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### **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

### **Report on the informal meeting of representatives from Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed prior to the meeting**

**Note by the secretariat\***

#### *Summary*

This report provides an overview of the discussions on, and the issues identified in relation to, the implementation of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change at the informal meeting of representatives of Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed under the work programme, which was held from 28 to 30 September 2010 in Manila, the Philippines. Representatives and experts shared their experiences of, and views on, the implementation of the Nairobi work programme in terms of modalities, thematic and work areas, and knowledge outputs and products. Recommendations and suggestions were provided on ways and means to strengthen activities beyond 2010 in support of enhanced adaptation action in all sectors and at all levels.

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\* This document was submitted after the due date because the informal meeting was held later than originally planned.

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1–10	3
A. Mandate.....	1–4	3
B. Background .....	5–7	4
C. Scope of the note .....	8	4
D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.....	9–10	4
II. Proceedings .....	11–21	5
III. Analysis of key issues discussed at the meeting .....	22–62	6
A. Implementation of the Nairobi work programme 2005–2010 .....	23–52	6
B. Possible activities beyond 2010.....	53–62	12
IV. Conclusions.....	63	14
Annex		
Possible activities beyond 2010 and their associated delivery modalities identified at the meeting.....		15

## I. Introduction

### A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and before its thirty-third session, an informal meeting of representatives from Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed prior to this meeting, taking into account a summary report on the results of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme for the period up to SBSTA 28<sup>1</sup> and the expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme outlined in paragraph 2 of the annex to decision 2/CP.11. The SBSTA further requested the secretariat to prepare a report on this meeting, to be made available to the SBSTA by its thirty-third session.<sup>2</sup>

2. At the same session, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the results of the second phase of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme for the period up to SBSTA 32 for its consideration at SBSTA 33.<sup>3</sup>

3. At its thirty-second session, the SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 16 August 2010, views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme in fulfilling its objective and expected outcome, as well as in terms of its scope of work and modalities, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document<sup>4</sup> to inform the discussions at the informal meeting mentioned in paragraph 1 above.<sup>5</sup> At the same session, the SBSTA requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to prepare inputs and develop an agenda to facilitate discussions at the meeting within the framework of reviewing the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme in fulfilling its objective and expected outcome, as well as in terms of its scope of work and modalities, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11.<sup>6</sup> In response to this mandate, a background paper, complementing the summary report referred to in paragraph 2 above, was prepared to provide additional inputs to the informal meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above.<sup>7</sup> In addition, through an online survey, all Nairobi work programme partner organizations were invited to provide views and information on their experiences in terms of their engagement in the implementation of the work programme. The summary of responses to the survey was included in annex II to the background paper.

4. In addition, the SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, agreed to consider, at its thirty-third session, the outcome of the informal meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above, the summary report referred to in paragraph 2 above, new scientific information, as well as information on relevant activities from organizations and institutions, with a view to reviewing the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme and reporting on its outcomes to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its sixteenth session in accordance with decision 2/CP.11, paragraph 6 (e).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This summary report is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 24.

<sup>3</sup> This summary report is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/10.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2010/Misc.8 and Add.1.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 20.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 17.

<sup>7</sup> The background paper is available at <<http://unfccc.int/5706.php>>.

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 25.

## **B. Background**

5. Following their consideration of the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and their acknowledgement that adaptation is a necessity for all countries, Parties to the Convention requested the SBSTA to initiate work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation to climate change (decision 10/CP.9). At the tenth session of the COP, Parties decided to elaborate a five-year work programme under the SBSTA (decision 1/CP.10). After additional deliberations at COP 11, Parties adopted the five-year programme of work of the SBSTA on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and specified its objective, expected outcomes and scope of work (decision 2/CP.11).

6. The overall objective of the Nairobi work programme is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.<sup>9</sup>

7. The five-year mandate of the Nairobi work programme, as set out in 2/CP.11, runs until 2010. The SBSTA was requested to review and report on the work programme to the COP at its sixteenth session.<sup>10</sup>

## **C. Scope of the note**

8. This report provides a summary of the discussions at the informal meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above. It includes the views and experiences of representatives and experts on the implementation of the Nairobi work programme to date, in terms of the modalities and activities, thematic and work areas, and knowledge outputs and products. It covers key issues identified and suggestions made for strengthening activities beyond the current mandate period of the Nairobi work programme to support enhanced adaptation actions. This report contains:

- (a) A description of the workshop proceedings (chapter II);
- (b) An analysis of the key issues discussed at the meeting (chapter III), including the effectiveness of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme to date (chapter III.A), and views on and suggestions for strengthening activities beyond the current mandate period of the Nairobi work programme (chapter III.B);
- (c) A summary of key messages (chapter IV).

## **D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

9. In line with the conclusions at its twenty-eighth session, the SBSTA will consider, at its thirty-third session, the outcome of the informal meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above, the summary report referred to in paragraph 2 above, new scientific information and relevant activities of organizations and institutions, with a view to reviewing the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme and reporting on its outcomes to COP 16. It is also expected to provide to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation for its consideration

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<sup>9</sup> Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

<sup>10</sup> Decision 2/CP.11, paragraph 6 (e).

relevant information and advice on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change arising from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme.

10. The SBSTA may also wish to agree, at its thirty-third session, *inter alia*, on the next steps for the Nairobi work programme as considered appropriate.

## II. Proceedings

11. The informal meeting of representatives from Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed under the Nairobi work programme was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 28 to 30 September 2010. The informal meeting was organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, while the Government of Canada provided financial support. Mr. Mama Konaté, Chair of the SBSTA, chaired the meeting.

12. Participants at the workshop comprised 42 representatives of 24 Parties and 12 partner organizations that have been actively engaged in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme.

13. Inputs to discussions at the meeting included the submission of views and information by Parties and organizations on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme in fulfilling its objective and expected outcome, the summary reports referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the background paper mentioned in paragraph 3 above, which includes a summary of the responses of partner organizations to an online survey.

14. The Chair opened the informal meeting with a short statement, in which he highlighted that the aim of the meeting was not to serve as a negotiating forum, but that the meeting was an opportunity to review progress made and further needs for the implementation of the work programme and hence to provide valuable inputs to negotiations at SBSTA 33. He also reminded participants of the challenging work under the agenda item on the Nairobi work programme at the next SBSTA session, given the limited time available for negotiation and the large number of issues to be considered. Further, he noted that discussions on the Nairobi work programme need to take into account the emerging new context of discussions on adaptation under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), particularly that relevant functions served by the Nairobi work programme are underlined by discussions under the AWG-LCA. He also stated that the proliferation of adaptation activities highlighted the importance of coordination and collaboration and the well-established mechanism under the Nairobi work programme to engage stakeholders, whose active participation plays an important role in enhancing adaptation action within a future climate regime.

15. A representative of the secretariat expressed gratitude to the Governments of the Philippines and Canada for their support in the organization of the meeting and noted that, in addition to the organization of a large number of workshops and meetings and the preparation of documents, much has also been done under the Nairobi work programme with regard to the engagement of wide-ranging stakeholders, catalysing targeted adaptation action, and developing and disseminating knowledge outputs and products.

16. The representative of Canada highlighted the success of the Nairobi work programme in engaging stakeholders, catalysing adaptation action, and developing and disseminating knowledge products, and underscored the importance of the work programme continuing to provide the much needed support for enhanced adaptation action.

17. Mr. Demetrio L. Ignacio, Under-Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines, underlined the importance of adopting a national

climate change strategy, not least in view of increasingly intense and unpredictable extreme weather events. He highlighted that while it reflects national circumstances and priorities, the Philippines' national climate change strategy has much to gain from the guidance of international processes such as the Nairobi work programme.

18. The substantive discussions of the meeting were divided into two parts, with the first part focusing on the review of the effectiveness of the implementation of the work programme and the second taking a more forward looking perspective and identifying ways and means to strengthen activities beyond the current mandate period of the Nairobi work programme to support enhanced adaptation action.

19. As a basis for discussions within the first part, the secretariat presented an overview of the activities undertaken under the Nairobi work programme and their associated outputs. A set of presentations from partner organizations, experts and Parties, as well as question and answer sessions, and open discussions were held on the different perspectives on the implementation of the Nairobi work programme to date, including successes and further needs.<sup>11</sup> In addition, breakout groups were established in order to provide an opportunity for more interactive and in-depth discussions, which were then followed by a facilitated reporting back and open discussion.

20. For the second substantive part of the meeting, the secretariat provided a summary of ways identified to strengthen activities beyond 2010 to support enhanced adaptation action, drawing on relevant resources of information and discussions at earlier sessions of the meeting. After a session of open discussions, participants proposed to formulate a second set of breakout groups to further discuss ways and means to strengthen activities beyond 2010. A number of concrete ideas and proposals were derived from these breakout group discussions and were reported in the ensuing plenary session.

21. The Chair closed the informal meeting with a summary of the key discussion points and an outline of possible next steps.

### **III. Analysis of key issues discussed at the meeting**

22. As noted in paragraph 18 above, discussions at the meeting were centred around two broad areas: implementation of the Nairobi work programme to date and possible activities beyond 2010. To facilitate discussions, three aspects of the implementation were used as overarching topics: modalities and activities; thematic and work areas; and knowledge outputs and products. Representatives shared their views and experiences through presentations in plenary sessions and through in-depth breakout group discussions. Key issues discussed around these two broad areas are summarized in paragraphs 23–62 below.

#### **A. Implementation of the Nairobi work programme 2005–2010**

23. Parties, organizations and experts shared views on the implementation of the Nairobi work programme from their experiences in engaging in the process. The value added by, successes and weaknesses of, and areas for improvement in the implementation of the work programme were identified and discussed. In addition, current practices and lessons learned, which suggest pointers to a more effective work programme under the SBSTA beyond 2010 to support adaptation actions, were also shared.

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<sup>11</sup> Presentations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/5706.php>>.

## 1. Engagement of stakeholders

24. One of the key contributions that the Nairobi work programme has made to addressing adaptation is the engagement of Parties, organizations, communities and experts representing major stakeholder groups.<sup>12</sup> This has been achieved through a variety of mandated activities, including the organization of technical workshops, expert and informal meetings, focal point forums,<sup>13</sup> and the communication and dissemination of relevant information. Technical workshops, expert and informal meetings and focal point forums have provided a common space for Parties and organizations to share knowledge and experiences and to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Information provided by partner organizations online on their adaptation activities and on experts facilitates the engagement of additional stakeholders and the fostering of partnerships among Parties and organizations. By engaging a wide range of stakeholders, the Nairobi work programme has helped to develop a community of practice on adaptation, which is perceived by Parties and organizations as a significant outcome under the Convention process.

25. While recognizing the progress made in engaging stakeholders and in fostering partnerships and collaboration during the five years of the Nairobi work programme, Parties and organizations highlighted the need to further engage stakeholders, particularly those from LDCs and SIDS, that represent the most vulnerable, that are involved with on-the-ground action and that play significant roles in delivering adaptation actions. A delegate from the Cook Islands noted that while climate change impacts have been widely felt in that country, key stakeholders such as the transport and construction sectors are not yet engaged in discussions on adaptation. This limits the political will in investing in adaptation interventions in the country. Japan noted that national-level decision makers, as well as the private sector, are interested in being engaged but lack access to relevant information.

26. In this connection, participants indicated that the difficulty of communicating scientific uncertainty has hampered their efforts to engage adaptation stakeholders. A representative of South Africa further noted that the uncertainty in climate science has been used inappropriately as an excuse for inaction. He reminded participants that adaptation planning should focus on certainties: the most vulnerable regions, sectors and communities; the ongoing trend in key climate parameters; and the increase in certain types of hazards (e.g. wildfire, floods and droughts). Representatives from Austria and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction highlighted the advantages of taking a risk management approach to decision-making under uncertainties. A representative of the Global Water Partnership underlined the value in taking a 'no regrets' approach.

27. Participants suggested that focal point forums be held more frequently (e.g. on an intersessional basis), be allocated more time and be better scheduled during the COP meetings in order to allow more in-depth exchange and discussion. Regional focal point forums were noted as a possible way to enhance focus and to potentially engage more practitioners.

28. Participants noted that Parties have the responsibility to inform, mobilize and incentivize stakeholders at the national, subnational, local and community levels across different sectors. A representative of Practical Action shared the observation that national authorities need to identify the appropriate knowledge nodes, which vary from country to country and region to region, in order to engage and mobilize stakeholders. However, to do

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<sup>12</sup> As at 22 October 2010, 196 organizations have become partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme.

<sup>13</sup> Although it is not a modality set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, this modality emerged in the midst of implementing the Nairobi work programme and has enjoyed broad support from Parties and organizations.

this effectively, as also noted by representatives of Parties, national-level institutions need sufficient capacity.

29. Parties and partner organizations further noted the need to enhance partnership between Parties and partner organizations, through, inter alia, the sharing of information and experience. Participants underlined the benefits of information on relevant activities by partner organizations being more regularly and systematically shared under the Nairobi work programme.

## **2. Catalysing targeted adaptation actions**

30. Benefiting from its position as a multilaterally negotiated process, the Nairobi work programme has been successful in catalysing targeted adaptation actions from a wide variety of partner organizations. Calls for action,<sup>14</sup> derived largely from elaborations on the needs and gaps identified at Nairobi work programme technical workshops and expert meetings, and action pledges<sup>15</sup> have been highlighted by Parties as effective instruments for the work programme to mobilize organizations and to catalyse concrete actions.

31. To further improve the effectiveness of calls for action, participants noted the need to make them more action-oriented. They also suggested undertaking periodic updating of the calls to reflect evolving understanding and knowledge on the relevant aspects of adaptation. With respect to action pledges, it was noted that more regular updates on activities undertaken, results achieved and impacts made by implementing pledged actions would be helpful. In this connection, suggestions were made for a targeted template to be used by organizations to provide periodic updates.

32. To further realize the potential of the role of the Nairobi work programme in stimulating and supporting on-the-ground adaptation actions, participants highlighted the need to more closely align the needs of Parties and the actions of organizations and to more systematically document, monitor and evaluate adaptation practices.

33. Various ideas were shared on how the Nairobi work programme might be able to further bridge the needs of Parties and the actions of organizations. Suggestions included the setting up of an online “matching platform” or clearing house to facilitate the communication of adaptation “demand” and “supply”. Some Parties also suggested that a group of experts under the Nairobi work programme could be established to work with countries to identify the needs and priorities of Parties.

34. Parties and organizations highlighted the important role of regional centres and networks in strengthening connections between Parties and with organizations. In this connection, the need to strengthen the capacity of regional centres and networks was underlined. A representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC), shared a new initiative of that organization in support of the objectives of the Nairobi work programme, in which a Latin American regional framework will be developed to allow for the bottom-up identification of national needs to be communicated to regional centres through designated national institutions, while the regional centres, directly linked to the Nairobi work programme at the Convention level, provide information on available resources and offers of action by Nairobi work programme partners within the region and beyond to subnational stakeholders via national entities. This *modus operandi* for better connecting Parties and organizations under the Nairobi work programme gained significant interest among participants from within and outside the region and was believed to be worth considering for other regions.

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<sup>14</sup> As at 22 October 2010, nine calls for action were issued and an additional two are pending consideration by Parties at the thirty-third session of the SBSTA.

<sup>15</sup> As at 22 October 2010, 51 organizations have made 133 action pledges.



35. To promote learning by doing and building the adaptation knowledge base, participants highlighted the need to more systematically document and share good practices and lessons learned from on-the-ground actions. Suggestions were made for Parties and organizations to prepare short summaries (e.g. two pages long) of relevant initiatives for sharing at workshops and meetings. It was also noted that the Nairobi work programme should strive to highlight what constitutes good adaptation practices and maladaptation, and to promote replication of successes. In addition, a representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia underlined the need to develop indicators to help with monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions.

36. On the provision of technical and scientific assistance to developing country Parties, many Parties highlighted the need to provide easier access to technical resources and expertise. The establishment of a centralized point of contact for technical backstopping was noted as one possible solution.

37. With regard to the roles of processes under the Convention, subsidiary bodies and national governments in implementing adaptation, a representative of New Zealand and others highlighted that the Convention processes (including the Nairobi work programme) can provide valuable guidance, principles and technical advice. However, adaptation itself needs to be country-driven and the national governments ultimately take responsibility for driving the process. Participants further noted the need to better link activities under the Nairobi work programme to work undertaken by other UNFCCC expert groups (i.e. the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer) and under other areas of the Convention, for example activities on education, training and awareness-raising, and capacity-building.

### **3. Developing and disseminating information and knowledge products**

38. The representative of Practical Action highlighted the importance of intellectual capacity. To that end, the Nairobi work programme's role as a knowledge hub and learning platform has been significant. During the past five years, a wide range of information and knowledge products has been generated through, inter alia, deliberations among Parties, organizations, communities and experts at various forums under the work programme, inputs from Parties and organizations in the form of submissions and voluntary contributions from partner organizations on aspects of implementing relevant adaptation actions. In addition, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and with substantive input from partner organizations, the secretariat developed and maintains a website that contains information and knowledge products that have been distributed through a wide variety of means.

39. Parties and organizations appreciated the information and knowledge products generated under the Nairobi work programme. They acknowledged that these products have helped to enhance their understanding and assessments of climate change impacts and vulnerability and have improved their ability to make informed adaptation decisions. In particular, Parties noted that adaptation work in their countries has benefited from technical papers, the "Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change"<sup>16</sup> and other knowledge products developed under the work areas of socio-economic information, methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling. The synthesis publication on action pledges,<sup>17</sup> coordinated by the secretariat with voluntary contributions from organizations, was noted as particularly helpful for communicating and showcasing actions by

<sup>16</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/2674.php>>.

<sup>17</sup> Available at <<http://unfccc.int/4628.php>>.

organizations. Participants also noted that the Nairobi work programme newsletter, the eUpdate, is an effective way of keeping Parties and organizations up to date with the implementation of the work programme.

40. While acknowledging the success in developing information and knowledge products, Parties and organizations also identified ways to enhance knowledge products in order to better assist adaptation implementation on the ground. It was noted that the information and knowledge generated so far are of a general nature and are not sector, or location, specific. In this regard, participants noted the need to “interpret/translate/down-scale/transform” these knowledge products within national and local contexts in order that they can be accessed and used by relevant stakeholders. It was noted that stakeholders are more likely to become engaged and motivated when provided with contextualized information and knowledge.

41. Despite the value of detailed technical papers, reports, publications and other documents produced under the Nairobi work programme, participants underscored the need to provide more user-friendly versions of these products, considering the needs of the targeted users. Providing short summaries of these detailed products tailored to different audiences was also suggested as a way forward. Establishing a group of experts under the Nairobi work programme was noted as a potential mechanism to guide the production of such user-friendly products and to take forward recommendations made in relevant papers, reports and publications.

42. In addition to suggestions for enhancing the focus and style of information and knowledge products, participants also identified potential additional products that the Nairobi work programme could produce and that would add value to what already exists. These include: case studies to highlight good practices and lessons learned on the application of methods and tools (including those for estimating the costs and benefits of adaptation options) contained in the Compendium on methods and tools; action-oriented guidance documents; and synthesis and analytical publications on ongoing adaptation actions.

43. Participants also noted that the Nairobi work programme website could benefit from a review and screening of its content and that its functionality could be strengthened through changes to the design/layout so that it better serves as a central portal on adaptation. It was also suggested that a feedback mechanism be provided for Parties and organizations to share views on the usefulness of information and knowledge products, including the Nairobi work programme website, and to provide ideas of how to enhance them.

44. With regard to the dissemination of information and knowledge products, Parties and organizations highlighted the desirability of disseminating such products down to stakeholders at the subnational and community levels. While a wealth of knowledge has been generated under the work programme, only a limited portion of this knowledge reached practitioners on the ground and vulnerable communities at the local level. As an analogy, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago described the current situation as similar to a large amount of water being held behind a dam, but with a lack of pipes hindering the free flow of water to its end-users.

45. Participants shared a variety of ideas to establish the functional cross-linkages (the “pipe system” in the analogy above) for the free flow of information and knowledge between the Nairobi work programme at the Convention level down to the regional, national and local level and back up to the Convention level. These ideas include: identification of the key “knowledge brokers” who could serve as a link between the different levels of information and knowledge exchange; tailoring information and knowledge to the target audience; providing information through web portals, digests,

updates and briefings, etc.; providing information in locally accessible media (e.g. podcasts, video) and language; and developing strategic partnerships with regional centres and networks. The RIOCC pilot initiative as described in paragraph 34 above was noted as a possible way to enhance the dissemination of knowledge under the Nairobi work programme.

#### **4. Value added and benefits of the Nairobi work programme**

46. While recognizing the difficulty of quantitatively measuring the impact that the Nairobi work programme has had on the adaptation policies and practices of Parties and organizations, participants concurred that the work programme has brought notable added value and benefits.

47. Representatives of Parties acknowledged that as a nexus for adaptation under the Convention, the Nairobi work programme has increased awareness and international focus on adaptation and has helped delegations to better understand key issues on adaptation under the AWG-LCA process. Parties also cited examples of where engagement in the implementation of the work programme has resulted in better informed decisions on adaptation planning. To illustrate the benefits of its participation in the Nairobi work programme technical workshop on climate-related risks and extreme events,<sup>18</sup> a representative of the Cook Islands shared experience on the development of a joint disaster risk management and climate change adaptation national action plan, which was developed in order to make the best use of limited institutional capacity and to simplify and coordinate outreach across its 12 islands. A representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) underlined that the Nairobi work programme has begun to address scientific gaps of importance to the South Pacific region. The design and planning of adaptation programmes in that region were able to draw on the knowledge generated under the Nairobi work programme.

48. Organizations underlined that their engagement in the Nairobi work programme has improved the effectiveness of their work through new partnerships and opportunities to collaborate with Parties and other partner organizations. The Nairobi work programme enabled wider dissemination of their information resources and knowledge products. By actively engaging in the work programme through making action pledges and providing updates, contributing to publications, and preparing inputs and contributions to workshops and meetings, organizations also benefited from improved internal coordination and communication on issues related to adaptation. Engagement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme has provided organizations consisting of multiple programmes and operational centres with an effective mechanism to enhance organizational capacity through a more coordinated approach to work on adaptation.

49. In addition, organizations highlighted that certain elements of their programmes and projects may not exist without the work programme. Representatives of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and SPREP concurred that the Nairobi work programme would improve future adaptation programmes in their respective regions. To respond to the need for improved user feedback on the information and services provided and for capacity-building in a changing climate as identified through the World Climate Conference 3, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has made adjustments to its “traditional” operations and programmes. Indeed, WMO recently made 15 action pledges to the Nairobi work programme. These action pledges are for refinements in a wide range of operations and programmes within the WMO system and will be implemented over the next two years.

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<sup>18</sup> The workshop took place from 18 to 20 June 2007 in Cairo, Egypt. More information is available at <<http://unfccc.int/3953.php>>.

## **5. Summary**

50. Adaptation is a complex process that entails engagement of different stakeholder groups and interventions from different levels and in different sectors. Important to the effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation actions are functional partnerships and collaboration across levels and sectors and among stakeholder groups. The implementation of the Nairobi work programme during the past five years has successfully generated a critical mass of engaged stakeholders at different levels and from different sectors. Momentum for adaptation has been created, and the large number of Parties and partner organizations engaged, the wealth of knowledge generated and lessons learned through the implementation of the Nairobi work programme are important for moving forward with enhanced adaptation action within a new climate regime.

51. However, recognizing that the objective of the Nairobi work programme is to assist Parties to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures, Parties and organizations highlighted the need to strengthen or, where needed, establish links between stakeholder groups and across sectors and levels through more diverse and stronger partnerships and collaboration. They also noted the need for effective two-way information and knowledge flow between the Convention process and the regional, national, subnational, local and community levels.

52. Building on the successes of and good practices and lessons learned from the past five years of implementation, the Nairobi work programme has the potential to facilitate the fostering and strengthening of these linkages and to enhance the availability of practical information to address the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation.

## **B. Possible activities beyond 2010**

53. During the second part of the meeting, participants shared views and ideas on how to strengthen the Nairobi work programme in order to better support enhanced implementation of adaptation. Discussions were held both in plenary and breakout group settings. Parties and organizations focused on priority activities that could be implemented over the next year or two, should Parties decide to extend the Nairobi work programme at SBSTA 33.

54. Parties and organizations highlighted that an extended Nairobi work programme should include: (1) the establishment of an effective two-way knowledge management mechanism to deliver information and knowledge to stakeholders and to obtain feedback, adaptation experiences and local knowledge from stakeholders; and (2) a better alignment of the needs of Parties and the resources, expertise and actions. In addition, Parties and organizations underlined the importance of building on what already exists and what has been successful and of giving priority to activities that can be readily undertaken ('low hanging fruit') while considering activities to be implemented under a potential future phase of the Nairobi work programme.

55. With this in mind, the priority areas that emerged from a facilitated plenary discussion session include: partnerships and collaboration between stakeholders at different levels and from different sectors (e.g. the issue of linkages); subthemes of particular relevance to adaptation implementation (e.g. the costs and benefits of adaptation options, decision-making under uncertainties); and the relevance of information and knowledge products. To provide further details on possible further activities, a set of breakout groups were established to undertake more in-depth discussion on these three clusters of issues. For the purposes of this analysis, the priority activities and their associated implementation

modalities identified during discussions in the second part of the meeting are summarized under three headings: enhancing stakeholder engagement; further catalysing targeted actions; and enhancing the development and dissemination of information and knowledge products. Details of the identified activities and associated delivery modalities are presented in the annex. Information on how these activities could be carried out is available on the meeting website.<sup>19</sup>

### **1. Enhancing stakeholder engagement**

56. Activities identified to enhance stakeholder engagement focus on awareness-raising, communications, outreach, partnerships and collaboration, and the focal point forum (see the annex). Some of the activities are more straightforward, for example the strengthening of the focal point forum, whereas others would take significantly more time and effort, such as engaging the private sector. Parties, organizations and the secretariat all have roles to play in these activities.

### **2. Further catalysing targeted actions**

57. One area of activity that featured prominently at the meeting is ways to better connect Parties to organizations and experts through a better alignment of the needs of Parties and the expertise and actions of organizations and experts (see the annex). Modalities for delivering such improved alignment included the development of a clearing house or a “matching platform” whereby information on the needs of Parties and the expertise, resources and activities of organizations and experts are made available.

58. Participants also suggested piloting of regional mechanisms, such as the initiative newly launched by RIOCC as described in paragraph 34 above. Similar initiatives for Asia were discussed at the recently held Asia-Pacific climate change adaptation forum.<sup>20</sup>

59. Participants felt that the organization of technical workshops and expert meetings would benefit from a more explicit definition of the target groups, sectors or regional focus, which would improve the depth of discussion, engagement of participants and chances of action. In addition, it would be helpful to plan for follow-up activities to maintain the momentum generated at meetings, which would keep participants active and engaged.

60. Further, participants suggested ways to enhance calls for action and action pledges. Under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and in consultation with Parties and organizations, the secretariat could work to improve the calls for action by making them more action-oriented and by undertaking periodic updates to incorporate emerging new knowledge. When submitting action pledges, organizations should strive to make more direct linkage to relevant calls for action and the needs of Parties. In addition, it would be helpful if organizations provided more regular updates on their pledged actions in order to facilitate learning by doing by Parties and other organizations.

### **3. Enhancing the content and dissemination of information and knowledge products**

61. Participants identified a range of activities that would result in the development of new products and that would improve the dissemination of Nairobi work programme information and knowledge products (see the annex). With regard to new products, the development of a guidance document on assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options and the development of a compilation of traditional and indigenous knowledge and technologies for adaptation to climate change were recommended within a broader

<sup>19</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/5706>>.

<sup>20</sup> Details of the Forum is available at <<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2010/>>.

discussion of the need for tailored products for policymakers and practitioners, periodic synthesis and analytical products, and the improvement of the Nairobi work programme website.

62. With regard to the dissemination of information and knowledge, participants highlighted the need to provide offline information resources and knowledge products for stakeholders without web access, to produce user-friendly versions of knowledge products (e.g. podcasts, videos) and to facilitate feedback from users on the usefulness of the information and knowledge provided.

## **IV. Conclusions**

63. The following key messages emerged after an extensive exchange of views and in-depth discussion among representatives from Parties and organizations and experts:

(a) The Nairobi work programme has been successful in creating momentum for adaptation through engaging a large number of stakeholders, catalysing action by organizations in response to gaps and needs identified through the deliberations under the work programme, and developing and disseminating information and knowledge outputs and products;

(b) Parties and organizations acknowledged that their engagement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme has benefited countries and organizations through, inter alia:

(i) Enhanced partnerships and opportunities for collaboration between Parties and with partner organizations;

(ii) Knowledge products that have led to the consideration and incorporation of climate change adaptation into relevant programmes or projects;

(iii) Improved internal communication and coordination within countries and organizations;

(c) With adaptation activities gathering pace, Parties and organizations called for the continuation of the Nairobi work programme, recognizing that it could play a key convening role and could provide the information and knowledge needed to support enhanced implementation of adaptation actions.

## Annex

### **Possible activities beyond 2010 and their associated delivery modalities identified at the meeting**

#### **Possible activities to enhance stakeholder engagement:**

- Enhancing the engagement of stakeholders, particularly those most vulnerable;
- Strengthening the focal point forum;
- Further engaging the private sector;
- Establishing strategic partnerships with regional centres and networks;
- Enhancing collaboration among expert groups under the Convention (i.e. the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer);
- Facilitating collaboration between Parties and organizations.

#### **Possible activities to further catalyse targeted adaptation actions:**

- Enhanced technical workshops and expert meetings;
- Strengthening calls for action and action pledges;
- Developing a mechanism to link priorities and needs identified by Parties with the resources and activities of partner organizations.

#### **Possible activities to enhance the content and dissemination of information and knowledge products**

##### **Content development:**

- Developing a guidance document on assessing the potential costs and benefits of adaptation options;
- Developing a document on traditional and indigenous knowledge and technologies;
- Enhancing web-based resources:
  - To produce a user-friendly online resource on the Nairobi work programme;
  - To provide more relevant information on the activities of partner organizations;
  - To create an interactive web interface to facilitate feedback from users;
  - To develop an online repository for on-the-ground adaptation actions;
  - To provide more language versions of key resources;
- Developing summary products tailored for policymakers;
- Developing targeted products for practitioners;
- Developing periodic synthesis and analytical products.

**Dissemination:**

- Providing access to resources and products for stakeholders with limited web connectivity;
  - Facilitating feedback on the usefulness of products for targeted users and on how the products are used at the national and subnational levels;
  - Exploring the use of more user-friendly formats of knowledge products.
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