

Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA)

Submission of Grenada on behalf of The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Views and relevant information on progress made and gaps as well as views on new activities that may be needed to achieve the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme (NWP), in order to inform the review

April 2011

Grenada welcomes the opportunity to present the views of the 43 members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), in response to the invitation to Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 28 March 2011, their views and information on progress made and gaps as well as new activities that may be needed to achieve the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP).

As small island developing states, particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and already feeling these effects, AOSIS would like to emphasise the need to move from information sharing and assessment activities to substantial implementation of adaptation actions on the ground.

In the five years since the beginning of the NWP, much of the work developed under the thematic areas has evolved to a more practical and results-oriented level. In the context of the review of the NWP, AOSIS favours the continuation of work under the Convention on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change but in the course of the review would like to consider whether the SBSTA is the best place to house it.

Possible Areas for Future Action

- (a) *Enhanced capacity at international, regional, national, sectoral and local levels to further identify and understand impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation responses, and to select and implement practical, effective and high priority adaptation actions;*

It is difficult to determine whether capacity has been enhanced without baseline studies of existing capacity at the beginning of the NWP. Anecdotal evidence is insufficient for assessing the degree to which this outcome has been achieved. Capacity needs differ at each level/region, and SIDS have specific capacity constraints which requires a direct focus in the work of the Convention as agreed in 2/CP.11.

Recommendation for implementation: A programme of support for strengthening national institutional arrangements, especially in SIDS be established. A monitoring mechanism to evaluate where capacities have been enhanced and where gaps and needs continue to exist would be useful.

- (b) *Improved information and advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, including facilitating the implementation of decision 1/CP.10, where relevant;*

On improved information to COP and the SBs – the NWP has done well, including the helpful specific consideration of SIDS issues in workshops; however, facilitating the implementation of relevant interim activities as agreed at SBI-33 (see FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1 excerpt in

Annex) remains, and should provide more evidence of the NWP's effectiveness under this expected outcome.

Recommendation for implementation: A mechanism for facilitating the flow of information and advice on adaptation to the SBI. This could be coordinated by the Adaptation Committee established at COP 16 as part of the Cancun Agreements.

(c) *Enhanced development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation activities;*

Practical adaptation activity implementation is still limited. Therefore, development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation activities has not been significantly enhanced. There have been challenges with the usefulness and relevance of web based interfaces in SIDS, and difficulties of application of methods and tools to SIDS contexts.

Recommendation for implementation: Enhancing the development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation activities, especially for SIDS and LDCs should be one of the priorities of the newly established Adaptation Committee.

NB: An interim activity agreed at SBI-33 (see Annex), takes this outcome into consideration by inviting developed country Parties and relevant organisations to assist developing country Parties in enhancing their efforts to integrate adaptation into the planning process, drawing on existing literature, including the relevant documents developed under the NWP.

(d) *Enhanced cooperation among Parties, relevant organizations, business, civil society, and decision makers, aimed at enhancing their ability to manage climate change risks;*

Some enhanced cooperation has been facilitated by the action pledges initiated through the Secretariat, but perhaps less amongst Parties than organizations outside the Convention.

Recommendations for implementation: Formalise the action pledge process, including an information dissemination component that takes information technology constraints of developing countries, especially SIDS and LDCs into account. One of the goals of a formalised action pledge process could be to focus on feeding information on the management of climate change risks into the Work Programme on Loss and Damage established at COP16 as part of the Cancun Agreements.

(e) *Enhanced integration of actions to adapt to climate change with sustainable development;*

There has been some integration of sustainable development with adaptation concepts, but these are not always systematic. Actions to adapt to climate change should be based on country priorities. There is an urgent need to strengthen national institutional arrangements for adaptation to enable enhanced integration to take place in line with country priorities including through national adaptation planning processes. Small Islands Developing States face particular challenges and capacity limitations which require targeted approaches.

Recommendations for implementation: Develop a programme for support of national institutional arrangements including technical backstopping, where available through regional centres and the UNFCCC Secretariat. Provide a mechanism to prepare methodologies and guidelines for facilitating integration of adaptation actions with sustainable development plans and programmes at the national and subnational levels, especially for SIDS, noting the NAPA

process already in place for LDCs. This should be one of the functions of the newly established Adaptation Committee with input from the Least Developed Countries expert group.

In the context of the review of the NWP at SBSTA-34, the recommendations for implementation set out above could provide a basis for discussions of possible areas of future action on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change under the Convention.

ANNEX

Relevant Interim Activities agreed to by the SBI United Nations FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1

The SBI underlined the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders in planning, preparing and implementing adaptation action, as appropriate, in particular those responsible for investment and planning decisions across relevant sectors in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries and small island developing States.

The SBI requested the secretariat to enhance the web-based interface with a view to improving the availability of information on accessing existing funds for adaptation, including for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action. It also requested the secretariat to develop, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, user-friendly outputs and accessible forms of disseminating the relevant information, including information contained in the web-based interface, with the aim of building capacity for the identification and preparation of project proposals and for project implementation, and reaching adaptation practitioners at the national and subnational levels, in particular in developing countries.

The SBI invited developed country Parties and relevant organizations to assist in the efforts to deepen the understanding of policymakers in developing country Parties, inter alia, of the costs and benefits of adaptation options, with a view to enhancing the efforts to integrate adaptation into the planning process, drawing on existing literature, including the relevant documents developed under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The SBI requested the secretariat to organize a workshop, subject to the availability of resources, to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change, building on the lessons learned and practical experience of international, regional and national organizations and the private sector. The SBI further requested the secretariat to make the report of the workshop available for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth session.