

June 9, 2014

“Supporting the preparations for Nationally Determined Contributions” SB40 Side Event Report

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)
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This is a report of a side event held at the 40th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of Implementation of the UNFCCC from June 4th to 15th 2014, in Bonn, Germany.

- Title : “Supporting the preparations for Nationally Determined Contributions”
- Date : June 8, 2014 (13:15-14:45)
- Organizer(s) : UNDP
- Venue : Tram, Ministry of Transport
- Presenter(s) :
 - Yamil Bonduki, Low Capacity Building Programme, UNDP
 - Donald Cooper, UNFCCC Secretariat
 - Jose Manuel Sandoval, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia
 - Opong Boadi, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
 - Ariane Labat, EU climate negotiation team
- Abstract: This event provided an overview of technical dialogues to assist developing countries with their preparations for their domestically determined contributions. The dialogue has been implemented as a series of regional technical meetings.

■ Summary

1. Donald Cooper: Opening remarks
 - After welcoming the audience, Mr. Cooper congratulated countries and organizations participating at the regional dialogues.
 - He recognized that in spite of limited information, countries took the initiative to discuss about contributions that should be nationally determined.
 - He remarked that regional meetings are valuable for many reasons. And so, they were planning to repeat the experience in Asia.
 - He finished by thanking UNDP and other organizations for this initiative.

2. Yamil Bonduki: “Regional technical dialogues on intended-NDC contributions to the 2015 agreement”

- Mr. Bonduki explained the historical process how Nationally Determined Contributions were created.
- He introduced UNDP’s initiatives to organize a series of regional workshops in collaboration with UNFCCC with funding from Austria, Belgium, EU, France, Germany, Norway, UK and US.
- The workshop for Latin America and Africa were organized in Colombia (April) and Ghana (May), respectively, while the workshop in the Asia Pacific region is expected to be organized in July.
- UNDP conducted a survey in order to find positions from countries. Results showed that most of the countries haven’t started preparations in relation to NDCs; the survey also showed that vision from governments were directly linked to national sustainable development, among others.
- The objective of the technical dialogues was to discuss technical elements, the institutional context, and show the consultation process for the preparation of the contributions, and finally, to share experiences and best practices.
- Among the conclusions, it has been recognized that there are different capacities and capabilities and timelines. Mmore analysis on mitigation potential, cost analysis, co-benefits, etc. was necessary. For most countries adaptation is the main priority, but adaptation needs are hard to quantify and implementation of adaptations is hard to evaluate.
- He finished by indicating that developing countries have a lot of experience and information to base their NDCs, such as national inventories, CDM, NAMAs, NAPAs, NAPs, LEDS, nationally determined policies, sectorial policies, etc. While contributions must be linked to development, green growth, and increased resilience, they must also respond to science and to be fair, equitable and transparent.

3. Jose Manuel Sandoval: “Latin American technical dialogue on intended nationally determined contributions”

- Mr. Sandoval summarized the results of the workshop held in Latin America, highlighting a strong interest in the region through a high level of participation.
- Some of the topics discussed in this workshop were consultative and development oriented processes, considerations on adaptation, consideration when preparing INDCs on mitigation, etc.
- Among the lessons learned in relation to political issues, there is a need for high level

political support, climate change should be included as part of a national plan or strategy for sustainable development, there are many benefits of having a highly inclusive and participative process that involves expert stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, civil society and academia: this provides credibility and robustness, among others.

- As for lessons in relation to technical issues, it is important to strengthen institutional capacity, because an effective implementation depends on it; additionally, transfer knowledge to sectorial institutions is required; south - south type of technology collaboration was also mentioned.
- There are some remaining questions in relation to scope of contributions and the time framework to prepare contributions, since the Latin American region has a lot of experience but also a lot of asymmetry in capacities.
- He finished his presentation by providing some suggestions for a possible future work, as for example, to organize future dialogues in order to have a regional space for countries to update with each other's progress preparing their INDCs, try to find points of convergence within the region, explore ways for a more effective engagement of high level political actors, etc.

4. Opong Boadi: "African technical dialogue on intended nationally determined contributions"

- Mr. Boadi reported about the workshop held for the African region.
- Among participants' general perspectives, they have concluded that INDCs should cover all the pillars of the convention, economic development must be a driving factor for action on climate change, adaptation is the priority for the region, mitigation actions should be clearly identified in the context of development priorities, legal status of INDCs should be clarified, and finally support will be necessary for the preparation and implementation of INDCs.
- Among barriers to INDCs preparation, there is insufficient clarity about the scope, elements and legal status, insufficient guidance on the preparation process at a national level, in particular how to engage high level political actors and a broad range of stakeholders, low capacity for technical work and analysis at the national level, lack of financial and technical support, insufficient clarity on what information should be needed to present INDCs.
- Among challenges identified, he mentioned quantification of climate change impacts, access to data and development of baseline information, analysis of mitigation potential by sectors and the economic implications of actions, tools and methodologies for

assessing costs and development co-benefits, setting up a national inventory system.

- At the political level, some challenges identified were a high level of political mandate and support needed, how to foster ambition and how to mobilize support needed from domestic and international sources.
- He concluded his presentation mentioning possible next steps, such as preparation of a guideline on the preparation of INDCs, technical guidelines including adaptation, mapping of support, etc.

4. Ariane Labat: (presentation unavailable).

- Ms. Labat explained briefly about the EU experience in the workshops and considerations required when preparing intended contributions on mitigation.
- Some of the considerations were how to address this issue without duplication in other initiatives, and how to group ideas and put it into a proposition to take it to political discussions.
- She finished by indicating that support is needed and so, it would be useful to have a second round of meetings to respond questions in a more tailored manner.

■ Q&A

Q.1 (Representative from India): In relation to financial support to be provided by EU, please clarify if EU will support all the pillars. If financial support will not be provided, it would be a waste of time to discuss about INDCs.

A.1 (Ms. Labat): Decisions and details about financial aspects should be treated at for example at ministerial meetings because although this is an essential part of the discussion, I think it is not part of this event's discussion. Today, some approaches and tools were presented and we are trying to design kind of a package to discuss with stakeholders. We are trying to find out what was the aim of the technical dialogues.

Q.2. (Representative from the Ministry of Environment of Zimbabwe): How we differentiate which activities are NAMAs? We have just finalized our climate change strategy with NAMAs, so as for INDCs, do we need to change/adjust our strategy?

A.2 (Mr. Boadi): All these programs that we have talked about have to be encored in the national agenda. For Ghana, we had our initial consultation and most countries highlighted this aspect. When you do projects, it has to be in tandem with the development agenda of your country and final results should be sustainable. A country has to set its development

agenda and see the need of support in specific parts based on your priorities.

Q.3. (Representative from India): Please clarify about the contents of the INDCs and how adaptation will be included.

A.3 (Mr. Sandoval): Here we are presenting reflections of all countries that have participated at the workshops. Most Latin American countries believed that adaptation is one issue that should be in INDCs, but in fact, implementation should be taken with more clarity. We need more guidance from the political side. Many questions remained in relation to how we can reflect adaptation in INDCs.

Q.4. (Representative from India): Please clarify about timeframe. It seems it would be overlapping with other compromises such as projects under the GEF. What will be the role of the private sector?

A.4 (Mr. Bonduki): It is true that we have to ensure coherence in the timeframe at the country level with timeframe in relation to INDCs. However, please note that for INDCs we will have a simple and fast proposal mechanism, I am talking about a 2-month calendar approval. Yes, adjustments will be necessary and will be discussed in the second round of dialogues. As for the role of the private sector, some countries talked what is the role private sector will be playing but discussions continue, but whatever the action, I am sure the private sector will have a participation in the process.

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English:

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