

AOSIS Briefing from Executive Secretary of UNFCCC
Wednesday 20th October 2004

At the briefing organised for the AOSIS delegations held lunchtime on Wednesday 20th October 2004, Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC updated the AOSIS delegations on:

- the progress of work in the Climate Change process;
- UNFCCC Secretariat's preparations for the upcoming Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10: 6th – 17th December 2004); and
- the Mauritius International Meeting on the BPOA+10 (10 – 14 January 2005).

Progress of Work under Climate Change

- Ms Waller-Hunter expressed strong hope that the Russian Duma would approve the proposal by President Putin's Government for Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, and that Russia's ratification and the entry into force of the Protocol would certainly re-energize the focus on the issue of Climate Change¹;
- Given the necessary paper work, however, it was unlikely the Protocol will enter into force by the COP10 in December;
- A significant issue for AOSIS/SIDS with an enforced Protocol was the possibility to operate the Adaptation Fund under the protocol for adaptation projects, which was in addition to the Special Climate Change Fund (operational in June 2005) and the LDC Fund (already operational);
- A special pledging conference for all donors was being organized in November to fund raise for the different funds established so far under climate change.

COP10 Preparations

- COP10, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 6th to 17th December, would also mark the tenth anniversary of the UNFCCC;
- In view of the anniversary, the main focus of the Conference would be to stock-take the work over the past ten years and to assess directions for future actions against climate change, including the entry into force of the Protocol, and next (second) commitment period after the first commitment period (2008-2012);
- Four ministerial High Level panel discussions will be organized:
 - i. Tenth Anniversary of the Convention on Climate Change;
 - ii. Adaptation to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change;
 - iii. Mitigation;

¹ Last Friday 22 October 2004, Russian Parliament overwhelmingly supported the proposal to ratify Kyoto Protocol.

iv. Technology Transfer

- Given our close interests in adaptation, AOSIS have been invited to nominate a Minister from AOSIS delegations to chair and moderate the panel discussion on Adaptation at COP10² – it would be most appreciated if delegations could indicate to the office of the AOSIS Chairman (Mauritius) the possibility of their Minister chairing this High Level panel discussion;
- COP10 will also focus on the unresolved issue of Adaptation particularly actions under the proposed 5.CP/7;
- An item on the COP10 agenda is on the Mauritius International Meeting on the tenth year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States – for this item AOSIS experts have been requested to prepare a working paper for COP10;
- UNFCCC Secretariat would be in a position to provide funding assistance to one delegate from each of the AOSIS delegations to COP10, nomination of which would need to be received by the Secretariat as early as possible.

Mauritius International Meeting on the BPOA

- The UNFCCC Executive Secretary confirmed her own attendance in the Mauritius IM, and that the UNFCCC had sought for the holding of a side event on climate change at the Meeting;
- She also informed the AOSIS that the WMO and GEF were also arranging side events on climate change at the IM, and suggested UNFCCC might seek joint side event with these bodies;

Other Matters – AOSIS Vice-President to the Bureau of COP10

Following the briefing with the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, the Pacific AOSIS delegations remained and discussed the question of nomination for the AOSIS Vice-President to the COP10 Bureau. Tuvalu, the current AOSIS Vice-President to the UNFCCC/COP Bureau, informed the meeting that as Tuvalu had served in the Bureau for two terms and based on AOSIS traditions the Pacific AOSIS were required to make a fresh nomination to AOSIS on the next Vice-President to the Bureau. This nomination should be submitted to AOSIS for consideration before submission to the UNFCCC Bureau for formal appointment at COP10 in Argentina.

- In discussions these points were stressed:
 - for effective AOSIS coordination it would be preferable that the AOSIS Vice-President to the Bureau of the UNFCCC was nominated from amongst the New York based Ambassadors to the UN;

² At COP9 Milan, the Minister from Marshall Islands, Honourable Lorek, kindly agreed to co-chair one of the High Level round-tables on behalf of the AOSIS. I would greatly

- the effective representation of AOSIS in the Bureau should be the guiding criteria for the nomination and selection of the AOSIS Vice-President;
- the idea of rotating the vice-presidency should not take precedence over the effective representation of AOSIS in the Bureau
- After discussions it was agreed that a circular letter should be issued to Pacific AOSIS delegations in New York and also to focal points of contact on climate change in the Pacific to seek nominations to the seat;
- The nomination would then be submitted to AOSIS at COP10 for considerations before submitting to the Bureau.
