



Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol Sixteenth session, part three Panama City, 1–7 October 2011

Agenda item 2(b)
Organizational matters
Organization of the work of the session

Scenario note on the third part of the sixteenth session

Note by the Chair*

I. Introduction

1. The third part of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) will be held in Panama City, Panama, from 1 to 7 October 2011.
2. Parties are reminded that the annotated agenda for the session is contained in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/1. The Chair also wishes to remind Parties of the issues raised in his scenario notes for the first and second parts of the sixteenth session, most of which remain relevant. The questions raised by the Chair and by Parties during the first part of the session, to stimulate discussion in the contact group on the unresolved policy issues, are available on the UNFCCC website and remain relevant for the resumed session.¹
3. The purpose of this note is to share with delegations reflections on the second part of the sixteenth session and to inform them of the proposed organization of work for the third part.

II. Reflections on the second part of the sixteenth session

4. At the stocktaking plenary on Friday, 17 June 2011, in Bonn, Germany, the Chair noted that through the willingness of Parties to engage in a discussion on political and policy issues, many key issues had become clearer in the course of the session, and the concerns of Parties were better understood. Yet most key issues remained unresolved.

* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the short interval between the second and third parts of the sixteenth sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, and because the Chair considers that a scenario note is most useful if it is issued close to the session to which it applies.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/4577.php>.

5. The Chair issued his revised proposal to facilitate negotiations,² which reflects the progress achieved at the second part of the sixteenth session. In the Chair's view, there was:

(a) Modest progress in streamlining the text in chapter I (on amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to its Article 3, paragraph 9);

(b) Considerable streamlining of chapter II (on land use, land-use change and forestry), which was reduced to 12 pages;

(c) Minimal change to chapter III (on emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms) with the identification of some issues relating to the clean development mechanism that are under consideration in other processes or that may be referred to other groups;

(d) Constructive work on chapter IV (on greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories, common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and other methodological issues), resulting in option A being proposed by a large group of Parties, with option B being retained;

(e) No change made to chapter V (on consideration of information on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties).

III. Mode of work

6. The Chair intends to resume the session with a short plenary meeting on Saturday, 1 October, in order to provide an opportunity for brief statements by groups. The Chair will also provide an opportunity for Parties to share information on meetings outside the AWG-KP process but relevant to the work of the group, such as informal consultations by the current or incoming Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). The plenary will be followed by the resumption of the contact group on agenda item 3, chaired by the Chair of the AWG-KP.

7. The Chair encourages active and constructive participation by observers. He intends to allow observers to speak at the resumption plenary if time allows. During meetings of the contact group, the Chair will seek to allow focused contributions to the discussion from observers. Having received a formal request for observer participation in one of the spin-off groups, the Chair will consult Parties on this matter during the pre-session bilateral meetings.

8. The Chair notes that Parties found the content and format of the contact group discussion during the first and second parts of the session useful and therefore intends to follow the same approach during the third part of the session. Regular meetings of the contact group to discuss the outstanding political and policy issues will therefore be held during the week.

9. As was the practice for the second part of the session, the work of the contact group will be complemented by the work in informal spin-off groups. The spin-off groups will continue to discuss the specific issues in the various chapters of document FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/CRP.1, with the understanding that they may forward any issue that Parties identify as requiring higher-level attention to the contact group. The Chair encourages the spin-off groups to use this mechanism to address the difficult issues which may hinder progress in the group and to keep the contact group informed of progress.

² FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/CRP.1.

10. With a view to assisting Parties to achieve a substantive outcome at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, on all the issues under the AWG-KP, the Chair wishes to highlight some issues for which progress in Panama City would be helpful to Parties:

(a) Further clarity on the mitigation targets of Annex I Parties, including their conversion to quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives and the individual and aggregate levels of ambition (decision 1/CMP.6, paras. 4 and 5);

(b) Resolving differences among Parties relating to option B in chapter I of the text contained in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/CRP.1;

(c) Further clarity on the nature, content and applicability of the rules for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, including in the context of paragraph 10(d) below;

(d) The implications of and options to respond to the fact that some Annex I Parties have stated they will not take up quantified emission reduction and limitation commitments in a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol;

(e) The relationship of the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol to the outcome of the work under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, and the role of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in a balanced outcome of the Durban session.

11. The Chair wishes to emphasize that this list is not intended to be exhaustive.

12. During previous sessions and in the informal consultations of the Vice-Chair several issues have been highlighted which might be more effectively discussed in a legal group. These include options to address a possible gap between the first and second commitment periods. Should the contact group decide to convene a legal group during the third part of the session, the Chair will make appropriate arrangements. Parties are invited to address this question with the Chair in the pre-session consultations.

13. The Chair notes that in addition to the report of the workshop on assumptions and conditions related to the attainment of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties conducted in Bangkok, Thailand,³ a report on a second workshop on this topic, held in Bonn in June 2011, is available. This report is contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/11.

14. The Chair will undertake pre-session consultations with Parties to discuss the organization of the third part of the session and its expected outcomes. Parties will have the opportunity to share with the Chair and Vice-Chair their perspectives on the work of the AWG-KP at this part of the session and beyond. All groups and Parties are invited to contact the secretariat if they would like to schedule a meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair. Groups and Parties are also welcome to contact the Chair and Vice-Chair directly on any matter.

IV. Documentation

15. The report of the AWG-KP on the first and second parts of its sixteenth session, held in Bangkok from 5 to 8 April 2011, and in Bonn from 7 to 17 June 2011, is available in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/4. The progress achieved by the AWG-KP to date is reflected in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2011/CRP.1. At the third part of its sixteenth session, the AWG-KP will continue its work on the proposals contained in that document.

³ FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/7.

V. Moving towards Durban

16. The Chair wishes to remind Parties that the upcoming session in Panama City is the last meeting of the AWG-KP before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. The Chair therefore encourages Parties to streamline and revise the text for consideration in Durban.

17. The Chair recognizes that the resolution of some outstanding issues under the AWG-KP can only happen at the political level. The Chair will therefore continue to work with the current and the incoming Presidencies of the COP and the CMP to ensure that such issues receive the political attention required to facilitate an agreement in Durban.

18. The AWG-KP will hold a plenary meeting on Friday, 7 October, to conclude the work of the third part of the session and to decide, as needed, on further steps in preparation for the meeting in Durban.

19. The Chair believes that it will serve the effectiveness of the work of the AWG-KP to continue in Durban with the agenda and the organization of work as adopted for the sixteenth session of the AWG-KP. Parties may, therefore, find it preferable that the sixteenth session be suspended and resumed for its fourth part when the AWG-KP meets again in Durban. The Chair will consult with Parties on this question and will make a proposal accordingly.
