

SBI Chair updates plenary briefly and suspends session again

Bonn, 6 June (Zhenyan Zhu and Meena Raman)
The Chair of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) convened a brief plenary session of the body on Wednesday, 5th of June, to update Parties on the status of informal consultations with Parties over a proposal by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine to include a new agenda item on the provisional agenda for the 38th session.

(The new agenda item proposed for addition was on "procedural and legal issues relating to decision-making by the Conference of Parties (COP) and the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP).")

On Monday, 3 June, the provisional agenda could not be adopted due to wrangling over the issue and was adjourned to enable informal exchanges to continue, in an effort to find a solution on the matter.

Parties had expected the SBI session to resume on Tuesday, June 4, as originally indicated by the Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow (Poland), but this did not materialise until the convening of the plenary for a very brief session on Wednesday, June 5, in the evening at around 6 pm which lasted around half an hour and was then suspended again.

Chruszczow informed Parties that informal consultations continued on Tuesday and he had dialogues with the African Group, India, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, China and the Chair of G77+China. He observed some steps forward on the issue but "it was not sufficient to bridge a divergence of views".

On Wednesday, 5 June, the SBI Chair reported that he had consultations with the European Union, the 3 proponents of the agenda amendment and the G77 and China. He said that

Parties had decided to exchange in dialogue directly, and he trusted that this would deliver good results.

He pointed out that after careful legal analysis of the legal mandates for various activities, sessions have started on some matters:

- The 'response measures' in-forum workshop did not require any additional action and could proceed;
- The workshop on the 'structured expert dialogue of the 2013-2015 review' is not part of a contact group meeting and could go on;
- The workshop on 'reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries' (REDD-plus) could go on;
- The meeting of the 'Durban Forum on capacity-building' was within the mandate and could proceed.
- The dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention is not linked to the SBI agenda and could go on as well as the
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) workshops.

However, the SBI Chair said that as the joint contact group on 'development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism' required work to be launched by both the SBI and SBSTA, it could not be constituted.

The Chair then said that as Parties are trying to find a solution and that the Chair of the G77 and China and the amendment proponents are continuing to have a dialogue, Parties would be informed via the CCTV if the plenary could be resumed by 7 pm on Wednesday.

Following these remarks by the Chair, Saudi Arabia informed the plenary that the Chair of G77 and China and some members of the Group were not present in the plenary hall, and that it would share the information with them.

In response, the SBI Chair said the G77 and China Chair (Fiji) was aware of the convening of the plenary. Chruszczow added that the SBI needed to have clarity and suspended the session.

Many Parties and observers were seen to linger around the halls of the meeting venue until around 8 pm or so, when the announcement over the CCTV showed that the SBI would not resume again for the day.

It remains uncertain if the SBI will be able to resume on Thursday, 6 June.