

ecbi report

ecbi Regional Workshop for West Africa

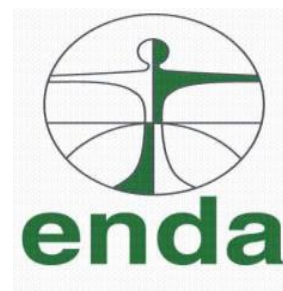
August 2011

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This Workshop Report has been compiled by Gifty Ampomah and Moussa Na Abou Mamouda.

Partners



ecbi Regional Workshop for climate negotiators from West Africa

Introduction

The European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) is an initiative for sustained capacity building in support of international climate change negotiations. It aims to promote a more level playing field between government delegations to the international climate change negotiations, and to facilitate mutual understanding and trust - both between European and developing countries and among the developing countries.

The ecbi Regional Workshops aim to foster collaboration in the targeted regions as well as to mainstream the climate change issues by involving officials from mainline ministries. They are open to all the countries in the regions to enable the regional negotiators to meet, exchange views, and if they wish, plan together. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) organizes one workshop in each of the ecbi target regions (Asia, West Africa, and East Africa) annually.

The 2011 Regional Workshop for West Africa took place in Dakar, Senegal, on 18-19 August. It was organised jointly by IIED, ecbi and Environment and Development Action (ENDA). The workshop was attended by 37 participants from the region, including negotiators and regional focal points to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), representatives from ministries of environment, finance and planning, and Members of Parliament.

Session I: State of the Art in Climate Change Negotiation

The first session opened with a welcome speech by Secou Sarr, Energy Coordinator, ENDA. Saleem ul Huq from IIED presented the background and overall scope of the ecbi Regional Workshops. On behalf of the President of the Senegalese National Committee on Climate Change (COMNACC) and the Director of Environment, Madeleine Diouf highlighted the barriers in negotiating a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.

Honadia Mamadou, climate negotiator from Burkina Faso and the African Group, then presented on the State of the Art in Climate Change Negotiations. In the presentations and the discussions that followed, participants noted that “old” issues such as capacity building and

finance still need to be addressed. It was felt that African delegations are not well represented in the working groups, and only 4 per cent of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects were hosted in Africa, mainly because of limited human capacity. The session emphasized the need to strategise clearly for Durban, build alliances with small island states, prepare written proposals with a consistent position, and take concrete actions in order to be heard.

Session II: Towards an African Roadmap to Durban

In the session on the African Group's preparations for Durban, participants emphasised the high vulnerability of the region, despite its small contribution to climate change. It was felt that the US\$ 30 billion, promised in Copenhagen as climate 'fast-start finance', was being disbursed too slowly.

In Durban, the African Group would continue negotiations on the effective implementation of conventions, based on science and rule of law, and the establishment of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The meeting of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) meeting in Bamako from 12-16 September 2011 was expected to create a platform for experts to meet with ministers and heads of state, to form common positions.

Session III: LDC Strategy in the UNFCCC Negotiations

The Chair of the Least Developed Country (LDC) Group, Pa Ousman Jarju from the Gambia, said the Group faced human, institutional, financial and technical challenges in dealing with the climate change negotiations. It is poorly represented in the negotiations; there is poor coordination within the Group; many negotiators are from the Francophone region and hence face a language barrier; and there are deficiencies in reporting back to the national levels.

The LDC Chair provides training support for capacity building workshops (such as this one). Plans are underway to have another core team to report directly to the Chair in order to prevent biases and conflict of interest on national issues. The Group plans to appoint a public spokesperson to articulate their concerns and positions; offer training and capacity building for member countries; and provide personal, legal and technical advice to the Chair. In addition, supporting tools such as information booklets, synthesis documents, and English language improvement kits were being made available to negotiators.

In Durban, the key issues for the LDC Group will include: funding to the tune of a billion dollars to implement National Adaptation Plans of Action; a legally binding agreement; and direct access to the Green Fund.

Session IV: Gender and Climate Change

Sandra Freitas from Climate Analytics presented on gender and climate change, emphasising disparate vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity, and the need to mainstream gender issues. It was highlighted that ‘sex’ is related to biological differences between men and women whereas ‘gender’ is about the interrelations between men and women. Freitas pointed out that while gender is not specifically addressed in the UNFCCC negotiations, advocacy efforts are underway to include references in party submissions, and negotiating texts under SBI, SBSTA, AWG-LCA, NWP, Green Fund, etc. She highlighted the need to support the LDC and African groups on gender mainstreaming.

Session V: Status of Adaptation to Climate Change

Ndéye Fatou Diaw Guéne from Senegal presented on the status of the adaptation negotiations. He emphasised the need to mainstream adaptation in development policies and programmes, and to give it as much attention as mitigation.

Session VI: Mitigating emissions: What is new in the UNFCCC negotiations?

Presenting on mitigation, Sandra Freitas emphasised the need to avoid a gap between the two commitment periods. She pointed to difficulties in negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol track. In the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) track, she said 48 developing countries have compiled Nationally Appropriate Adaptation Action so far, agreeing to annual reporting and international assessment and review. She emphasised the need to secure a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol; and a standard reporting format to improve reporting.

Session VII: Technology transfer

Birama Diarra from Mali presented on the history of the negotiation on technological transfer under the UNFCCC, saying the mandate of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) was extended at the 13th Conference of Parties (COP-13). He said there were 20 members in the Group, of which 4 were from African countries: Lesotho (on behalf of LDCs), Algeria, South Africa and Kenya. Technological Needs Assessments were being

carried out in Morocco, Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya in Africa for the first group and Mauritius, Lebanon, Zambia, Rwanda for the second group. A Technology Mechanism will be operational in 2012 with capacity building workshops.

Session VIII: Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC

Benito Müller, Director of the ecbi, made a presentation on the Financial Mechanism. He said the distribution of financial resources between adaptation and mitigation was unequal. For instance, only 4 per cent of the total spending on climate change by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was for adaptation between 2005 and 2010. Currently, GEF is the only operating entity of UNFCCC Financial Mechanism, and emphasised the need for improving accountability of the GEF to the COP.

Session IX: Legal Options for Addressing a Gap between Kyoto Protocol Commitment Periods and Implications of a gap

Achala Chandani, International Institute for Environment and Development said the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012. One of the targets at Durban will be to continue the negotiation of a second commitment period to start on January 2013. Due to the limited time constraints on the processes leading to the establishment of a second commitment period, there is likely to be a gap between the two periods. During this gap, she said:

- CDM projects will continue uninterrupted
- Long term financing of the Adaptation Fund could be affected, but this does not affect donors ability to make contributions
- The Kyoto Protocol will not expire
- Targets can also be amended if they are insignificant

Alternative options which could prevent gaps between subsequent commitment periods include the provisional application of amendments as provided for in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties; the extension of the first commitment period; Unilateral Declarations by member states; or a decision by the COP/ Meeting of Parties to extend the first commitment period.

Working Groups

Three Working Groups were formed (Negotiators, Government Institutions/Financiers, and Members of Parliament) to discuss a set of ideas on expectations from CoP 17 in Durban.

The Negotiators Group highlighted the need to:

- Agree on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol or an extension of three years by the Cancun agreement
- Keep temperature rise within 1.5°Celsius
- Operationalize the Green Fund as soon as possible, and
- Agree on mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer and capacity building

The Government Institutions/Financiers Group felt that although funding is available, disbursement is very slow. In response, they suggested that:

- The funding mechanism should be made more flexible
- Capacity building programmes should be set up in each country.
- Regional support programmes should be put in place to operationalize the Green Fund, taking into consideration the interest of small island countries

The Group recommended that governments:

- Establish a national climate change committee in each country and set up appropriate financial mechanism with strong political will at both regional and sub-regional levels
- Enhance the legal framework
- Strengthen the capacity of negotiators
- Initiate and develop regional integrators projects

The Members of Parliament Group made the following recommendations with respect to parliamentarians, negotiators and African states:

- Capacity enhancement and training for parliamentarians and negotiators
- National climate change committees set up by Parliamentarians in their respective countries
- National governments should allocate funds for climate change issues, and exchange experience to help those without NAPAs.
- Greater involvement of parliamentarians and representatives of Ministries of Finance in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Annex I

List of Participants

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