adaptation and mitigation."

It is learnt that another matter which saw some divergence of views among developed and developing countries was over the way the ADP should be conducting its future work. Many developing countries led by the Like-minded Developing Countries for Climate Change (LMDC), wanted work to proceed in "a

balanced, focused and more formal mode of work", instead of having discussions in the format of roundtables and workshops. It seems that many developed countries preferred continuing work in an informal way with discussions in a roundtable format.

Agreement was finally reached as reflected in paragraph 7 below for the "in-coming Co-Chairs to propose, drawing upon submissions by Parties and observer organisations, a balanced, focused and more formal mode of work for consideration by the ADP at its meeting to be held in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013."

Co-Chairs Jayant Mauskar (India) and Harald Dovland (Norway) presided over what was to be their last session of the ADP as they hand over the work of the working group to a new set of Co-Chairs.

Among the highlights of the conclusions which were adopted on Thursday, 13 June were as follows :

" 2. The ADP recalled its conclusions at the second part of its first session¹ and agreed on the need to convene at least one session in 2014 in addition to the sessions to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice as well as the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and further agreed to return to the need for further sessions during the third part of its second session.

4. Under workstream 1, the ADP invited Parties and observer organisations to make further submissions, by 1 September 2013, building on the conclusions of the ADP at the second part of its first session.

5. Under workstream 2, the ADP invited Parties and observer organisations to make further submissions to the secretariat, by 1 September 2013, in relation to the conclusions of the ADP at the second part of its first session and on further activities for its plan of work in 2014.

6. In their submissions referred to in paragraph 4 and 5 above, Parties may wish to further explore and elaborate specific ideas and proposals. The ADP requested the secretariat to make these submissions available on the UNFCCC website.

7. Recalling the conclusion of the ADP at the second part of its first session, the ADP invited the in-coming Co-Chairs to propose, drawing upon submissions by Parties and observer organisations, a balanced, focused and more formal mode of work for consideration by the ADP at its meeting to be held in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013.

8. The ADP requested the secretariat to prepare, and to make available by 30 October 2013, taking into account submissions, the following two technical papers to inform the work of the ADP:

(a) A second version of the technical paper requested by the conclusions of the ADP at the second part of its first session;

(b) A first version of a technical paper synthesizing submissions on the costs, benefits and opportunities for adaptation based on different drivers of climate change impacts, including the relationship between adaptation and mitigation.

9. The ADP further requested the secretariat to prepare an overview of the mandates, as well as the progress of work under institutions, mechanisms and arrangements under the

Convention, to inform the work of the ADP, including on linkages.

10. The ADP invited the Co-Chairs to prepare, based on the discussions at the first and second parts of the second session of the ADP and under their own responsibility, a note on progress, and to make this note available to Parties for their information.”

Mauskar then announced the election of the incoming Co-Chairs who will serve for the next 18 months until the end of 2014.

The two new Co-Chairs are Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr Artur Runge-Metzger of Germany.

In a short speech, Mr. Kumarsingh said there are strong indications that the ADP process is on the right path due to the good work of the outgoing Co-Chairs for their capabilities in steering the ADP in its early stages, adding that he is looking forward to the challenges and hoped to rise to the occasion.

Mr. Runge-Metzger said the existing Co-Chairs had laid excellent foundation for the ADP. There is need to get to a lot of serious work to facilitate the work of the Parties for the successful mid-term until Peru (venue of the 20th session of the Conference of Parties). He promised to do the right thing and make Parties talk to each other and take this process further as the world was watching.

(Groupings of Parties then made closing statements at the plenary, which will be carried in a further article.)

The ADP plenary was then suspended and will resume in Warsaw in November.