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SB36 Side Event report

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)
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This is a report of a side event held at the 36th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC from May 14th to 25th 2012, in Bonn, Germany.

- Title : NAMA developments in the MENA Region
- Date : 13:15 - 14:45, Saturday, 19 May, 2012
- Organizer(s) : ClimateNet
- Venue : Room Metro at the Ministry of Transport of Germany
- Presenter(s) : Axel Michaelowa (Perspectives Climate Change), Samir Tantawi (Ministry of the Environment, Egypt) and William Agyemang-Bonsu (moderator: UNFCCC Secretariat)
- Abstract: International experts and practitioners from the ground discuss the state of NAMA development in the MENA region.

■ Summary

1. Axel Michaelowa: "State of NAMA development and insights from NAMA scoping in the MENA region"

- Dr. Michaelowa began his presentation by explaining the elements to take into consideration in developing NAMAs. It was noted that some preparatory work is needed before a NAMA is established and that there are elements to be taken into account during the development process, such as relationships with other national priorities and financial requirements. He then mentioned criteria against which a NAMA was to be evaluated, which include notably GHG mitigation potential, cost of abatement and sustainable development benefits.
- He also mentioned the situation of NAMA identification in the MENA region. According to him, the countries that have identified at least one NAMA in the MENA region are: Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. There are some bilateral and multilateral support mechanisms in place to support those NAMAs being prepared and implemented by Germany, the World Bank and the UNDP. In this respect, one can say that the region is actively promoting NAMAs compared to many other parts of the world. For example, Tunisia has already envisaged 40 projects of renewable

energy (solar, wind and biomass) and energy efficiency, whose aggregate GHG potential amounts to 1.5 million mt CO₂e per year. In very general terms, the states in the MENA region share common strengths and weaknesses in terms of NAMA implementation. The former typically include solid national renewable energy legislation, high potential of GHG reduction in the energy sector and experience of the CDM, whereas the latter are marked by slow implementation, lack of domestic financing availability, limited mitigation potential outside of the energy sector and limited availability of skilled experts.

- Dr. Michaelowa argued that the countries in the MENA region need further institutional arrangements, capacity building and financially stable support to overcome these weaknesses thus identified. He noted in this respect that past COPs have been crucial in mobilizing such necessary support to the MENA countries and that the COP18 at Doha would provide such a window of opportunity. Mr. Michaelowa concluded his presentation by reiterating the MENA region's potential in terms of NAMA development and the conditions to be met for the region to fully develop such potential.

2. Samir Tantawi: "Egypt's NAMA potential"

- Mr. Tantawi, the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment outlined Egypt's NAMA potential as a case study to shed more light on NAMA developments in the MENA regions. He affirmed at the outset that decisions taken in the two former COPs constitute a strong drive for the country to push forward Egypt's efforts on NAMAs. In more concrete terms, the Cancun Decision 1/CP.16 called for increased financial support to mitigation efforts by the Non-Annex I countries; and the Durban Outcome invited developing country parties to submit information on their NAMAs by way of a web-based platform.
- According to Mr. Tantawi, Egypt's total GHG emissions in 2005 amount to roughly 220 mt CO₂e, which is estimated to grow by 3.7 percent annually and eventually reach 550 mt CO₂e in 2030. Given such a rapid increase in GHG emissions of the country, its abatement potential is also huge. He affirmed that the total emission could be reduced to 350 mt CO₂e in 2030, which represents about 37% below BAU. And the abatement potential is deemed particularly high in the energy sector, followed by the transport and agriculture sectors. In these sectors, Egypt has already taken mitigation measures both independently and in cooperation with international donors.
- In spite of Egypt's high mitigation potential, many obstacles lie ahead of it, which include most notably: volatility of carbon markets, uncertainties about the future of the CDM and carbon markets, fund availability, weak institutional and individual capacities, and limited access to technologies. Notwithstanding such difficult circumstances, Egypt

has compiled a preliminary list of NAMAs; concrete items on the list include: road afforestation, energy efficiency for motorcycles, construction of a metro network, fuel switching and household energy efficiency.

- In his concluding remarks, Mr. Tantawi affirmed that Egypt would not discontinue its efforts in the CDM but would utilize NAMAs for the purpose of complementing it.

■ Q&A

Q. (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency): What is Egypt's national strategy regarding NAMAs like?

A. Mr. Tantawi: Sustainable development is priority, although national strategy is still in its infancy.

Q. (Germany): Do NAMAs that are being developed in the MENA region, take into account technological feasibility?

A. Dr. Michaelowa: Of course it would be ideal if that was the case. But in reality, technological feasibility is not always taken into account in developing NAMAs.

Q. (University of Freiburg): What's the process of NAMA development by the national institution like? Is there any coordination among relevant ministries?

A. Dr. Michaelowa: Usually it is the case that each ministry concerned deals with matters on their own turf, hence little coordination is ensured among them.

Q. (German Watch): What is the level of involvement of the private sector with regard to NAMA development in Egypt? Is there any plan of public-private partnership?

A. Mr. Tantawi: There has been little involvement of the private sector unfortunately.

Q. (University of Freiburg): Is there any NAMA that has been already monitored, reported and verified in Egypt?

A. Mr. Tantawi: Unfortunately there is none yet. Egypt has a number of NAMA projects, none of which are actually being implemented.

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