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Cooperation with other international organizations

Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the work under the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The secretariat engages in collaborative activities, initiatives and programmes with United Nations entities, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations that enhance and contribute to the work under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. The key objective of the secretariat in its work with international organizations is to support the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and to support the UNFCCC process in an efficient and effective manner. This report includes information on relevant activities in which the secretariat has been involved with other intergovernmental organizations since the thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on cooperation with relevant international organizations is taken up, an information paper summarizing relevant cooperative activities.¹

B. Background

2. Cooperation among international organizations, United Nations entities, other conventions and the scientific community is very important for the success of the international response to climate change. Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall “seek and utilize the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies”. There is significant potential and valuable input, information and support that other international organizations can and do provide in combating climate change and fulfilling the objectives of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

3. The secretariat attaches great priority to fostering such cooperation and to catalysing the experience and expertise of other agencies to deliver on decisions that Parties have taken under the Convention and under its Kyoto Protocol. In the past year, the secretariat has sought to widen and deepen its collaboration with other international organizations, within and outside of the United Nations system, with the objective of increasing the support provided to Parties, in particular developing country Parties, for addressing climate change and for the implementation of decisions taken by the COP and by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The secretariat has sought to leverage the potential inputs, taking into account linkages and synergies, of other international organizations, in order to enhance the efforts taken at the local, national, regional and international levels to combat climate change.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

4. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information provided in this report. It may also wish to invite Parties to comment on the activities summarized in chapters II and III below and to provide guidance on the scope and direction of these and other cooperative activities so that they further contribute to the effective implementation of decisions adopted under the Convention and under its Kyoto Protocol. The SBSTA may further wish to make recommendations on key priority areas in which the secretariat should enhance efforts to leverage the potential contributions of other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to addressing climate change.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 128.

II. Activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

5. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, is the highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system. It supports and reinforces the coordinating role of intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on social, economic and related matters.

6. The CEB aligns the strengths of a decentralized system of specialized organizations into a cohesive and functioning whole. It ensures that the United Nations system delivers as one at the global, regional and country levels on the broad range of commitments made by the international community, including on climate change. The United Nations system, through the CEB and under the leadership of the Secretary-General, has been making action-oriented and coordinated efforts to support the international community in addressing climate change.

7. Since 2007 United Nations system organizations have been working on “Delivering as One” on climate change. In addition, the CEB established in 2008 its Climate Change Action Framework, with nine targeted priority areas to which each United Nations agency contributes on the basis of its area of expertise, intergovernmental mandate and available resources. The objective of the framework is to maximize existing synergies, eliminate duplication and overlap, and optimize the impact of the collective efforts of the United Nations system in supporting countries that are implementing strategies to address climate change. In 2012 the framework was revised to include the focus area of mitigation and it now comprises the following focus and cross-cutting areas: adaptation; technology transfer; forestry and agriculture; financing, mitigation and adaptation action; capacity-building; mitigation; climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning; supporting global, regional and national action; public awareness-raising and education; and social dimensions of climate change.

8. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Doha, Qatar, in 2012, the United Nations system presented its joint work by highlighting how it responds to countries’ needs and supports the implementation of climate action at the global, regional, national and local levels. A total of 15 joint United Nations system side events were convened, demonstrating the United Nations system’s collective capacity to support countries in the implementation of climate action.

Secretary-General’s Climate Change Support Team

9. The secretariat continues its close coordination and collaboration with the Climate Change Support Team (CCST) of the Secretary-General, including through the support of a Senior Liaison Officer of the secretariat based in the CCST offices. Together, the CCST and the secretariat provide support on relevant policy issues and processes to organizations based in New York, the United States of America, and liaise, as appropriate, with Permanent Missions to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The secretariat also collaborates on the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General.

III. Specific areas of cooperation

10. This chapter provides an overview of the cooperative activities of the secretariat by thematic area. It is not a comprehensive account of all activities, initiatives and programmes undertaken. Further information on some activities can be found in documentation under

relevant agenda items of the SBSTA and other subsidiary bodies under the Convention, as appropriate.

A. Technology

1. Technology Executive Committee

11. The secretariat continues to support the work of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to facilitate the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism. One of the mandated functions of the TEC is² to engage stakeholders at the international, regional and national levels, including public institutions, the business community, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in conducting its work.²

12. With the assistance of the secretariat, the TEC has organized two thematic dialogues, on enabling environments and barriers to technology development and transfer, since SBSTA 36. The first was held during the third meeting of the TEC, on 28 and 29 May 2012 in Bonn, Germany, with the participation of representatives of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The second thematic dialogue was held during the fourth meeting of the TEC, on 6–8 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the participation of representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Center for International Environmental Law, Climate Action Network International, the Institute of Development Studies, Oxfam International, the South Centre, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WIPO. Several organizations also participated in those meetings of the TEC as observers.

13. The secretariat also assisted the TEC in organizing an expert meeting on technology road maps, held on 25 March 2013 in Bonn, with the participation of representatives of ADB, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and WBCSD. In addition, the secretariat has organized regular conference calls on technology road maps with relevant organizations, including ADB, IEA and the International Renewable Energy Agency, to discuss possibilities for inter-organizational collaboration on work in this area and how these organizations could support the work of the TEC on technology road maps.

2. Technology needs assessments

14. The secretariat continues to cooperate with the GEF and UNEP in providing support to developing country Parties in their efforts to conduct and implement the results of their technology needs assessments (TNAs) through the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer.

15. In September 2012 the secretariat cooperated with UNEP in organizing an experience-sharing workshop on TNAs, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to share good practices and lessons learned from conducting TNAs with Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, to enhance the capacity of national TNA coordinators in project proposal development and to facilitate interaction between Party representatives and the financial community. In addition, the possible linkages of TNAs with other relevant processes, such as nationally appropriate mitigation actions and national adaptation plans (NAPs), were discussed during the workshop.

² Decision 4/CP.17, annex I, paragraphs 13 and 14.

B. Finance

1. Green Climate Fund

16. With the launch of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) at COP 17, the secretariat continues its close collaboration with the GEF and the World Bank, as the interim trustee of the GCF, on all the initial arrangements of the GCF, including the work of the interim secretariat. Work with the Board of the GCF has deepened with the interim secretariat of the GCF, jointly administered by the secretariat and the GEF, intensifying efforts for the establishment of the permanent secretariat of the GCF in the Republic of Korea next year. In this respect, the secretariat also continues its close cooperation with other institutions working on climate finance, such as the World Bank, UNEP Finance Initiative, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), ADB, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

2. Standing Committee on Finance in 2012

17. Cooperation with relevant international organizations is pursued through the participation of such organizations as observers in the in-person meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF). This includes a wide range of organizations within and outside of the United Nations system (e.g. the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the African Union Commission, UNDP, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), etc.), multilateral financial institutions (e.g. the GEF, the International Finance Corporation, the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), AfDB, ADB, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, EBRD, IADB, etc.), international think tanks and NGOs (e.g. the South Centre, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, the Carbon Markets & Investment Association, Transparency International, etc.).

18. Furthermore, SCF is cooperating with the World Bank for the organization of the first SCF Forum, to be held on 28 May 2013 in conjunction with Carbon Expo in Barcelona, Spain.

3. Work programme on long-term finance in 2012

19. In 2012 the work programme on long-term finance was a process characterized by, among others, the principles of openness and inclusiveness. This was achieved through cooperation with and the participation of a wide range of international organizations, including organizations within and outside of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, bilateral development cooperation agencies, global banks and institutional investors, international think tanks and NGOs. In this context, some of the IGOs that the secretariat has collaborated with during the past year include: UNEP, UNDP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), OECD, the Global Green Growth Institute, the World Bank, AfDB, IADB, ADB and EBRD.

20. In addition, the Finance subprogramme of the secretariat participates in United Nations wide initiatives which carry out work relevant to long-term finance for climate action, including participation in the Issue Management Group on Green Economy of the UNEP-chaired Environment Management Group and participation in the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Gap Task Force chaired by the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. The secretariat also participates as an observer in meetings of the committees and subcommittees of the CIFs and in relevant meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

4. Adaptation Fund

21. The secretariat is in constant collaboration with the GEF and the World Bank in their capacities as the provider of secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board and as the trustee of the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis, respectively. The secretariat collaborates with these organizations in relation to their respective roles regarding the Adaptation Fund and to the review of the interim institutional arrangements of the Adaptation Fund.

5. Global Environment Facility

22. The GEF, in its capacity as the entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Convention, continues its close cooperation with the secretariat. In this capacity, the GEF receives regular guidance from the COP with regard to policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. Furthermore, the GEF and the secretariat maintain close cooperation on various climate finance issues, such as the GEF Trust Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The secretariat is a regular participant in meetings of the GEF, including meetings of its Council and of its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

6. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

23. The secretariat continues its collaboration with OECD, in particular through its participation in the Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG). The secretariat has actively participated in a number of meetings of CCXG, including the CCXG Global Forum. In this context, the secretariat collaborates with OECD on issues relating to climate finance, mobilizing investments in low-carbon, climate-resilient infrastructure, carbon markets and market-based mechanisms.

C. Capacity-building

1. Provision of technical support to the least developed countries

24. A key aspect of the work of the secretariat in relation to the least developed countries (LDCs) is the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), whereby the secretariat works closely with the GEF and its implementing agencies on capacity-building in the LDCs.

2. One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change

25. The secretariat continues its engagement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) with regard to the maintenance of the One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (UN CC:Learn), which involves more than 20 organizations.³ Through the platform, the secretariat engages with a number of international organizations to deliver a variety of training courses, e-learning programmes, training materials and learning management systems.

3. United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change

26. The secretariat has been working together with a number of United Nations agencies and youth NGOs to empower children and young people to take action on climate change through the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change. The members of the initiative include the Food and Agriculture Organization of

³ A list of all UN CC: Learn partner organizations is available at <<http://www.uncclearn.org/focal-points>>.

the United Nations (FAO), UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Earth Child Institute, Taking IT Global and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Under the initiative, the secretariat has been working on the coordination of activities and the sharing of information among its members towards the implementation of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention.⁴

4. United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

27. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha in 2012, the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness was launched by the secretariat together with FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNITAR and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The alliance seeks to promote meaningful, result-oriented and effective international cooperation in support of action on climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information on climate change. It held its first meeting in early 2013 and started to develop its plan of activities for the coming months. Since the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha, the CCST of the Secretary-General, the United Nations University and the World Health Organization (WHO) have joined the alliance.

D. Adaptation

28. The secretariat collaborates with a number of IGOs in relation to adaptation, including in relation to the NAP process in the LDCs. In this context, the secretariat collaborates with the GEF, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and WHO, among others.

1. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

29. The collaborative work of the secretariat in supporting the LEG on issues relevant to national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) has continued since SBSTA 36. It has included the organization of training workshops conducted by the LEG on NAPAs and medium- and long-term adaptation. A number of United Nations agencies have engaged in such workshops, including UNDP, UNEP, FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the GEF.

2. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

30. The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change has the objective of assisting all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

31. The Nairobi work programme is implemented by Parties, IGOs and NGOs, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders. The SBSTA encourages the active engagement of adaptation stakeholders in its implementation under mandated programme activities and work areas. The work programme disseminates knowledge and information on adaptation and highlights the work of partners as widely as possible through a variety of knowledge products and publications. Organizations, institutions and private-sector

⁴ Decision 15/CP.18.

companies at all levels and in a wide range of sectors can become engaged with the work programme by becoming a partner and making an action pledge. Since its inception, the Nairobi work programme has engaged over 272 partners, including a number of United Nations system organizations and other IGOs.

E. Mitigation

32. There is a wide range of collaborative activities on mitigation in which the secretariat is engaged with other IGOs, including in the context of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators and the Task Team on Lessons Learned from MDG Monitoring, CCXG (see para. 23 above), the common data portal of the United Nations system and the National Communications Support Programme, managed by UNDP and UNEP.

1. The clean development mechanism and the Nairobi Framework

33. The Nairobi Framework⁵ is an initiative that began with the collaboration of the secretariat with a number of agencies, including UNDP, UNEP and the UNEP Risoe Centre, the World Bank and AfDB. The Nairobi Framework has the specific target of helping developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the clean development mechanism (CDM). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNITAR have also joined the partnership since its inception.

34. Together, the partners of the Nairobi Framework continue to support the organization of the Africa Carbon Forum, which this year will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 3–5 July 2013. The secretariat also cooperates with other organizations in the context of the Nairobi Framework and the CDM in general, including the International Emissions Trading Association, ADB, IADB and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

2. Cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization

35. The secretariat maintains close cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on issues related to emissions from international aviation and maritime transport. The secretariat participates in meetings of the relevant bodies under ICAO and IMO, including meetings of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection under ICAO and the Marine Environment Protection Committee under IMO. The secretariat follows progress and developments under ICAO and IMO in relation to their technical, operational and market-based work. Both ICAO and IMO provide regular updates to the SBSTA on their relevant work on climate change under separate agenda items.⁶

3. Collaboration with the International Energy Agency

36. The secretariat collaborates closely with IEA on a number of issues, including on:

- (a) Revising and providing comments on relevant chapters of its annual publication of the *World Energy Outlook*;
- (b) Supporting expert reviews of national greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention through the use of IEA data;

⁵ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Nairobi_Framework/index.html>.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/5, paragraph 62.

(c) Exchanging experiences and lessons learned from the work of IEA on technology road maps and the work of the International Low-Carbon Energy Technology Platform.

F. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation

37. Cooperation with WMO, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat and other agencies has been a major and key component of the further development and enhancement of scientific knowledge on climate change through research and systematic observation of the climate system around the world. In this context, the secretariat continues to collaborate closely with scientific programmes, agencies and organizations, including the IPCC, WMO, UNESCO, GCOS, the Global Terrestrial Observing System, the Global Ocean Observing System and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

38. The collaboration with the IPCC, in its role as the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC process, has continued throughout the past year. The secretariat closely follows the work of the IPCC and participates as an observer in its meetings. The IPCC continuously responds to the various mandates and invitations arising from the UNFCCC process. The secretariat has collaborated with the IPCC on a number of issues, including on the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and related software and the provision of scientific information relevant to the first review of the adequacy of the long-term global goal.⁷

G. Gender

39. The secretariat has intensified its collaboration with other United Nations system organizations to integrate gender into the various climate change thematic areas. The secretariat has strengthened its cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), collaborating on gender-responsive climate policy, including providing inputs, exchanges of information, online discussions, events and workshops. The secretariat is also an active participant in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on gender equality and women's empowerment. Some of the activities of the secretariat that had gender issues as a central component during the past year include:

(a) Cooperation on gender with the secretariats of CBD and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), including inputs, exchanges of information and joint events;

(b) The organization of a Gender Mainstreaming Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including a joint event with UN Women, CBD and UNCCD;

(c) Cooperation with UNITAR on awareness-raising on gender and climate, and capacity-building has taken place in the past year through training workshops and online discussions;

(d) Cooperation with FAO, UNDP and UNEP within the framework of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) on gender-responsive strategies;

⁷ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 138.

(e) The organization of a Gender Day at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha in November 2012, which included three high-level events. The goal of the day was to raise awareness on gender and climate change issues as well as to celebrate the role of women in addressing climate change. The events of the day were participated in by several representatives of United Nations entities, including UN Women and the GEF;

(f) A technical workshop, organized with other United Nations agencies, on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change included discussions, through the sharing of good practices, on the integration of gender-sensitive strategies and tools into ecosystem-based approaches.

H. Issues related to biodiversity, lands and desertification, and land-use and forest-related issues

40. Through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions, the secretariat maintains close cooperation with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD. The three Executive Secretaries met in the context of the JLG in January 2013 to discuss ways to enhance the collaboration between the secretariats and to seek opportunities to promote and raise awareness on the synergies in the implementation of the conventions. The secretariat continues its participation in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification in order to contribute to ensuring that climate change is properly reflected in the work of the task force.

41. Since SBSTA 36, the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC have collaborated on a number of projects that have helped to highlight the synergies in the implementation of each convention on the ground and at the national level. These include the following:

(a) The 2013 Rio Conventions Calendar, featuring the theme of water as the key that brings together actions needed to be taken by governments at the nexus of the desertification, biodiversity and climate change conventions, providing an opportunity for boosting synergies;

(b) The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion, organized by the CBD secretariat in cooperation with UNCCD and the UNFCCC. A physical pavilion was present at the eleventh Conference of the Parties to CBD, held in Hyderabad, India, and at Rio+20. The pavilion served as a collaborative, coordinated platform to promote synergies among the Rio Conventions at the national, regional and local levels, and to profile activities that link biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, sustainable land management and efforts to combat desertification, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The secretariats of the three Rio Conventions are currently exploring options and modalities for continuing their collaboration in the context of a joint pavilion at relevant international events.

42. In addition, the secretariat is an observer on the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Programme and maintains close collaboration with partner agencies. Furthermore, the secretariat continues to follow, as an observer, the work related to REDD-plus⁸ of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Program under the Strategic Climate Fund of the World Bank.

⁸ Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

I. Post-2015 development agenda

43. The secretariat participated in and closely followed the discussions taking place at Rio+20 in June 2012. There, the secretariat collaborated with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD in the organization of the Rio Conventions Pavilion

44. The secretariat has been engaged in the work of the United Nations system at large, led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, on the various streams of work resulting from the mandates in the outcome document from Rio+20. The secretariat is an active member of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and the Executive Secretary is a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, launched by the Secretary-General.

45. In this context, the secretariat is active in providing substantive inputs and following the relevant consultations to ensure that the appropriate synergies and linkages between the climate change and the post-2015 development agenda processes are adequately taken into account.

J. Global Compact

46. The private sector has significant potential to contribute in the fight against climate change. It is a key provider of technology and finance. Through the “Caring for Climate” initiative, the secretariat, together with the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP, is actively seeking ways to engage the private sector in climate action. The objective of the initiative is to advance the role of business in addressing climate change. The secretariat is now engaged as a full partner in the initiative and, as such, it has strengthened and deepened its collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP on engaging the private sector in activities to address climate change.

K. Communications

47. The secretariat works closely with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), including with UNDPI at the United Nations Headquarters and in UNDPI country offices where sessions or meetings of the UNFCCC take place and in countries where the Executive Secretary travels on official missions. During the past year, the secretariat has strengthened its collaboration with UNEP and with the CCST to develop common and coordinated messages as they relate to climate change.
