

Second SBI Informal Consultation on the Review of the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (Agenda Item 4b)

Thursday, 3 May 2018, 4-5pm, AH Upper Conference Room, SB48

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At the first meeting on Monday, 30 April 2018, agreed on the spirit of inclusivity and transparency unless any Parties wished to keep meeting closed. No Parties objected so the meeting was kept open to observers.

Parties were given “homework”, to look at the terms of reference.

Co-Chairs proposed that at the end of this session, will propose way forward.

Brazil

- On behalf of G77 & China
- Group met and had several interactions
- Were bit sorry that this session was postpone for today but this gave even better room to consult among different delegations; would like to make a proposal based on homework that Co-Chairs had presented at the last session
- Advance as much as possible here at this session, understanding that agenda for work for Katowice is very large and we should avoid bringing difficult agenda items there
- Draft decision text will present framework for deciding in Katowice this agenda item
- To maintain ongoing work in terms of expert advice for MRV arrangements and CGE already has with same functions and responsibilities it already has
- Deciding, taking into consideration that those MRV arrangements process wise, the group understands that CGE should be a permanent body but understanding the difficulty in deciding that, can agree to another 5 years 2019-2023 considering an updating of the mandate and TOR at the 26th session of COP, by 2020 the major rules and detailed rulebook from Paris will be completed then can receive by 2020 additional information from the Paris Agreement to take up additional responsibilities from CGE on a permanent manner
- Submissions happen before Bangkok intersessional meeting will impact directly the TOR
- 3 “Shall” requirements in the Team of Technical Experts that indicate the involvement of CGE
- Bad precedent if we do not reach agreement this year; cornerstone of MRV arrangement for developing countries will fall
- Important discussion that we are having in various meeting rooms related to the National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for Non-Annex I Parties
- Need to have a decision and mandate for the Secretariat to continue their work and continuation of the CGE and Team of Technical Experts contribution to MRV arrangements
- Request for text to be put on the screen for first reading, so as to have a definition on the TOR by end of this year in Katowice

Co-Chairs expressed thanks to Brazil for a comprehensive overview of how the G77 proposes moving forward. With the understanding that the CGE’s mandate expires this year, wish to hear from all Parties

on how they would proposed to move forward. Ask for reactions to this suggestion and mode of work proposed by Brazil.

Canada

- Thank you to Brazil on behalf of G77 & China for introduction and thinking on how to move forward
- In terms of process, Brazil is suggesting to look at a proposal by G77 & China on the screen – look forward to having a conversation / discussion
- The last time we met we were interested in having a discussion on Parties' experience with working with the CGE
- Want to make sure we are not entering negotiating line-by-line text, since it is the first time and hope to have more chance to discuss capacity building approaches in the future

European Union

- Thank you Brazil for setting the line on your proposal, shows work of conversations we should have and given time allocated at this session the intention we had was to start conversation and see how we can proceed
- Set it right, build capacity for transparency under the Convention
- Agree it is a desire to avoid bringing difficult agenda item to Katowice
- Think this is not a difficult agenda item, it is a friendly one
- Building transparency and capacity building for Parties to better report is important
- It is in all countries interest to get it right
- Interesting to hear a continuation of current work as it is for a period of time until we are able to have a better informed decision – something we are also looking to see if it can be done
- Definitely do not want to set a bad precedent and bad blood and conversation in other rooms here and leading up to end of 2018
- Conversation later makes sense – can have conversation about continuing CGE, what is needed, based on decisions in the Convention and how we can make the CGE meaningful for what is ahead of us
- Hope we can have discussions here, as we do not have space
- Perhaps early or do not want to see discussion line-by-line on text, need some time to reflect on Brazil's proposal and see way forward other than going through line-by-line – merits in some areas Brazil has proposed but in other areas cannot decide now as we do not have all information right now; might come later on when other workstreams (MPGs) have come to conclusion
- Happy to further engage and hopefully come up with something to discuss in our next session

Co-Chairs thanked EU for considering this a friendly agenda item. Indicate that this session today will be a discussion among Parties to reflect on the potential improvement and work of CGE over the past years. Use this session to hear from Parties what worked and what didn't. Discuss areas of capacity building and what CGE has been doing.

Saudi Arabia

- Last informal consultation for this agenda item

- Propose to see Brazil's suggestions and ask that Co-Chairs and colleagues here consider having an additional session to go through and discuss views

Co-Chairs noted an additional session tomorrow from 5-6pm to continue on the path we are going.

United States

- Express support for Canada, EU to use this time to get a little bit more from countries experience with the CGE since we have a more diverse group; hear and consider improvements for the future

South Africa

- G77 feels that the experience with CGE has been very good and does work that's why we made the proposal that Brazil has laid out
- Appreciate some feedback on the specifics of our proposal
- Regard this is a valuable initiative and to improve current arrangements
- Asked if colleagues from G77 would like to share views and experience of the CGE

Co-Chair thanked South Africa for beginning discussion on the usefulness of the CGE. Encourage colleagues to contribute to the discussion.

Saudi Arabia

- Responding to colleagues from Canada, USA – on behalf of Arab Group recognize the work of the CGE in terms of providing technical advice and support for evolving capacities and MRV arrangements under the Convention
- Useful in having CGE under the new arrangements under the Paris Agreement

Co-Chair thanked Saudi Arabia for their useful remarks and contributing to the discussion today.

India

- Join Saudi Arabia and South Africa in informing that we have near consensus in G77 of the usefulness of the CGE
- India has gained good experience from working with CGE in improving reporting system on various aspects but also generated capacity under our experts who have contributed as TTE, evaluating various BURs
- We know that there is going to be an Enhanced Transparency Framework so you need a certain body which can continue this good work it has been doing for the last 2 decades and build on the capacity of developing countries; capacity building is an ongoing exercise
- Usefulness of CGE cannot be doubted
- Colleagues in G77 have been doing good work in the text, encourage Parties to have a look if time permits and suggest if we can work on this pattern in the future

Bangladesh

- Most countries know about the functions and responsibilities of CGE
- Understand the importance of having this institution under the Convention to continue our work

- Discuss we have to see how it can be more effective in the future
- Supportive to have discussion to improve CGE's activities in future
- Over the last decade, they have been providing developing countries very unique support and with regard to developing countries, this is the institution providing MRV arrangements at the domestic level.
- On the Paris Transparency Framework, useful to acknowledge functions and responsibilities that CGE has been providing over the many years and in relation to ongoing discussions wrt transparency arrangements under the Paris Agreement
- Expanding mandate in the TOR of the CGE for the future
- With regard to time management, one additional slot tomorrow – feel that if we don't have any conversation around this expanded TOR or time period we are thinking of for extension of mandate of CGE then it will be somewhat late for us to decide on the actual decisions; bottom line of decisions in Katowice.
- Before conclusion of this session, we should have a concrete idea of where we are heading towards in terms of adopting a draft decision text
- Feel this is open for improvements and feel need of having future actions of CGE; Brazil has pointed out the need for continuity of this body (CGE)
- Any delay, there will be a risk of discontinuity of the functions and responsibilities of the CGE for developing countries who have been relying on it

Norway

- Comment briefly to thank Brazil for proposal
- Acknowledge work of CGE and it remains important for future work
- Good place and time to hear Parties experiences
- Appreciate experiences already shared by Saudi Arabia, India and Bangladesh

Zimbabwe

- Support statement by Brazil for G77 & China, colleagues from South Africa, Saudi Arabia, India and Bangladesh
- Getting more concerned about time management
- No divergence on importance of CGE
- More work ahead, so more capacity needed
- The role of CGE, responsibilities need to evolve – those who need the work of the CGE is saying that they need the work to continue.
- Transparency levels are going to be even higher under the Paris Agreement so we need to continue
- Ask that Co-Chairs can guide us to manage time better to get to solution as early as possible

Brazil

- On behalf of Brazilian delegation
- Give feedback as Brazil on the work and experience with the CGE as requested by Canada, EU and USA
- Brazil engaged in MRV arrangements under the Convention

- Challenging experience to fulfil COP decisions of 2013
- BUR by Brazil was a huge effort
- First BUR is a key milestone to the Brazil MRV system
- Quote part of the first BUR from Brazil to see how important the Brazilian team had to this CGE – “the team involved in the preparation would like to acknowledge the support of the CGE through organization of two training workshops which significantly helped in the preparation of this document” (page 27)
- Thinking of next CGE workshop
- Importance of the work we see CGE is doing for the MRV system
- If Brazil didn’t submit the first BUR on time, cannot submit REDD+ either – important monitoring system for public policy in Brazil and results based payments

Co-Chair thanked Brazil, said there is an ongoing discussion on views and experiences of CGE. Would also like to hear what needs to be improved. Know that everyone in the room knows the importance of CGE.

China

- Express concern with time management of this agenda item
- We should have a text for draft decision to be adopted for COP24 as soon as possible as ICA process is still ongoing and it cannot work without CGE; mandate of CGE has to be extended for another 5 years
- Position of the G77 & China that work of CGE is of great value and CGE has great value in implementing Paris transparency rules
- To ensure consistency in work here and APA agenda; they already have a lot of text so we should have our decision text as soon as possible to catch up.

South Africa

- Propose that CGE needs to be more consistent, in terms of funding (relatively small budget)
- Should be more sustainable
- Like to establish CGE on a more permanent footing
- Mandate should be reviewed every 5 years but uncertainty of its renewal undermines the process

Co-Chairs summarized the discussion.

1. Parties recognize value of CGE.
2. Heard from Parties on what is working well and what needs to be improved.
3. Heard experiences with CGE from Parties.
4. Parties have expressed need to take into account Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.
5. Eager to see constructive way forward leading up to Katowice COP24.
6. Way forward – next meeting on 4 May from 5-6pm in room Tokio.

The informal consultation ended at 6pm.

