

## **SUBMISSION BY ANGOLA ON BEHALF ON THE GROUP OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

### **SPECIFIC THEMATIC ISSUES AND 4<sup>TH</sup> DURBAN FORUM UNDER THE CONVENTION**

Submission of Views, as part of their annual submissions pursuant to decision 4/CP.12, on specific thematic issues relating to capacity-building under the Convention in developing countries, to be considered at the 4th meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building, to be held at SBI 42, as well as their views on the organization of that meeting.

### **SPECIFIC THEMATIC ISSUES AND 4<sup>TH</sup> DURBAN FORUM UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Submission of Views, as part of their annual submissions pursuant to decision 6/CMP.2, on specific thematic issues relating to capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries, to be considered at the 4th meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building, to be held at SBI 42, as well as their views on the organization of that meeting.

### **The Mandate**

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation to Parties to submit views, as part of their annual submissions pursuant to decision 4/CP.12, on specific thematic issues relating to capacity-building under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol in developing countries to be considered at the 4th meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building, to be held at SBI 42, as well as their views on the organization of that meeting.

In response to this invitation, the LDC Group is pleased to submit the following views for consideration by the SBI 42 and the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity Building.

### **Background**

The Durban Forum on Capacity Building was established by COP 17 through its decision 2/CP.17, as an annual, in-session event that brings together several stakeholders involved in building the capacity of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change for in-depth discussion and to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity building.

### **Assessment of previous meetings of the Durban Forum**

The 1<sup>st</sup> and inaugural meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building was held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in May 2012. At this session of the Forum participants and presenters spoke about the need to create a snowball effect, whereby capacity-building action builds on itself, becoming larger and more effective as it goes. According to the main findings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Durban Forum monitoring and reviewing capacity building activities is critical in order to

assess their impact and effectiveness, as well as exchanging best practices and lessons learned. It was suggested that monitoring and reviewing should be done at the national level, taking the local context into account with the participation of all stakeholders is also essential. It was also suggested that capacity-building monitoring should target local communities or civil society organizations. Some participants stressed that a key limitation in monitoring the effectiveness of capacity building is that capacity development is long term in nature but its reporting on activities tends to relate to the short term. It was recommended that a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultative process approach needs to be carried out for capacity-building to be effective. It was also recommended that the effectiveness of capacity building can be monitored and evaluated through the development and application of quantitative indicators which should be complemented by qualitative indicators.

The 2nd meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building took place during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2013. The meeting provided an opportunity for those interested in or working on capacity-building to engage in panel discussions and comment on presentations from representative of Parties, NGOs, IGOs and the private sector on the delivery of capacity-building to enable adaptation and mitigation actions and to implement the Kyoto Protocol. It also provided an opportunity to receive directly from Chairs, Co-chairs and members of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol an overview of capacity-building elements in work plans of these bodies.

The 3rd meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building took place during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2014. It provided an extraordinary opportunity to learn about success stories and innovative approaches to create enabling environments and enhance the readiness of developing countries to undertake adaptation and mitigation activities. Despite the progress made, major barriers to the implementation of the capacity building framework are identified. The majority of national communications submitted by non-Annex I Parties contain information on constraints to building capacity at the institutional, systemic and individual levels. Inadequate or obsolete institutional arrangements and lack of technical expertise are identified as key obstacles to climate change action requiring urgent attention by the international donor community. A number of Parties identify the specific capacity-building support needed to implement the project ideas described in the submitted reports. The majority of developing countries, however, lamented that promoting an enabling environment fit for meeting national climate change goals is still a challenge. Many developing countries report the lack of adequate policy frameworks, which are necessary to support effective mitigation and adaptation actions. Examples of capacity constraints include the lack of national climate change policies and plans, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory strategies, national adaptation plans or technology action plans (TAPs), nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMA) plans and systems of meteorological observation, analytical tools and models.

### **Enhancement of the Durban Forum on Capacity Building**

At the beginning of every Durban Forum, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation is expected to use the information to (a) undertake the annual monitoring of the implementation of the capacity building framework; (b) facilitate discussions at the next meeting of the Durban Forum on

capacity building, and (c) Determine any further steps to support enhanced action on capacity-building. After the organization of every Durban Forum, the reports provided by the Secretariat contain “**Next steps**” that urge (a) Parties to use the information in the report in reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries and identifying ways to further enhance the delivery of capacity-building support to developing countries; (b) Parties and other stakeholders to use the information contained in the report when planning, designing and implementing their capacity-building activities in developing countries; and (c) various bodies established under the Convention to use the same information contained in the report to inform their discussions on capacity-building in performing their functions as decided by the COP.

Despite these actions being taken by Parties, SBI and the Secretariat, capacity building under the Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol is still being regarded as inadequate and not taken fully into consideration. According to comment from one participant at the 2nd Durban Forum, it is preferred to refer to capacity-building as **foundational and as an important component which can leave a lasting imprint**. The same participant continued by stressing that **since 1992, capacity-building has been applied ad hoc and has been tied to specific projects with a time-bound component, without creating a sustaining, lasting structure**. One of the Panelists at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Durban Forum noted that, **although there is a lot of capacity-building provided by bilateral development agencies, regional agencies and United Nations organizations, capacity-building is still considered to be an issue; therefore, there must be something fundamentally wrong with the way that capacity-building is dealt with**. One participant in the same Durban Forum recalled one of the key messages of the 1st Meeting of the Durban Forum, namely that **capacity comes first: if you are looking for results, you do not get results without action; if there is no capacity, you do not get any action**. The participant proposed that **the Forum should think about how to cooperate better internationally in order to get better results nationally and that in view of the stringent climate change threat we need to coordinate better**. The Chair of the Advisory Board of the CTCN as a Panelist on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Durban Forum indicated that **the challenge in building capacity as regards technology transfer is not about the ‘hardware’, but the ‘software’; it is not a one-off, quick technical exchange, but rather a long-term ongoing process that countries need to go through in order to innovate, develop, deploy and adopt technologies**.

## Submission

The LDC Group submits that this submission on the 4<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum should be read in conjunction with the Group’s submissions on *“Information from Parties on the activities they have undertaken pursuant to decision 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10, which should include, inter alia, such elements as needs and gaps, experiences and lessons learned”* and *“Views on the terms of reference for the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, to be initiated at SBI 42, with a view to completing the review at COP 22 and CMP 12 (November 2016)”*

Since 1992, capacity-building has been applied ad-hoc and has been tied to specific projects with a time-bound component, without creating a sustaining, lasting structure. As expressed in all the

Durban Forum meetings capacity-building is still considered to be an issue and the LDCs agree that there must be something fundamentally wrong with the way that capacity-building is dealt with. Most developing countries, particularly the LDCs, consider the treatment of capacity building as a cross-cutting issue that everybody is doing everywhere and every time is flawed. The Bali outcomes and the Durban decisions failed to sufficiently treat Capacity Building as a foundational element in parity with other elements (i.e., Adaptation, Mitigation, Finance, Technology Transfer) of the Bali Action Plan. The Durban Forum is inadequate to serve as an institutional arrangement for better and effective cooperation and coordination both nationally and internationally, and for monitoring, reporting and verification of achievements. Actions from the Forum are not adequately followed. Capacity building activities are conducted ad-hoc by bodies established under the Convention, and by bilateral and multilateral partners. The activities are not globally monitored, measured and verified because there is no single body responsible for this oversight. There are no internationally agreed baseline, targets and indicators to use in measuring achievement. This is because *Capacity Building is regarded as Everybody's Business and thus Nobody's Business*.

The Group recommends that a Capacity Building Coordination Committee (CBCC) should be created under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol to coordinate the organization of the Durban Forum, and the monitoring, reporting and verification of capacity building activities conducted nationally and internationally. The proposed CBCC will be able to verify and follow-up on some of the information and outcomes of activities provided during the Durban Forum and also activities conducted bilaterally, multilaterally and by non-state actors. The proposed CBCC can verify some of the information provided by Partners during the Durban Forum, for example:

- a) Status of established and strengthened institutional arrangements in some developing countries;
- b) Initiated mainstreaming of environmental and climate change related issues in other sustainable development initiatives in developing countries;
- c) Strengthened collaboration between existing institutional arrangements and the private sector that is regarded as an essential element to ensure the successful implementation of climate change activities;
- d) Status of the appointments of focal points and establishment of Network of Focal Points for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with particular focus on climate change in all government ministries, agencies, statutory bodies, academia, the private sector, including the banking and insurance sector, industry, NGOs and community-based organizations;
- e) Improvement and sustainability of capacity of Parties to fulfill obligations under multiple MEAs and to address other areas with links to climate change through the development of environmental protection policies, regulatory frameworks, and climate change public expenditure in line with sustainable development principles;
- f) Realization at the national and sub-national levels of the capacity building efforts reported by developed countries towards enhancing enabling environments by facilitating access to existing bilateral, multilateral and private capital financing options for diverse projects in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation;

- g) Availability of Expert Teams at the national level arising from capacity building activities supported by developed countries and undertaken by several developing country Parties;
- h) Evaluation of why developing country Parties continue to report high number of capacity gaps at the institutional, systemic and individual levels in all the submitted National Communications;
- i) Evaluation of why developed country Parties continue to believe that the National Communications are an extremely useful instrument to plan and target their support on a country-driven basis taking into account national priorities;
- j) Evaluate how many of the projects identified in National Communications have been funded and implemented;
- k) Provide advisory services to developing country Parties that continue to underscore the lack of adequate institutional frameworks to assess mitigation options, design NAMAs, formulate strategies for enhanced energy efficiency and renewable energy, and promote CDM project activities;
- l) Provide advisory services to developing country Parties, in collaboration with the TEC, on lifting the specific barriers to, and enabling factors for, technology transfer.

The LDC Group is of the view that the work programme of the Durban Forum should be formalized and operationalised as soon as possible. The scope of the work programme should be in line with the priority activities listed in decision 2/CP.17. The work programme should have the following activities:

- Assessing current and future capacity needs for developing countries for the effective implementation of the Convention and KP;
- Reviewing provided and available support on capacity building, since capacity building is essential for effective implementation of the Convention, including provision of dedicated finance for capacity building activities;
- Enhancing monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of capacity building by developing clear indicators and modalities;
- Establishing review mechanism for the support provided by developed country Parties to developing country Parties;
- Developing a process to assist developing countries to meet their identified needs of education, training, services and awareness through facilitating the matching of resources with needs;
- Establishing a permanent institutional arrangement for effective implementation and monitoring of all the activities on capacity building including linkage between adaptation, mitigation, technology and financial system;
- Provisions for training (in further understanding the INDC's) and retaining experts in developing countries.