



Report on the Southern Civil Society Pre COP 16 Preparatory Meeting

7th-9th September 2010, Mexico City

(Southern Capacity Building Program)

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Section 1: Background

In 2009, a group of exceptional southern Civil Society members were provided an opportunity to build and enhance their understanding of climate change issues through the Southern Capacity Building Programme of CAN-International. For most of last year CAN under its Southern Capacity Program worked across the developing countries and provided training to build technical expertise amongst civil society organizations (CSOs) in seven southern regions reaching out to over 80 developing country CSOs.

This effort focusing on capacity building of CAN's members in developing countries presented an opportunity to work towards developing a joint strategy and explore the possibility of a convergence of ideologies for effective advocacy in the run up to COP-15. The capacity developed and up-scaled was timely and impressive. Further the enthusiasm and team spirit witnessed amongst CAN's southern members saw a marked increase. However the international climate talks under the UNFCCC, towards developing a post-2012 global architecture for climate protection efforts, neither ended nor arrived at a consensus in Copenhagen in 2009.

Given the emerging political dynamics across key players from within global political heavyweights – it is possible that Cancun could see a deadlock in these immensely important talks on Climate Change. On the other hand, if key agreements already within reach are achieved, it could also serve as a crucial trust-building step towards the ultimate agreement being sought.

As a step forward it remains essential that southern CSO partners look towards creating stronger capacities of key individuals within its regional and national networks for working on the issues of climate change policy, sustainable low carbon development pathways and adaptation prospects that are suited to local needs and recognize the imperative of south-south cooperation and deliberations in the run up to COP-16. Simultaneously, there would be many benefits to initiating a process towards creating a forum for these like-minded professionals from the global south to conceptualize and reinforce a comprehensive movement towards developing a common strategy and tactics for influencing these international political deliberations. Furthermore these

individuals would work towards becoming the agents of change in their own networks by playing the role of catalysts and experts on international climate negotiations and their impact and importance on local/national/regional political-economy.

Thus, CAN-International proposed to hold a workshop that could ensure cross-pollination and knowledge sharing amongst the southern members of CAN and other civil society partners. This meeting would also provide a natural opportunity for a focused and timely dialogue between the Mexican Government and Civil Society – that could be facilitated by CAN.

The objective was:

To strengthen and reinforce long term effective capacity of Civil Society members in developing countries towards influencing the International, Regional and National negotiation processes in the run up to COP16 towards creating a robust post-2012 global architecture for climate protection efforts. Further the aim was to help strengthen the global political impact of the developing countries vulnerable to the impacts of dangerous climate change.

Activities were to include:

1) *Workshop for promoting south-south dialogue amongst CAN's southern Members and local partners in the run-up to COP-16*

For a fair outcome under the UNFCCC it is imperative to ensure meaningful and informed engagement from members of southern civil society groups. A balanced and equitable discourse amongst southern colleagues would require a robust understanding of regional politics, international politics and potential solutions for a climate secure future that promotes sustainable and low



carbon development. The workshop focused on strengthening the understanding of core issues for participants – who could in follow up meetings offer their shared understanding to local and national level organizations working with a vision beyond COP 16 in Cancun. The workshop provided an opportunity for a joint south-south exercise to:

- (a) Enable and facilitate development of advocacy strategies within respective countries and regions
- (b) Help develop a cohesive and joint south-south strategy towards Cancun and beyond
- (c) Promote inter-regional knowledge sharing

2) Dialogue between the Government of Mexico and Civil Society:

The intention was to create an opportunity to continue to build a bridge with the host Government of COP-16 (Mexico) and CSO representatives participating in the training, modeled after last year's dialogue meetings with the Danish government. Given that Cancun is going to be a watershed year for climate negotiations under the UNFCCC, the milestones achievable for Cancun must be clear and must have the COP Presidency's support. The intention of this dialogue would be to use the collective strength and perspectives in the group to influence the thinking within the Mexican Government and its relevant Ministries for COP16 and beyond.

Participants:

38 international participants predominantly from developing countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Uganda, Chad, Senegal, El Salvador, Ghana, Uruguay, Brazil, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Chile, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Micronesia, Barbados and China were present at the Southern Civil Society Pre-COP 16 Preparatory meeting. Several colleagues could not attend this meeting due to visa related troubles. 11 representatives from Mexican NGOs such as Presencia, CEMDA, AIDA, Oxfam Mexico and UGAM were active participants in the discussions over the three days.

The workshop participants were provided excellent logistical support by Presencia Ciudadana Mexicana A.C. It was held at the Hotel NH Zona Rosa in Mexico City.

Section 2(A): Summary of Discussions on Day 1

Day I: Context Setting and Mapping Real Expectations:

Developing countries face a complex set of problems and challenges which could range from economic, financial, social, technological, and developmental to political. The ask for the day was to work towards identifying juxtaposed threats that developing countries face and which must be addressed to develop a cohesive response strategy to global warming. Participants were asked to reflect upon the progress that environmental activism has made in the last 22 decades, especially with a view towards the Climate Change Convention.

The participants offered their views on why the world leaders have spent the past 20-plus years negotiating and yet have still not arrived at a fully comprehensive treaty on Climate Change. They shared their views on the variety of visions within the environmental movement. Discussions were lively and enlightening. Speakers had a broad range and richness of professional experience. One of the speakers had started out with raising environmental awareness in the year 1974. Some of the key reflections:

- Short term political considerations seem to be the divider – very few politicians think beyond their terms in office.
- Certain countries are dominating the agenda. Main political reality – UN is not a level playing field, in theory its one country – one vote, but in reality it's divided between donor/recipient, large/small, rich/poor etc. The North South divide has not been bridged and the distrust is deepening.
- Challenges specific to SIDS and LDCs: They are highly dependent on aid, majority are former colonies of larger governments, small population sizes, limited development opportunities and high incidence of poverty among other issues tend to weaken their positions. To date, many vulnerable developing countries have been strong, but have had to compromise, for these reasons.

- Another major drawback is that the scientific imperative has not been established into the heart of the global process or national policy making (ie the IPCC reports). As such, the scale of ambition needed is not reflected in the climate talks.
- For many in the G77+China this is often seen as being about development, not only an environmental treaty, as any future treaty will impact national economic development goals.
- A global lobby of the fossil fuel industry, which has over the years poured in billions of dollars to kill this process is a major force, and is currently winning the battle to a large extent. Climate deniers received millions of dollars in funding for spurious research which was published and distributed to the public. Civil society in developing countries (or developed countries either) just do not have the resources to tackle this misinformation campaign.
- On a positive note civil society engagement in developing countries has a much deeper understanding and there is greater dedicated capacity available across the South now. A lot has happened at the national level, i.e. in terms of national climate change policies, legislation etc, and a lot of this is due to civil society pressure and initiatives. Need to think about how our work on the ground can connect with national level work, as well as the international challenges in the months and years to come.
- Need to acknowledge there are other strong networks in the south and build synergies with these other networks to achieve a real global movement forward.



Going forward into the day with some of these reflections from the group on where the Environmental Movement was and why was there a slump in the political will for achieving an ambitious outcome from these negotiations, the group moved on to talk about where we might be headed as an environmental movement given the historical weaknesses and political doldrums. However there was abundant energy in the room to come together and think about collective efforts to shift the politics and dynamics in-country and in respective regions. Some of the most common themes to emerge were:

- Trust-building exercises in the regions amongst different civil society networks and stakeholder groups need to begin on an urgent basis;
- Efforts are still very fragmented – important to develop synergies with different movements to get a common voice;
- Need to strengthen synergy and cooperation between CSOs, other networks working outside the UN Climate Talks;
- Influence and change the mind set of young people and children. Reach out to student groups and young voters;
- Simplify the UN process so it becomes more transparent to local communities;
- Make use of media events and public hearings to raise the urgency of the issue; and
- Strengthen or even create the link between realities on the ground and global policy positions, negotiations and advocacy strategies.

Some more suggestions were made that were region specific – for example in Africa the climate debate will be hard to move forward without the MDGs being met and obligations by aid-agencies fulfilled by their end dates (and vice versa). The development agenda will have to be enmeshed into this conversation upfront rather than as an ancillary benefit.

Later in the day Participants went into breakout groups to link the discussions earlier in the day to political reality in respective regions - Africa , Asia, Latin America and SIDS

(Pacific and Caribbean)- and list the opportunities for countering push-back from government, public or media as well as pushing forward with allies. These groups had very long, in-depth and passionate discussions that were hard to break up upon expiry of allocated discussion time. To provide a gist of the various regional groups' feedback would be a hard task as the discussions were extremely rich and diverse. However a summary from each group is provided below:

Africa

Today in Africa the Civil society groups are significantly more organized than in 2008. There is increased and interaction between civil society and their respective governments. Involvement of common Africans in Africa through various public mobilization efforts around Copenhagen was very useful. Nonetheless a lack of clear linkages between communities and governments, and other African Union forums is a hindrance. Further a lack of technical and financial capacity of NGOs at national level hampers important and pertinent work across the continent. There is an urgent need for an enabling environment for advocacy. Climate Change is not a priority political issue and hence is yet to be mainstreamed in development programmes and policies.

Some of the clear opportunities that were identified were around building in the tenets of long standing sustainable development guidelines into all climate related programmes and projects in Africa. The need for a more robust and strengthened civil society and public which is increasingly conscious of the emerging challenges of climate change impacts was also shared. Going forward African CSOs could lead with evidence-based advocacy such as providing solutions-based outreach on best practices related to adaptation and transition to low-carbon development trajectories. Work towards the establishment of national CSO platforms comprising of a diverse mix of stakeholder groups could be very useful to build cross-cutting forums for effective lobbying and knowledge-sharing. Further the suggestion was for NGOs working towards providing training to local and national media outlets (print, television and radio) to be able to follow the regional and international talks on climate change.

Asia

Asia is a mega-diverse continent. Economically it is home to a very wide range of countries – ranging from an Annex 1 nation (Japan) to two high-income developing countries (South Korea, Singapore) to middle-income developing countries (China, Sri Lanka) to low income developing countries (India, Vietnam) to least developed countries (Nepal, Bangladesh) to highly vulnerable low-lying island states (Mauritius).

The group recognised that climate change does not recognize national boundaries. It needs collective action from all countries for benefits to be seen. There is great diversity in a political group like the G-77 and China. Therefore, there is a need to sensitize developed and large developing countries to the needs of LDCs and SIDS. As said by one of the participants the ‘big brother’ should not ignore interest of ‘smaller brothers’. Increasingly more advanced countries in G77 and China are coming up as donors to smaller developing countries. This is a shift from the traditional post-colonial set-ups and multi-lateral institutions driven aid paradigms for development and poverty alleviation. G-77 and China on its own however cannot address the technology transfer issue. South-South technology cooperation is important but it can only be treated as one step in the right direction. Developing countries don’t have clear position or influence on bigger issues such as Annex1 mitigation and this is adding to the lack of trust amongst the Asian developing countries and the developed countries in the UN Climate Talks. Lastly, to build public awareness – civil society urgently needs to build capacity of Asian journalists to cover the climate change issues adequately.



Latin America

Latin America is a vast continent with a complex set of environmental challenges and socio-economic situations. A majority of the population is engaged in the agriculture sector for their economic needs. The participants from South and Central American countries were involved in answering the following question 'What can Latin American Civil Society groups do?' This group was one of the most energetic groups in the breakout sessions on day one. The following paragraph lists the priority issues listed as common action points.

The need for improved cross cutting treatment of climate change in national policy development processes must be articulated. NGOs must work together to demonstrate the linkages between chronic poverty, development and their relationship with climate change. Civil society across the spectrum must work together to end the predatory exploitation of Latin American countries' natural resources and prevent the marginalization of indigenous peoples and groups. REDD was a common area of interest and concern. Further the group reiterated the need for working towards improving transparency and accountability across all levels of Government to have a better sense of the financial flows.

Small Island Developing States

Some of the most vulnerable countries and populations live in the Small Island Developing countries across the planet. They recognized that their Governments have little or no political clout. The way to overcome that shortcoming will be to use the moral argument more – putting a human face to the climate issue. Developed countries continue to exhibit no or little political will, paying only lip service to climate change impacts especially on small island states. There is an urgent need to increase engagement of civil society; build strong civil society movements in the Pacific and Caribbean; and to make climate change an election issue. There is a huge diversity of development agendas across most states in this grouping, but regardless,

mainstreaming climate policy into critical policy development areas will be an important step forward. In these countries the populations are not large and, in that context, many people have to undertake climate negotiations work in addition to their other full time jobs. There is a clear need to strengthen regional cooperation; mandate transfer of knowledge as part of consultancy contracts. Another short coming is the dependence of these countries on foreign aid – one of the solutions could be to seek aid from other sources, not linked to polluting countries. Further, this complex situation is made worse by weak governance systems and weak media within countries in this group.

Thus it is not a difficult conclusion to draw that climate change is a massive threat not only to their survival but also to their aspirations for a better quality of life through economic development. However climate change is presenting a unique opportunity as well if addressed before it is too late. With the right tools, knowledge and resources being made available developing countries could leap-frog into the next level of development without the same level of energy intensity or pollution costs involved. Developing countries could develop new programs and plan of action that anticipate funding opportunities (adaptation fund etc) while working to incorporate climate resilient into the development agenda.

Outcomes for the Day:

- Honest articulation of current situation in the climate policy discourse from a developing countries' perspective.
- Key opportunities & threats to mainstreaming climate change in the political discourse identified

Section 2(B): Summary of Discussions on Day 2

Day 2: Developing Common Goals

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only international environmental treaty that has the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities enshrined within it to address both historical responsibility and future burden sharing in terms of avoiding dangerous climate change. However some of the pressing questions within this principle remain unanswered even after years of its acceptance by both developed and developing countries.

On the first day, participants had spent time discussing the reasons for current challenges and opportunities for developing countries within the existing climate regime. Moving forward, the second day was focused around developing a joint understanding of the current equity debate in the face of renewed efforts being made by some G77 member states in the past months to bring the discussion of “equity” to the forefront. The lack of a clear definition of what equity means in terms of the Framework Convention added to the opaqueness around the issue. Sometimes it is defined in terms of capability and responsibility. However there are different approaches and parties often select the perspective that suits their needs the best. Greenhouse Development Rights is one proposal for an approach to burden sharing under a comprehensive global climate regime which defines national obligations against a development threshold. Another example is that of the Global Carbon Budget -the challenge is to bring the equity-calculation into the climate negotiations. Participants discussed the need for a global cap on carbon of 350 or 450 parts per million (depending on whom you were talking to). Within that context



the challenge is how to count and then divide the atmospheric space in line with historical responsibility. Further this discussion was complicated by a lack of intra-country equity debate. The divide between the rich and poor is still there. A question remained in the discussion – How would we define the optimal limit to consumption by individuals?

Further the discussants observed that in the past two years a new trend was seen as emerging -there is willingness among developing countries to accept their share of the responsibility and take action domestically. However this will be a low impact solution till developed countries do not come on board. This raised the possibility of looking within the developing countries for creating another approach to solve the dilemma of stagnation due to a pervasive lack of political will – developing countries approach the problem differently- avoid the high consumption trap and reach for low hanging fruits such as energy efficiency, standards for appliances etc domestically.

The next session discussed and promoted a South–South exchange of on the ground experiences to identify potential common tools for resolving the dilemma of development, energy access and poverty alleviation in the face of an unprecedented environmental crisis. Panelists shared case studies based on their own field experiences. These case studies ranged from sharing best practices about building climate resilience in low-lying coastal countries through local interventions in South Asia, to raising public awareness through women’s groups in the pacific islands, to developing a multi-stakeholder partnership around solar energy development and production of low cost modules in Latin America to the promotion of a research focused climate and development network in West Africa.

The discussion was rich and provided people with an opportunity to share the work being done on the ground in developing countries towards mitigating the threats from global warming. Another one of the experiences shared were around Urban Planning and the need for green building codes in Brazil. The benefits derived from mangrove

restoration and conservation of wetlands in Ghana, by NGOs has led to revival of livelihoods for local communities were shared.

There is a range of good practices being carried out in developing countries already. Civil Society could do a better job at communicating the innovations and examples at the ground within UNFCCC. Negotiators are struggling to design the mechanism for allocation of funds- these conversations are relevant and should influence the UNFCCC debate. Further challenge for southern nodes is that Climate Action Network has been a lobbying and advocacy network. The peculiarities of the nature of developing country NGOs must be accommodated through strengthened southern regional or national nodes.

These sessions promoted a better understanding of the debate on equity and provided a platform to share positive experiences from various regions. Then the discussion moved forward in Regional groups came together to identify areas of collaboration and advocacy activities leading to Cancun and beyond. The regional breakout groups worked on developing ideas around politically feasible options (for either a practical goal and/or possibly a strategy for tackling the challenge of moving the climate talks forward). Another question was how could regional approaches be incorporated into CAN-International's work in the coming sessions. The regional networks shared their strategies towards Cancun and beyond in some cases.

Africa

After the UN Climate Talks in August this year the distrust between the developed and developing countries is still there. There is low ambition across the board. The Copenhagen Accord however is still holding centre stage in this low ambition scenario. African countries are keen to see the fast track finance being provided as promised by parties in Copenhagen.

CSOs will work towards a common strategy across African countries and will need to watch the Tianjin climate negotiations in October very carefully. There are potentially three scenarios on the table politically:

- Scenario 1: Two-track option, which is the only option for African Civil Society – has been reinforced by G77.
- Scenario 2: Consolidated tracks – is not acceptable. However there is a possibility that this will happen. Will give African CSOs the motivation for an increased momentum for advocacy for preserving the two-tracks.
- Scenario 3: Copenhagen Accord -although some African countries associated themselves with the Accord, CSOs will not accept it.

For Tianjin, African CSOs will develop messages for heads of state and negotiators, and will work towards mass mobilization. The message going out will be “Do not sign onto consolidation – Keep the two-tracks”. Further, they will seek to have meetings with the French and other negotiators in the EU. In addition, they will work to gather CSOs in full force at regional meetings at ECOWAS, ADF, etc. this year.

Asia

Across the continent Asian CSOs have an important advocacy role. Asia is by and large a developing country block, excluding Japan. There are a large number of vulnerable countries. This year developed countries should at least deliver on their fast start finance commitments. In an alternative model - the BASIC countries would perhaps set an example of south-south collaboration with financial support. Further, high income developing countries like Korea, Kuwait, and Singapore could provide some support towards adaptation related projects for example in small island states.

Another question that participants sought to answer was what role is seen for southern CAN nodes? Towards Cancun we must lobby for clearer outcomes on clean technology for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. Domestically and regionally form

groups to undertake informed political lobbying and advocacy. To have a broader impact it is essential to move beyond UNFCCC – SARCC, ASEAN, etc. Analyze and utilize member capacities within CAN and capitalize on the expertise that exists within the region. Start building trust between CAN nodes in Asia – China, South Asia, Southeast Asia, etc by promoting regular information sharing and exchanges.

Latin America

This year for Latin American CSOs the two main issues to deal with are REDD and Adaptation. For REDD, there is a focus on the REDD+ Partnership, which needs to be compatible, transparent and integrated into UNFCCC process. In addition, the inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision making processes is a must. Any outcome must guarantee protection of natural forests. It was discussed that as Civil Society we must make sure that the methodologies developed do not permit conversion of natural forests. For adaptation, this issue should be the keystone of national climate policies. Further all National plans should consider gender as a key element.

Small Island Developing States

Individuals from the small island states were clearly of the viewpoint that people in the island states don't really care who is emitting, they just want the excess carbon emissions to stop. Their right to survival is paramount and just because these states geographically were small – the international community could not write them off and consider SIDS as collateral damage to the inaction within these climate talks. Members of the the Pacific CSOs stated that they will continue to work towards impressing that even developing countries should adopt best available technique, best environmental practices in their development. Likewise it does not make sense to get into a development cycle in developing countries using dirty technology. It is essential to raise awareness and willingness amongst local people to move towards a more environmentally benign life-style across all countries. Pacific Islands CSOs will continue

to push for better use of technology, funding to allow for development in a sustainable manner.

It was stated that the 1.5°C target is important – however the low level of political will makes it harder for it to remain a fungible ask. The need for an international mechanism to address loss and damage through climate change was an imperative. Pacific CSOs would be looking to work closely with other CSOs to make sure that this is delivered in Cancun. Another important lobbying point is the immediate access to adaptation fund – because the low lying countries have to start adapting and building any possible solutions in the near future against sea level rise.

By the close of this session the discussion between participants had developed a shared understanding of what was being done or was likely to happen across the countries and regions present at this meeting. Then the following session moved towards completing the circle with asking the participants to examine the role of developed countries in the climate negotiations and connect the dots so as to complete the circle of discussions around what is needed to move the whole process forward especially under the UNFCCC.

The session started off with a presentation by a guest speaker from a USCAN member organization on the current status of climate change policy efforts in the US, with a particular look at how the US might move forward in the wake of no legislation on climate change being cleared by the Congress of the United States in 2010. It was an informative presentation about the options available in the US domestically that potentially could be used to meet some of its obligations.

Further discussions were done around the lack of adequate response by Annex 1 countries and the unlikelihood of current pledges meeting the -25 to -40% collective target any time soon. Moving ahead without the US is becoming a favored approach amongst most observers in the south. However another question rose- whether a momentum could be kept going with the two track.

The political clout enjoyed by developed countries in ex-colonies is still significant. Loss of trust is significant however there is not much they can negotiate about. With little finance or solutions being offered to them to either adapt or mitigate - what basis do developing countries negotiate on? Unfortunately the developed countries are making all decisions – be it about setting the stage or pace of these talks respectively. The apathy and political realities in developed countries is making smaller developing states ask whether these climate talks have anything at all to offer.

The need is for developing countries to come together and look for a common future together in the face of a rising likelihood of 3 degree global mean temperature rise later this century. Another strategy to overcome the apathy by the northern states is to look towards the business sector and to look for solutions through innovation in the new economy sectors (Renewable energy; Information Technology; South-South technology cooperation).

After this energetic discussion around the uninspiring political realities in the global north – the question that was begging an answer was – what then does the future hold in store for some of the most vulnerable developing countries across the world? There was a presentation made by a colleague from one of the small island states in the Pacific to try and address the question around the role of vulnerable developing countries in the international climate debate.

‘All countries are vulnerable to climate change impacts – no man is an island unto himself’ was one of the observations made after the presentation. However it was admitted by those present that the level of risk and capacities (adaptive capacities) vary significantly across the landscape. The UNFCCC recognizes vulnerability – but a clear definition was still missing. The example of the Adaptation Fund of the Kyoto Protocol was cited as it was designed to assist countries that are particularly vulnerable.

However as the presenter said -to answer the question around who is particularly vulnerable - no definition of who the particularly vulnerable are-exists within the UNFCCC. Vulnerability brings about special needs but it is difficult to classify this needs. More recently, the tag of “vulnerable” has also become embroiled in a battle

almost amongst developing countries for ensuring access to restricted resources for managing the impacts of global warming. Some NGOs have come up with 'working' definitions to meet their internal objectives – but these are in no way the final word on this discussion.

Similarities between Vulnerable Developing Country groups [SIDS/LDC/Africa] are:

- High level of exposure of risk
- Low level of capacity (less developed, lower levels of financial and human capacity)
- High dependence on natural resources
- Low emitters of greenhouses gases

Diversity between the groups:

- SIDS: Primary driver is geographic vulnerability, and motivation is survival. (1.5: To Stay Alive!)
- LDCs & Africa: Primary driver is development and the right to practice a healthy standard of living.

In the last session for the day participants worked together to address some the following questions – so as to develop a proxy action plan for engagement going forward. Some of the questions that were considered were:

What are the potential political entry points for vulnerable groups and countries? What opportunities are there for building alliances between various blocs in G-77 in other forums? What opportunities are there for building pressure to raise the level of ambition?

Some of the suggestions that came out of this discussion are as follows -the Tarawa MVC Conference scheduled for November this year was seen as a good starting point. UN General Assembly meeting in New York in September was another opportunity for civil society to reach out to respective governments and lobby for a greater unity amongst vulnerable countries across all international forums. The Cartagena Dialogue

amongst some of the more progressing developing countries around issues of Finance etc. is seen as another entry point. Regional forums like AMCEN (Africa) ; ASEAN (South East Asia); SAARC (South Asia) were seen as important platforms for undertaking political lobbying work in member countries. Some of the regional forums had chapters that were working on climate change and these were mostly working in isolation from the UN processes. Civil society had a definite role to play here by highlighting any duplication of efforts; best practices; promoting knowledge sharing etc.

Some more entry points/ opportunities for vulnerable developing countries were – pushing for science based lobbying; building close ties with faith based groups and spiritual leaders; promoting inclusion of Climate Change into any national plans or policies ; work closely with business and trade forums to push governments ; work towards a global recognition of the right to survive and develop. Need to demystify and simplify the issue of climate change to build interest of media which likes sensational issues and climate talks are too technical.

Outcomes for the day:

- Deeper understanding of the underlying principles of Equity and Vulnerability in the climate debate towards developing a common perception of achievable goals through advocacy, public mobilization and lobbying.

- Identified areas of collaboration and advocacy activities leading to Cancun and beyond for developing countries



Section 2(C): Summary of Discussions on Day 3

Part 1: Process/Roles and Way Forward

Over the preceding two days participants had worked together to identify the challenges and threats that developing countries face and possible solution sets available to tackle them in a world potentially tied into at least a 3-degree temperature rise.

The third day began with representatives from southern nodes sharing their plans for engagement, outreach, lobbying in the run up to Cancun and beyond. This session was designed to promote knowledge-sharing and to facilitate a common vision and matching ambition across the southern civil society engaged in following or lobbying around these international climate talks.

The first panel of the day addressed these issues from individual lenses. Some of them spoke from a National lens, some from a broader regional one. This was then followed by a deeper debate with the rest of the participants to continue to share and exchange information about the range of activities happening in the South.

Nicaragua(on behalf of Latin America):

This year CSOs have launched a dialogue process with governments that has succeeded in influencing national strategy and advocacy for indigenous and vulnerable groups. For example the Ministry of Environment was in charge but now there is a direct dialogue with presidency of Nicaragua. There is a national alliance for climate change that has brought together 40 NGOs for the environment. However the development of a national REDD strategy is controlled by the Ministry of Environment. Still need to strengthen capacity to have more knowledge of REDD and thus influence it. A lot of interest regarding REDD, specifically the financial sector. Local organizations work together but need to be delivered more information to influence strategy of REDD. Series of forums are being held in main cities regarding national strategies of Climate Change. The emphasis of mitigation is less important in a country as poor as Nicaragua. The governments in Central America are not so open to let civil society be included in development of strategies for Climate Change. It is important to translate

international agreements into Spanish for the local NGOs so they have a better understanding. Humboldt Foundation will be hosting the meeting of members of CAN Latin America later in the month of September, with a view towards Cancun.

South Asia:

Climate Change touches all areas of society such as food, water, energy and transport. There is an urgent need to undertake a more active position by civil society. It is easy to preach but need to start at home and discuss issues regionally amongst each other. SAARC is a regional platform with 6 sub-continental countries in it. South Asian NGOs have been more involved in networking with each other and discussing governance and policy with people who follow negotiations closely. National and local NOGs realized that as a network they need to stop adopting international NGOs policy prescriptions and developing their own based on domestic needs.

South East Asia:

CANSEA is one of the oldest nodes in the network. However a lack of resources makes it difficult for providing continuous support through the network. The situation is that there are phases when groups are organized and disorganized due to competing demands on their time.

West Africa:

Developed countries have their own approach to Climate Change and are unlikely to commit to anything that would make them compromise on their wasteful lifestyles. Developing countries have another approach – that of compromise and constructiveness - but are continually hampered by the limited room for movement in the international climate talks. The primary concern for CSOs is how to help bridge this divide between these political dynamics when in the real world people are suffering from escalating impacts of climate change such as desertification and drought.

For CSOs the priority in these regions must be to assist in building capacity both for adaptation and low carbon development practices. Another problem in Africa is that English is largely the official language and there is a communication barrier with the

French-speaking countries. Perhaps CSOs need to become proactive and address this gap as well and not wait for the climate talks to deliver training to key stakeholders because there is so much work to be done in the local communities.

Pacific:

The report back from the Pacific group was succinct. There was not much to add in terms of common activities as it is geographically a challenge, especially with little or no resources. However the main reason for the Pacific CSOs to fight is survival. The media in these countries is very limited and needs training on climate change issues. They do not pay much attention to them in general. The main focus will be to build institutional capacity but also human capacity to take on projects immediately. In their understanding the right to develop did not mean the right to pollute. However they also recognized that even if the technologies are available the resources to buy and install them are scarce.

Others:

The language barrier needs to be dealt with and this can be done through government support. Panelists pointed out the need to revitalize collective efforts because climate change is a cross-cutting issue. If developing countries communicate effectively with each other then perhaps they can influence developed countries better. The work should be done both before and after Cancun. Youth needs to be involved in the process as well – the earlier the better.

Participants from all the regions were encouraged to identify people and institutions who will take the discussions, action points and suggestions from the last 3 days forward. The breakout groups had one person report back to the



plenary after that. Some of the ideas under consideration were political entry points for vulnerable developing countries, opportunities for building alliances between Southern CSOs, opportunities to raise level of ambition as CAN. The report backs were quiet extensive and people were enthusiastically volunteering to take up responsibility.

Pacific:

- Institutionalize CAN Pacific regional node :Register a CAN Pacific node in Tuvalu (by end October)
- Barbados – sharing outcomes of this meeting/CAN with NGO networks in 17 countries/territories.
- Pacific CSOs meeting in Tarawa – back to back with the Tarawa Climate change conference (pending funds), first week Nov.(Opportunity to highlight Pacific concerns to international media).
- Update and re-affirm the existing Pacific policy position (as per Rarotonga workshop) in time for Cancun
- 1 day capacity building workshop for Kiribati NGO's (would like to invite CAN Southern Capacity Building Programme) (Pelenise, Shirley, Ben)
- Do an interview with Radio Australia to raise awareness on the Tarawa meeting with regional and international media (Ulamilla).
- Cook Islands: to compile a list of past/future CAN climate change activities and achievements, as well as a website to increase transparency of CAN Cook Islands activities.
- SIDS members to get on government delegations in Cancun (Look at having some members not on delegations so they are free to do media work.)
- Look at having Pacific gimmicks to hand out (i.e. flowers) to raise awareness on the issues.
- Establish stronger links between SIDS regions – ie Pacific, Caribbean (Barbados) and Indian Ocean (Mauritius)
- Caribbean 10/10/10 Campaign: Each of the 17 territories are taking national level climate change activities

- Caribbean Regional Youth Congress on Climate Change – St Vincent and Grenadines: October
- Caribbean Media relationship – Panos Caribbean

Africa

Identified 3 people based on regional representation /continental dynamics:(Mithika, Samuel and Colette),

Activities

- Mainly communications and media outreach
- Gathering and disseminating information about the international and national initiatives.
- Each node to contribute towards the development of an African list serve to facilitate info sharing
- Look at different positions that have been taken in Africa, to develop a strong African position – promote and share this amongst all African regions.
- The 3 key people should make sure that there is cohesion between different players in the continent, task them with responsibility with generating messages, share first with a smaller group and then share more broadly
- Smaller group will also be tasked with organizing African NGO's; find it challenging that they are not very organized

Latin America:

- Looked at history of CAN LAC (for new comers)
- Restructuring of the organization, and viewed the website (to confirm who are members/who is not)

Activities

- Meeting/Assembly in Nicaragua, 23/24th September
- Will revise the CANCUN package at this meeting, and highlight specific topics for the region, and if time allows have a paper drafted that can be discussed

- at this assembly, with final outcome being a position paper to share with governments (key issues of Latin America for Cancun)
- Discussed the importance of national plans which each country is developing and how we can influence governments, through these plans. Need to create spaces nationally to have these discussions.
 - Review events that will be happening – i.e. Argentina Civil Society meeting, and have something ready for this space.

Asia:

- Developing a booklet – country positions booklet (6 countries positions in one booklet) – each national steering committee
- Thematic briefing papers on different themes – i.e. Adaptation, Finance, Low Carbon Development and Technology Transfer. CAN SEA Secretariat to coordinate, and outsource to members.
- Debrief for the COP in late December or early January to plan for the year ahead.
- Climate Asia newsletter with guest writers from other Asian countries to promote exchange of knowledge (i.e. China)
- Mountain Initiative meeting in Nepal, 51 countries are invited, try to influence this through Nepal steering committee
- Meeting of South Asian members prior to Cancun in Sri Lanka (Ranga will coordinate)
- Youth Climate Change meeting to be hosted by Practical Action in Sri Lanka

This was a very fruitful session where in participants built mutual trust with each other and devised joint action plans /activity schedules and at the same time assigned various roles to individuals. This discussion provided the action points and helped to identify people/institutions that would be tasked with delivering or coordinating them. A lot of cross-cutting work was identified and built a feeling of camaraderie amongst southern CSO representatives present in the room.

Part 2: NGO-Mexican Government Dialogue:

A group of volunteers were assigned to prepare a tentative list of questions that could be raised with the Mexican delegation representatives a day before. This group presented to the plenary the suggestions they had in terms of issues to raise with the official representatives.

Dialogue with Mexican Government Officials

Ambassador Miguel Diaz is the focal point for NGOs in the COP process and Mr. Edgar Cubero is the expert on climate finance and heads the Mexican delegation on the issue.

(12-1:30 pm)

There were two parts to the dialogue:

1) NGO Participation and Access:

In regards to participation, talks have been taking place with the UNFCCC Secretariat to assure that accredited participants actually have access to the conference without any problems. The Representatives suggested that the UNFCCC Secretariat is worried about the numbers and who should be able to enter the two official venues.

Mr. Diaz went into the details of the logistics around the official spaces that will be used for convention: Moon Palace and Cancun Mese ,the two official venues. He was clear that there would not be any separation between governments & NGOs access except for in the usual settings of closed contact groups and informal meetings there. Even though there were two different official spaces all accredited members will be able to transit freely within them –if you have been through security once then you need not go through it again.

The Presidency is considering a proposal to facilitate an open dialogue between Mexican negotiators who will be presiding within the conference with the Mexican NGOs. A number of meetings have been planned in Chiapas, Cancun, and Zacatecas for ensuring effective participation of national NGOs. The Mexican delegation has also been meeting with Civil Society in other countries during their visits. For example

meetings have been held with Greenpeace, CAN-LA members, Indian NGOs including the current meeting here in Mexico. Presidency will try to attend some more of these meetings before Cancun to listen to the opinions of the global civil society.

The Mexican Presidency is especially interested in Central American because it is a network of NGOs that will have a lot of interest to come to Cancun COP 16. Special efforts are being made to hold a meeting with CEPAL in Latin America. No meeting in New York in order to pay attention to L.A meeting in Buenos Aires. In Bonn there have also been meetings with CAN and where CAN has wanted to meet but special need to pay attention to Central America. Mexican delegation is aiming to go out every day to talk to NGOs in Cancun. Mexican government proposal is that apart from having official sites at Cancun Mese and Moon Palace, there is a space for NGOs who want to have autonomous and parallel activities. Visas will be expedited for registered participants and several parallel channels are being developed for facilitating this.

2) COP Presidency's views on expectations from Cancun

In answer to the question 'What is going to come out of Cancun?' and 'How does Mexican government define success of Cancun?' Mr. Diaz admitted that there was a lot of disappointment coming out of Cancun and that they were trying to make sure those events that happened in Copenhagen do not happen in Cancun. People would likely be coming in with memories of Copenhagen but the efforts from the organizers would be to make sure that those bad experiences are not repeated again.

- Mexico thinks that the methodology of work adopted in Copenhagen was not the best way to work in a setting with so many interests, countries and observers. Sometimes the parliament style plenary cannot be used to create consensus on issues. The strategy being used is to build consensus on a country by country basis before getting to Cancun. Identify points of consensus that signify an advance towards Cancun. China will the next round towards this consultation.

Another question posed was around the trust deficit between the North & South. How did the Mexican Presidency intend to use their influence to bridge that gap?

-According to Mr. Diaz this particular question was worthy of a full conference in itself. This question has a lot to do with the political realities and historical situations, the compromise is for the Mexican government to build consensus- and consult heavily with the Governments of developing countries. It has been a long and discreet process, he further added that perhaps there was a need to talk more about what work is being done with southern governments.

How can Mexico ensure civil society groups that the position that it is taking is similar or aligned with the larger concerns of developing countries?

- Mr. Diaz emulated the work that Ambassador De Alba did during the year. He and others from the Mexican government travelled a lot to developing countries so as to ensure that all parties are on the same page. Thus most of the delegations are very aware of the position that Mexico has. Mexico is looking for a position that helps everybody- small islands and big countries.

What are the expected outcomes for your delegation after COP 16?

- Since the second meeting in Bonn everybody agreed that the convention need funds – so Finance is going to be a key discussion to be had in Cancun. In Cancun we want to make clear that we want the funds and almost everybody agrees that we need the fund.

CSOs in the meeting feel unsure about developed country Governments meeting their promises on the FSF funds.

- Mr. Cubero responded by saying that this lack of confidence is what they want to discuss in China and in Cancun. Mexico wants to create confidence and clarity on the issues of how and where developing countries will spend the money accruing from the fund. However he added that it can't be denied that were a lot of other international institutions that have more expertise in managing such funds.

We want to know how the Mexican delegation is looking to support the Copenhagen Accord.

- Mr. Cubero responded back saying that as a country -everyone has to do their own calculations. Mexico agrees to some parts of the Accord and does not agree to other bits within the document. However this document is not under negotiation.

We have heard a lot about Mexico wanting a successful but realistic outcome, What exactly is the Mexican Government's understanding of a successful outcome in Mexico?

-The Mexican Government is looking for an ambitious and successful meeting in spite of time constraints. Hoping to have discussions between parties where different points of view can find a balance. Our goal is to look for a compromise. Mexico looks for the outcomes that will provide the strength to make legally binding decisions and to reach agreements. BASIC are not the only countries with the burden of finding a solution and this is not only a Mexican responsibility – all countries and governments must be ready to move this forward. NGOs have a dual responsibility – towards governments and people.

What is the Mexican government doing differently than in other COP meetings?

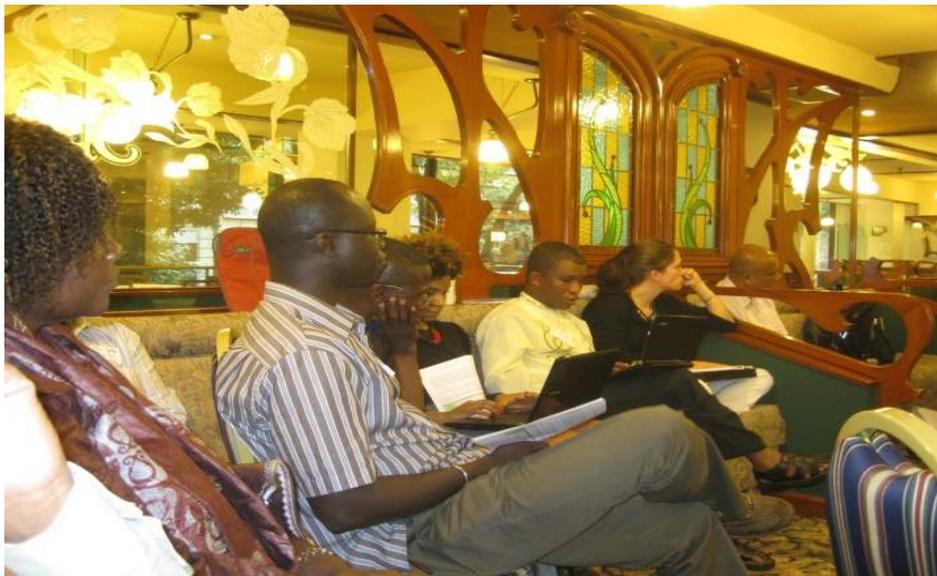
-Mr. Cubero stated that the presidency had not been waiting around for Cancun to happen but instead had been engaging actively in other forums and discussions to ensure preparedness within and amongst parties to engage constructively.

Many people are concerned about the conditions of a climate funds and the role of financial institutions.

-In the understanding of Mr. Cubero there would be a balanced representation of donors in the international institutions. Time constraints are an important part of the problem. Negotiations take place within each theme and this requires time. The Presidency will try to take into consideration the experience of previous meetings. Cancun is a different format than Copenhagen.

There was a smaller meeting with seven participants from southern CSOs with Ambassador de Alba the next afternoon. That meeting allowed participants to share

their expectations as Civil Society from extremely vulnerable countries. Ambassador de Alba reiterated his delegation's efforts towards ensuring a positive outcome in Cancun. It would definitely not be a complete agreement but it will deliver on key pieces of that agreement. He shared the plans of his team to reach out to Governments in China, at the UNGA session in New York and bi-laterally with other countries before Cancun. He further reiterated the support for interaction with CSOs before and during the COP. He was not sure of the final date for a binding legal agreement coming out of the UNFCCC 'perhaps in South Africa, perhaps beyond that even". He was strongly supportive of the two-tracks. The Mexican delegation would make sure that NGOs had good access to them in Tianjin and would be happy to ensure that besides the regular briefing sessions – issue leads are able to interact with NGOs as well.



Section 3: Summary of Evaluation

All participants to the workshop were requested to fill out evaluation forms at the end of the three days. It was clear that people had different expectations from the meeting. The expectations listed varied from:

- To gather more information about political situation
- Better understanding of the direction we are headed in as Vulnerable Developing Countries
- Participate in the dialogue with the Mexican Government
- See capacity of NGOs from VDCs strengthened
- To learn how other regions (CAN) in the south have organized and overcome their difficulties
- To identify the key advocacy issues for Southern CSOs and to advance the relationship between the participating southern partners
- To gain more information on climate issues in the global south
- Got new ideas for South-South NGO cooperation;
- Share the views from Chinese CSOs with other Southern CSOs
- To discuss how can Southern CSOs build a strategy which will be put up as one voice for Cancun
- To learn more from each other in the South
- To have an analysis on the current state of international negotiations and ideas on what to do at country-regional level
- Develop new networks and partnerships to share information

- Combined south through common priorities being identified
- Get to understand realities and positions in other parts of the world through other CAN members
- Develop some plans for Tianjin and Cancun
- Opportunity to progress CAN Pacific talks
- Sharing among southern colleagues in building position towards Cancun.
- Clarifying things that are misunderstood or misleading.
- Working towards bridging differences in terms of understanding and positions

On a scale of 1-5ⁱ the participants responded to the question on whether their expectations listed earlier were met upon conclusion of the workshop. The respondents gave a positive response with an average rating of 3.8/5 -they rated different sessions within the meeting differently. Most of the sessions were rated above average with some scoring a 5+ rating.

Individuals rated the Mexican Government and NGO dialogue along with the discussion on Equity within the Current Climate Debate as two of the most useful and interesting sessions. The dialogue was rated highly by colleagues who stated that otherwise they probably would not get an opportunity to speak with the COP Presidency representatives.

Other sessions that were liked more than others were regional sessions, mixed cross-cutting breakout sessions, the panel discussions on day 1 around where we were and where are we headed as an environmental movement. Further several participants stated that the VDC discussion was critical. They are the group with lowest capacity to adapt and the worst impacts of climate change.

On being asked what were the key things that stood out for the participant in the three days of discussions- they gave some of the following responses.

- Time for participation by panelists and listeners in the room
- Venue and Facilitators
- Government Dialogue Session
- Presentations: Well informed presentations and resource people, especially the Equity and VDC Presentation
- Mixture of Participants: Great geographic coverage and great engagement in group work
- Regional reinforcement: Group meetings worked very well – the participants came together
- More younger participants were introduced prompting honest and in-depth discussions
- Good networking and experience sharing opportunity
- The Agenda Format was good: It was well moderated and well conceptualized, the flexibility was good and had a good flow of agenda – logical and well connected.
- Diversity from the South and the fact that dedicated colleagues from the Pacific were there.
- Agenda could generate a sense of solidarity and in setting the scene and discussing concepts
- Uniting the Southern civil society to forming a common understating and positing
- Focus on the survival/development and the importance of positioning around it
- Encouragement for the Southern civil society to work in cooperation, build on their work regionally, promote sharing among different regions and the importance of going back and working with respective governments

Some of the recommendations for going forward in the feedback were:

- Southern CSOs should agree on a robust strategy to work together cohesively-going forward.

- To recognize the fact that as civil society our duty is to fight for the rights of most vulnerable people and countries.

- This meeting was a fundamental step in the ongoing effort for strengthening southern participation in CAN. It should continue to facilitate such discussions in the future.

- Need for drawing some action points aimed at Southern CSOs for follow ups and continuation of these discussions in the future. Keeping Southern civil society engaged and active is critical to a fair, binding and ambitious outcome within the International Climate Negotiations.

- Develop common understanding of priorities in other Southern Regions through closer interaction with Southern Nodes and other networks and partnerships.

Section 3: Conclusion (Summary)

This meeting was one of the most intense discussions in a focused setting for CAN's southern members. Last year CAN International under the Southern Capacity Building Program engaged in inter-country and regional capacity building sessions which were narrower in their objectives.

The Pre-COP 16 Southern CSOs Preparatory Meeting was in a sense the next logical step forward in the discussions amongst Southern CSOs to strengthen their capacities and develop a joint understanding of the challenges existing in the global south. The range of expertise and backgrounds represented within the group of participants was another positive element responsible for the outcome of this meeting.

The discussions on the first day took a necessary step back to take a look at the antecedents of the current environmental discussions. It was a great learning experience for the younger participants. In the next session participants discussed where they saw themselves positioned in the current discussion and where they potentially headed. It was a useful discussion for setting the stage for further breakout groups to discuss threats that developing countries face, which must be addressed to develop a cohesive response strategy to global warming. This was followed by regional discussion to match political reality in respective regions and to list opportunities for countering push-back from Government, Public or Media and push forward with allies. The day ended with participants possessing a deeper understanding of the current situation in the climate policy discourse in developing countries along with the key opportunities & threats identified.

The second day started with a short presentation with the overview of the discussions on day one. The day was started with an in-depth discussion on the current equity debate within the climate discourse. It was a very well received presentation and the discussions with the participants were thorough. The following session allowed practitioners from the global south to share field work and practical tips from their national work. This was a popular session. The following session was focused on bringing the focus back on taking a look at the developed world today from a Non-

Annex 1 lens. To attempt to answer some questions like what are the key points of debate? What is the likely scenario for Cancun? This discussion was followed with a presentation on the state of vulnerable developing countries. The day ended with using the details from the discussions over the length of the day to go out into breakout groups to discuss some of the following questions: What are the potential political entry points for vulnerable groups and countries? What opportunities are there for building pressure to raise the level of ambition? The results from these discussions were used to support the discussions on day 3 and towards identifying areas of collaboration and advocacy activities leading to Cancun and beyond.

The third day was divided into two parts (a) CSOs-Mexican Government dialogue and (b) Day 3 of the workshop. On day three participants spent the first half of the day in doing group work to identify institutions, individuals and strategies to make sure that an action plan for cohesive response can be developed across the respective regions. To identify common programs of action and people who would take the responsibility of taking these discussions forward. All of the regional groups provided these details and shared it amongst all the groups present. The other significant part of the day was the CSO-Government dialogue. Many of the participants found this a very useful exercise while at the same time expressed their disappointment with the fact that more officials did not attend this meeting –taking it as an omen of things to come in Cancun. The discussions were detailed and at least some of the questions were answered and the concerns of a very wide spectrum of developing country CSOs were articulated to the Mexican Officials.

This meeting was a good step in the direction of strengthening Southern members in Climate Action Network and to support them to strengthen and reinforce long term effective capacity of Civil Society members in developing countries towards influencing the International, Regional and National negotiation processes in the run up to COP16 towards creating a robust post-2012 global architecture for climate protection efforts. Further thereby help to strengthen the global political impact of the developing countries vulnerable to the impacts of dangerous climate change.

ⁱ Note on Rating Scale: 5= outstanding, 4=exceeds expectations, 3=meets expectations,2= does not meet most of my expectations, 1= Unsatisfactory, 0= Not at all

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