

Submission by the Gambia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group

Views on the composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex IV on the modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis (ICA).

Gambia on behalf of the group of LDC Parties has the honour to provide its views on the composition, modalities and procedures of the team of experts to undertake the process of International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex IV of the decision in Durban (-/CP.17) on the Outcome of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA).

The LDCs would like to recall that the international consultations and analysis agreed in Cancun at COP 16, should be conducted in a manner that is ***non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty***. The process aims to increase transparency of emissions, mitigation actions and their effects, and thus provide opportunities for developing countries to improve their reporting under the Convention. Furthermore as part of the Cancun decision, Parties agreed to enhance reporting in national communications, including inventories through the Biennial Update Reports (BURs). Parties agreed that the national communications would be submitted every 4 years and the BURs would be submitted as part of the national communications process.

The LDCs welcome the -X/COP.17 decision on guidelines and modalities for BURs and ICA, which provide flexibility to LDCs and SIDS to undertake these processes aimed at enhancing reporting at their own discretion. LDCs would like to call upon Parties to provide sufficient resources to such LDCs willing to undertake the exercise of BURs.

The decision in Durban also agreed that ICA will be conducted for developing country Parties based on the BURs. The LDCs therefore believe that these new reporting and review elements should enhance the current national communication reporting which includes the work of the Consultative Group of Experts.

The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention had its mandate renewed at COP15 from 2010 to 2012. The CGE provides coordination with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) in the implementation of its work programme. It also cooperates with the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) by providing technical support non-Annex I Parties in their national communications. Because of the new responsibility required of developing country Parties, the LDCs are of the view that the CGE could play a vital role in assisting developing countries to meet their obligations. Due to the experience of the CGE and its collaborations with the LEG and the NCSP, these programmes can be drawn upon and enhanced to build an effective reporting and review component for developing country Parties.

The LDCs are of the view that any new reporting and review provisions should build and enhance the current programmes in place, rather than establish any new programmes that

could potentially duplicate efforts. Therefore, enhanced support and a new term and mandate is needed from the CGE to provide the necessary technical support to enable developing country Parties to fulfil their obligations.

The LDCs believe that the CGE could have a role to play in the ICA of biennial update reports taking place under the SBI. For example, the CGE could be requested to identify constraints and gaps and could compile and synthesise this information and make recommendations. With respect to adaptation, which is a priority issue for LDCs and SIDS, the CGE could compile information presented in the biennial update reports and national communications on the financing, technical support and capacity building provided to developing country Parties in the area of adaptation.

The current UNFCCC system of review provides support to Annex I Parties by improving the capacities in preparing national inventories. The Annex I review ensures the results are objective, credible and recognized by Parties. This should also be the goal for non-Annex I parties. It is essential that any review of developing countries reports are objective, credible and recognized by Parties, as this provides the elements needed to ensure the integrity of greenhouse gas inventories. This will be necessary to ensure robustness in reporting and will help non-Annex I Parties that want to improve their emissions inventories in order to access to market-based mechanisms under the Convention. In addition, it also helps build inventory capacity across all Parties.

1. Composition of a roster of experts

In order to function effectively and efficiently and enable productive outcomes, the ICA expert team should draw upon the expertise from the UNFCCC Roster of Experts and be composed of both members representing Parties and members representing non-Party stakeholders.

The existing Roster of Experts for Annex I review should be used as a basis for this for example experts should serve in their personal capacity and may be from the public or private sector, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The Roster of Experts includes experts who are knowledgeable about certain specific regions or countries and about related climate change activities in their organizations. The list of fields needs to be expanded to provide all required expertise as outlined below.

Given the functions of the ICA expert team, LDCs stress the necessity of placing a special emphasis on specific areas of expertise that need to be covered by the team including:

- GHG inventory, including projections of GHG emissions and removals and assessment of GHG abatement options
- Analysis of policies and measures for mitigation
- Technology development and transfer
- International financing capacity to assess whether and how far financial support has been delivered
- Finance, technology and capacity-building needs related to adaptation

For the first rounds of ICA the members should demonstrate prior involvement in one or more of the following areas of work:

- Technical review of GHG inventories and other information reported by Annex I Parties annually
- In-depth review of Annex I Party national communications
- Matters related to non-Annex I Party national communications
- Review of information related to methodologies
- Review of the proposal on global burden-sharing issues
- Review of information related to technologies, financial resources, development, and transfer of technologies
- Review of reports on systematic observation etc.

The group calls for a fair, equitable, representative and balanced representation of membership among all Parties. Each team of technical experts to be engaged in the ICA process should have an equal number of members from developing and developed country Parties and guarantee an appropriate balance between different regions, sub-regions, groups, interests and expertise in relation to mitigation. The membership should include designated membership for LDCs and SIDS. Lastly, effort should be made to encourage and achieve gender balance among the members, in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

Membership should also ensure regional and specific country expertise which will include expertise in countries with low-lying coastal areas, arid and semi-arid areas, forested areas and areas prone to forest decay, areas prone to natural disasters, drought and to desertification, areas of high urban atmospheric pollution, areas having fragile ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems, land-locked and transit countries, countries whose economies are dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or on consumption of, fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products.

Each team of experts for a defined ICA should be selected from the Roster of Experts that covers all required expertise and a wide variety of knowledge and specialization. The general area of expertise of the experts should include statistics, activity data collection and storage, and development of sectoral emission factors and GHG methodologies. Members should be knowledgeable and experienced with the revised 1996 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, as well as the:

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Good Practice Guidance and
- Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Good Practice Guidance for Land use, Land-use change and Forestry
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- National methodologies and their conversion to the IPCC reporting Framework
- Development and application of sectoral methodologies for GHG Estimation

The members should also have experience with institutional framework for GHG inventory preparation and management like the national systems for planning, preparing and managing GHG inventories, the procedures for quantifying uncertainties and analysis and use of GHG inventories in policy making. Moreover the selection of experts need to ensure inclusion of experts to ensure coverage of all inventory sectors, specific areas will include:

- Energy (Energy supply sector, Industry, Residential, commercial and institutional building sector, Transport)
- Industrial Processes and Solvents
- Fuel Combustion
- Fugitive Emissions form Fuels
- Land Use Land-use Change and Forestry
- Deforestation and degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- Agriculture
- Waste
- International Bunkers
- Production and consumption of halocarbons (HFCs, PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and new gases such as NF₃ and others

They also need to have experience in mitigation measure and policy areas, including:

- Economic instruments
- Planning
- Regulatory instruments
- Research and development/information
- Voluntary measures
- Education/training
- Impacts from response measures

Also, expertise in modelling and other approaches for projections of GHG emissions and assessment of GHG mitigation options, including bottom-up models, top down models, econometric energy models, engineering models, hybrid models and non-model approaches.

2. Selection of experts for each team

The UNFCCC secretariat would select members to participate in the ICA team of technical experts from the Roster of Experts. This should ensure coverage of all the inventory sectors, technical advice for mitigation, and finance, technology, and capacity building needs as outlined in the guidelines for the BURs. A balance in the participation of the team is essential to ensure equal participation of experts from Annex and non-Annex I Parties, as well as geographical balance.

3. Procedures

Members should serve in their personal expert capacity, have the highest standards of independence, impartiality and competence and be bound by the rules of procedure of the

expert team.

Members should be nominated by Parties in their respective group or constituency and be thereafter elected to the team by the Conference of Parties (COP) for a term of dual period, which will enable them to conduct at least two rounds of ICA.

4. Modalities of the team of expert

For each team of experts conducting the ICA, two leads shall be appointed which are responsible for ensuring the quality, consistency and objectivity of the ICA. For each team, one lead is to be from a non-Annex I Party, and one from an Annex I Party.

ICA team leads need to have dedicated meetings in order to adopt a common approach by the teams to methodological and procedural issues encountered in the ICA, and to make recommendations to the secretariat on ways to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ICA process.

The ICA team of experts shall participate in training as appropriate with duties under their responsibilities for membership of the Roster of Experts, with the possibility for additional training on competence related to ICA. Furthermore the expert must fulfil all eligibility requirements for services under the Expert of Rosters and sign the appropriate agreement for expert services. The agreement specifies the responsibilities, expected time commitment, and appropriate conduct for expert team members, in particular with respect to the protection of confidential inventory information, as determined by the COP.

Nominees to the team of technical experts participating in the ICA should have adequate time and, as appropriate, financial support to participate in the process.