

CANADIAN INTERVENTION ON CAPACITY BUILDING AT SB 11 AS DELIVERED

Capacity building is a cross-cutting issue which, as the Secretariat's presentation pointed out, touches on many elements on our agenda, and is essential for the participation of developing countries and Economies in Transition in the full implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Canada recognizes that capacity building, writ large, needs to be further developed to promote sustainable development, to fill technical and institutional needs, to reduce vulnerability, and to ensure the robust use of the mechanisms. We acknowledge actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology will need to take into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, and particularly the least developed countries and small island developing states.

Canada supports a co-ordinated response among existing efforts in capacity building as this may help results in more comprehensive solutions to address the problem of climate change, given its linkages with desertification, bio-diversity and sustainable development. Additional climate change activities and projects should include a focus on capacity building and development to provide hands-on experience for developing countries. These activities should, amongst other things, support developing country's national communications, the development of technical expertise on GHG inventories, identification of technological needs, strengthening human resources and the assessment of mitigation options.

We have a number of papers in front of us, which underline both the complexity and importance of this topic and point out the range of needs to be addressed. In general we would see the way forward as involving three steps:

- The first step would be a comprehensive assessment of capacity building needs as they relate to obligations under the convention and the protocol. In this regard the annex to the paper submitted by the G77 (Document SB/1999/MISC.9) provides a starting point.
- - Secondly a clear overview is needed of actions currently being undertaken by various actors. These should include the convention and its financial mechanism, multilateral and bilateral development institutions, and the private sector.
- And thirdly, a scope for action should be defined with clear priorities identified.

In implementing such an approach, we must keep in mind the need for co-ordination in order to avoid duplication, and we should pay attention to lessons learned from previous capacity building efforts. And, as we live in the real world, priorities will have to be carefully balanced against financial considerations.

Because of its role in providing necessary assistance to non-Annex 1 countries, the financial mechanism continues to be a very important instrument for delivering capacity building assistance under the convention. Partly in response decision 2/CP.4, the GEF is developing a new initiative on capacity building in partnership with UNDP. This proposal has the potential to address capacity building needs for the global environment more strategically than has been done up to now. Given the interest of this COP in the capacity building needs of developing countries, we would urge the GEF to take an iterative approach in the further development of this initiative. We also feel that the GEF-UNDP Capacity Development Initiative therefore should be closely coordinate with the work of this COP on the question of capacity building.