

## **Submission by the United States of America**

### **Possible Areas of Further Work Under the Nairobi Work Programme**

**22 September 2011**

At its thirty-fourth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat their proposals for upcoming activities under the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP). The United States welcomes the opportunity to submit, pursuant to paragraph 25 of FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, its views on possible areas of further work under the NWP.

The NWP has made significant progress in achieving its objective of assisting 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 based on sound scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information. The NWP has been successful in attracting over 200 partner organizations, which represent non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, national and regional institutions, UN agencies, academia, the research community, and the private sector.

Partners have made over 140 action pledges to advance adaptation by assessing risk and vulnerability, raising awareness of climate impacts and adaptation solutions, building capacity, delivering climate information and services to decision makers, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and good practices, and providing financial and technical support for adaptation planning and activities. For example, calls for action have enhanced regional cooperation and networks in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific as NWP partners have worked to make climate information and tools more available, accessible, and applicable to decision makers facing region-specific challenges.

The NWP allows Parties to utilize and leverage these inputs from non-Party stakeholders by making information about projects, lessons learned, and good practices widely available, and by providing a forum for identifying cross-cutting challenges to implementing adaptation action and for collectively identifying solutions. Calls for action under the NWP help interested partners focus on priority scientific and technical needs, thereby facilitating the utilization of resources where they are most needed for supporting adaptation action. The United States sees value in looking into further ways to more fully take advantage of the knowledge, expertise, and innovation of partners through the NWP. For example, the NWP's Private Sector Initiative could expand efforts to utilize the innovative capacity and experience of the private sector to complement public sector efforts and explore options for public-private partnerships.

The NWP themes and work areas have been valuable in advancing understanding of adaptation and in providing information to support informed decision making. As a new agenda for the NWP is set, we see value in revisiting the work areas to expand into emerging priority areas. The NWP can support the process to enable Least Developed Country Parties (LDCs) to prepare for and implement national adaptation plans by improving understanding of approaches to integrating adaptation into existing national and sectoral development policies and plans

identifying tools and resources that would support the design of robust medium and long term adaptation planning under multiple climate scenarios. The NWP could also add a work area on communication to improve the dissemination of information gathered through NWP efforts to those making climate adaptation decisions to support more robust adaptation action. An additional area of interest for future work is in monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions. As governments and communities work to prepare for and respond to climate impacts, it will be crucial to improve our ability to evaluate actions taking place to allow for efficient and effective use of resources and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

We also believe that it would be useful to take a sectoral approach to the work areas. This would have many advantages, most notably by helping the UNFCCC to engage and learn from thematic users what specific information and tools are most needed, at both the national and local scale, and which practical actions have proven to be successful. Looking at the work areas from the perspective of specific sectors would allow knowledge from previous NWP efforts to be more applicable for adaptation practitioners and decision makers by putting information in the context of the issues and challenges they are facing. Taking a sectoral approach in the NWP could also support national adaptation planning processes in LDCs. Priority sectors that should be considered include: water, agriculture and coasts. Our involvement in an assessment of needs under the Adaptation Partnership has shown that these thematic areas are routinely identified as critical.

Finally, while we understand the broad range of needs Parties have with regard to their adaptation activities, the United States remains committed to a NWP that undertakes its activities within the mandate of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice. We support interaction between the NWP and the SBI and/or other bodies, including the Adaptation Committee, to support adaptation actions beyond the SBSTA mandate. In this regard, some of the activities in the annex will need to be reconsidered or reformulated.