

Developing Countries express disappointment at little progress in Climate Talks

Bonn, April 9 (Meena Raman) - Developing countries expressed their disappointment over little progress at the climate talks in Bonn which ended on 8 April and stressed that there were wide gaps in understanding the positions of developing countries. They also emphasised the serious implementation deficit by developed countries of their commitments under the UNFCCC.

Some developing countries (India and Algeria) also expressed concerns that developed country Parties were bringing in extraneous issues beyond the mandate of the Bali Action Plan (BAP). Algeria said that this was slowing down the progress of negotiations, making it difficult for agreement in Copenhagen at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

The Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) concluded the work of its' fifth session which began on 29 March.

The next session of the AWG-LCA will consider a text for negotiations, which will be prepared by the Chair of the AWG-LCA, Michael Zammit Cutajar, of Malta, who is the Chair of the AWG-LCA.

Ambassador Dr. Ibrahim Mirghani of Sudan on behalf of **G77 and China** said that Parties need to act with urgency and in a manner which is consistent with the objectives, principles and respective obligations of all Parties to the Convention. The Group expressed its disappointment at little progress made by developed countries in the discussions and that up to now, it saw very little concrete engagement of developed country Parties, in this process. There

remains a wide gap in the understanding of positions that would allow us to move together to Copenhagen. In particular, there is a serious implementation deficit regarding developed countries' commitments related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology under the Convention.

The G77 and China underlined that Parties are undertaking a process to enhance the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. Therefore, Group is determined, in this process, to address the serious implementation gaps in the four main building blocks of the BAP that is mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology development and transfer under the Convention. All the proposals and submissions made by the Group and its member States or groups of developing country Parties are made with a view to bridging all these implementation gaps. The Group is looking forward to receiving a negotiating text in accordance with the mandate given to the Chair to prepare it for the June session. The Group reiterated its' position that the text should be based on Parties' submissions, proposals, and should reflect the Group's views and interests made through submissions and deliberations during the meetings of the AWG-LCA.

While welcoming a renewed participation of the United States, the Group said that Parties are still to hear from the US on how it aims to fully engage in an international process of negotiations, and how it views the proposals that are now before Parties.

The Group reiterated that for developing countries, all efforts of the international community should

be conducive to change the current lifestyle, in particular that of Annex 1 Parties, and to ensure a sustainable development pathway that would also contribute to the eradication of poverty. It also stressed its commitment to participate in good faith and in a truly transparent and open process.

Grenada on behalf of the AOSIS said that it came to the AWG-LCA session with the expectation of developing concrete proposals on many issues. The discussions have been disappointing. The developed countries did not have concrete proposals. There were also a number of disturbing trends. The most disturbing is the casting of aspersions over the scientific basis regarding climate change. Parties are saying that the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should not be the basis of negotiations. It asked if Parties were serious about dealing with the climate challenge. It said that it was important to keep science at the centre of the deliberations. Parties must be guided by the best available science as a principle and that this was non-negotiable. Negotiations should ensure a legally binding outcome, including for finance that would address loss and damage suffered as a result of climate change. It said that the survival of Small Island States is not negotiable.

Lesotho for LDCs said the future sessions must ensure an open transparent and inclusive process. It called for ambitious emission reduction targets for developed countries. The LDCs reiterated the need for the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and stressed the need for enhanced action on adaptation and that financing adaptation, is payment for the damage caused due to climate impacts. It said that the funding for the Least Developed Countries' Fund (LDCF) under the Convention only had \$2 million when what is needed is \$2 billion. It asked developed countries to fulfill their pledges as they had committed to meeting the agreed full incremental costs of adaptation and mitigation. The enhanced financial mechanism that is proposed must be fully accountable to the COP and be equitable, ensure direct access and be country driven.

India said that Parties are here mandated by the BAP to discuss under the AWG-LCA a way to ensure the full, sustained and effective implementation of the Convention. In the negotiating text, we ask the Chair to ensure that it is in full accordance with the mandate of the BAP and that it seeks to enhance the implementation of the Convention and that it does not take on board issues outside this precise mandate. We have noted that some of the views expressed during the deliberations clearly lie outside the provisions of the Convention and the mandate of the BAP. There have been proposals to scale down the financial commitment that developed countries have under the Convention and at the same time, to ask for mitigation commitments and not nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries. In this regard, there have been references to terms such as "advanced developing countries" and "deviation from business as usual low carbon strategies" which lie outside the Convention and even outside the scope of any agreed language. They also mention numbers and figures that have no basis in sound science but are based on subjective assumptions which the authors do not even reveal.

India asked the Chair to mention in his negotiating text, particularly in each of the operative paragraphs, those Article or Articles in the Convention whose implementation the paragraph proposes to enhance. A linking of all operative paragraphs of the text to specific Article or Articles of the Convention that it proposes to enhance the implementation of, would be extremely useful and would help the Parties in their endeavour to reach an agreed outcome in Copenhagen, said India.

Algeria expressed concern in the way discussions were moving. It stressed that the mandate of Parties was to enhance the implementation of the Convention. It recalled that at COP 11, Parties made a simple decision to start a dialogue on long-term cooperative action. In Bali, developing countries made concessions and approved the BAP.

It had hoped for better results in Bonn. It stressed the need for goodwill among Parties. It said that there were two elements that it viewed as barriers which will slow down the pace of negotiations. One, was the attempt by some developed country Parties to link and merge the two track process between the AWG-LCA and the work of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). These are efforts to create a new configuration in the UNFCCC process. The second relates to the question of differentiation (efforts to differentiate among developing countries to take on emission reduction commitments).

Algeria said that if Parties work in this manner and bring in considerations outside the AWG-LCA, there will be difficulties in reaching agreement in Copenhagen.

Bolivia, speaking for itself, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela presented an outline of principles and a methodology to quantify the historical climate debt arising from the historical responsibility of developed countries for irrational emissions. Developed countries have less than 20% of the world's population but are responsible for at least three-fourths of the historical emissions of GHGs, limiting the air space required by developing countries for their development. Developed countries in the past and present continue to over-use and continuously surpass the capacity of the Earth's climate system to absorb the emissions of GHGs, which limits the availability of the carbon space in the atmosphere. This is historical debt.

Additionally, the consequences of suffering in developing countries in terms of costs, damage and loss and delayed development due to the impacts of climate change, is what is called the adaptation debt. Consequently, the climate debt of developed countries is the sum of the historical emissions debt and the adaptation debt, which is part of an even greater ecological debt which includes factors such as loss of biodiversity and other ecosystems, the ecological footprint, excessive consumption of

resources, etc. The climate debt has to be paid, and must be an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

This debt repayment must take the form of developed countries implementing their commitments to reduce their emissions and by other means that generate atmospheric space required by developing countries. Any final solution must ensure an equitable distribution of the limited capacity of the planet by capturing and sequestering greenhouse gases and the costs of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Particularly, it must be ensured that developing countries secure their share of the remaining air space for their sustainable development. Developing countries are not begging for more money for a problem that they did not cause but are asking for the full payment of the climate debt.

Argentina speaking on behalf of 14 countries in Latin America and the **Caribbean**, said that it was critical that emissions of developed countries be stabilised at 350 ppm by reducing at least 45% by 2020, and at least 95% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

Japan stressed the need for the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP to ensure coherence to establish a post 2012 framework. In relation to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, more focus must be on both historical and future contributions of all Parties in a new framework.

The **EU** said that the Bonn meetings provided a valuable opportunity for Parties to elaborate more details of their ideas and to gain understanding.

The **US** expressed appreciation for the warm reception it received in its renewed engagement in the climate talks. It said that it was important for Parties to take actions compatible with their national circumstances and level of development. It said that the result in Copenhagen must stimulate near term mitigation actions with a longer-term planning and this was essential both for developed

and developing countries. The US will take economy-wide cap-and-trade measures and mandatory targets for emissions to be reduced by 80% by 2050. It stressed the importance and role of the carbon markets.

The AWG-LCA conducted its work in four contact groups, viz. on shared-vision, mitigation, adaptation as well as finance and technology. The chairs of the various contact groups presented their impressions of the discussions from the contact groups. Three in-session workshops were also held and comprised of the economic and social consequences of response measures, workshop on subparagraphs 1(b)(i) and 1(b)(ii) of the Bali Action Plan and a workshop on opportunities and challenges for mitigation in the agricultural sector.

The Chair of the AWG-LCA said that he will prepare a Chair's summary of the work, where reports of the in-session workshops will be appended.

In relation to work on the negotiating text, Cutajar said he will start working on the text as mandated and will present it two weeks in advance of the next session in June. He also reminded Parties to provide

their submissions by 24 April which will be reflected in the negotiating text.

At the June session of the AWG-LCA, Cutajar said that he proposed to have the negotiating text first read as a whole in a single sitting. On the form of the agreed outcome for Copenhagen, he said that he will ask Parties when it would be appropriate to consider the matter and that this will be on the agenda for consideration at the next session in June. The AWG-LCA also concluded that having assessed the work required of it to enable the COP to reach an agreed outcome, the AWG-LCA determined that the provision of additional meeting time in between the sessions already scheduled would facilitate the successful completion of its work. Therefore, an informal meeting from 10-14 August in Bonn, Germany will be held and a resumed 7th session of the AWG-LCA from 2-6 November at a location to be announced.

The 6th session of the AWG-LCA will be held from 1-12 June and the 7th session will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 September to 9 October, and the 15th COP will be in Copenhagen from 7-18 December.