

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

Network of People and their Representatives for Action on Atmospheric Issues

Expected date of initiation: 1 March, 2003

Expected date of completion: Ongoing

Partners Involved:

Governments: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (To be invited)

Intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Major groups: Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Energy Forum, Sri Lanka, Global Legislator's Organisation for Better Environment (to be invited)

Other: Climate Action Network South Asia, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (to be invited)

Leading Partner: CUTS-Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption, Calcutta

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The initiative proposes establishment of a Network of People and their representatives for action on atmospheric issues (NPRAA). The objective of NPRAA would be to:

- a) Increase awareness of legislators on relationship of production and consumption patterns with atmospheric problems (pollution, ozone depletion and climate change)
- b) Increase awareness of legislators on the mal-effects of ozone depletion and climate change on people (particularly the poor), food security, ecosystems etc
- c) Inform legislators about the commitments and progress (or the lack of it) made by their governments, and enable them to catalyse the progress;
- d) Increase consumer awareness on these issues, and
- e) Inform consumer and legislators that multilateral environment agreements can serve as a tool to restrict poverty at the same level or even reduce it
- f) Empower consumers and their groups to lobby parliamentarians and government to adhere to the commitments.

The project will be initially implemented in South Asia, i.e. the five major countries in the region: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The project will involve UNEP, an

international body. It also proposes to interface with the legislature, executive, judiciary and the civil society of the target countries. The findings of this phase will be replicated in other regions of the world. In case of India and Pakistan, legislators at the sub-national level would also be involved on a selective basis.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

NPRAA would cover the various aspects of atmospheric issues and its relationship with production and consumption based on agreed and publicly pronounced statements such as the Agenda 21. This initiative will specifically address the objectives of Chapter 4 (Changing consumption patterns) and Chapter 9 (Protection of the Atmosphere). It will also address the objectives of Chapter 27 (Strengthening the role of non-governmental organisations: partners for sustainable development).

United Nations Millennium Declaration calls for every effort to ensure that the Kyoto Protocol comes into force. It also calls for intensification of cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters like ozone depletion. The initiative is expected to enhance capacity of legislators on atmospheric issues forging its relationship with production and consumption, environment, technological adaptation and innovation, economic growth and poverty reduction.

Fossils fuels are responsible for substantial atmospheric emission of greenhouse gases. Hence, there is a need to promote environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy as discussed in recommendations of CSD9. The initiative will also take into account best practices to promote efficiency in energy production processes and reduce wasteful consumption in the process of economic growth keeping in mind the development needs of developing countries.

Expected results:

The pilot phase of the initiative is expected to result in:

- a) increased awareness of policy makers and better progress by governments-to be assessed by interventions made in the legislature
- b) Better regional understanding-to be assessed by progress made in the SAARC forum, and its relevant committees
- c) Awareness generated by:
 - Research findings
 - regular articles/news in the press
 - actions taken by the civil society, and
 - by courts, in asking the government to do their jobs
 - newsletters/electronic newsletters

To be assessed by

- constant newswatch, reporting and networking efforts,
 - multiple intervention in the parliament on these issues
 - acceptance of public interest litigation by judiciary, setting up specialised bodies to tackle these issues
 - increasing demand of newsletter/electronic newsletter.
- d) Global model based on the degree of success in South Asia

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- ✓ Atmospheric changes can have important impacts on forests, biodiversity, freshwater, marine ecosystems and agriculture. Policy objectives in different sectors often diverge and needs to be handled in an integrated manner. The first objective of the initiative would be to inform legislators about such divergences so that they can act as pressure groups raising this in their parliament and integrate existing legislative framework. This is likely to result in five coherent national policies and with a common regional policy.
- ✓ The second specific objective of this initiative would be to increase awareness of legislators and consumer groups on the relationship of atmospheric pollution, ozone depletion and climate change with unsustainable production and consumption patterns. According to the third assessment report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change is expected to exhibit strong negative effects especially on populations in developing countries. However, some greenhouse gases like hydro-fluoro-carbon (HFC) are being increasingly used as substitutes of ozone depletion substances like CFCs. Phase out of ozone depleting substances and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved within the stipulated timeframe only if business and consumers both start to produce and consume sustainably.
- ✓ There is a need to promote environmentally sound energy systems with less emission of greenhouses gases, particularly new and renewable sources of energy. Sensitising legislators and consumer groups on this issue would be third specific objective of the initiative and would result in more shifts towards renewable.
- ✓ The initiative is expected to achieve above-mentioned objectives within the next three years.

Further, the activities would be carried out in two broad categories:

- Regional and Global Activities
- Country specific activities

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

International Advisory Board: In order to provide guidance on the overall progress of this initiative, an international advisory board will be formed at the beginning of the South Asian phase of the initiative. This would consist of members from the United Nations Environment Programme, one representative from each selected countries of the project, selected parliamentarians, officials from the national ozone and climate change units and international experts. The advisory group with the assistance of the secretariat will review the progress of activities.

Secretariat: A secretariat to facilitate the entire initiative will be hosted at CUTS-Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (CSPAC) in close coordination with UNEP, SAWTEE, BCAS Energy Forum and other partners. It will be responsible for coordinating all the activities of the South Asian phase of this initiative.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/ financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

The operations of the initiative are to be funded by both cash and in-kind contributions. Support would be needed both for operational activities as well as activities to be undertaken by the stakeholders of this initiative.

The total budget for three years is calculated as US\$ 277,075 (US\$ two seventy seven thousand seventy five only). This is to be raised.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Capacity building

The pilot phase of NPRAA will result in capacity building of legislators and consumer groups in South Asia on the following issues:

- relationship of atmospheric pollution, ozone depletion and climate change with unsustainable production and consumption patterns
- important impacts of atmospheric changes on forests, biodiversity freshwater and marine ecosystems, as well as on economic activities, such as agriculture highlighting the need for convergence of policy objectives
- status quo of adaptation science and cost-efficient environment friendly solutions with a closer link of mitigation and adaptation activities in the agricultural sector
- need for reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy taking into account the demographic factors to promote efficiency in production processes and reduce wasteful consumption in the process of economic growth considering the development needs of developing countries

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable). N.A

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

The initiative complements a number of ongoing activities of participating partners, including for example, on-going regional activities of UNEP, Male Secretariat, national ozone units communication strategies directed towards awareness generation of ODS manufacturers and user and general public, government initiatives on climate change.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD: (e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, newsletters, etc)

Secretariat: The secretariat hosted at CUTS-CSPAC, Calcutta, will be responsible for coordinating all the activities as mentioned below under guidance of an international advisory group.

Meeting during WSSD: An international meeting would be organised during the World Summit on Sustainable Development to discuss on the elements of the detailed draft action plan prepared addressing the main objectives and specific objectives as mentioned above. A second meeting during the Eight Conference of Parties on Climate Change at New Delhi.

Country Workshops: As follow up of the international meeting, multi-stakeholder country workshops will be organised in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. One of the main objectives of these workshops would be to mobilise elected legislators and receive individual inputs from these countries. A major outcome would be to establish a core group of parliamentarians, media persons, industry representatives, representatives from judiciary, civil society representatives and experts. The members of this network would be responsible for reviewing the implementation of the project and conducting follow-up activities at the national level in each of these countries. These workshops will be organised in association with a local partner (NGO), who will be a part of the network.

Local level meetings and initiatives: There is a need to regularly organise informal discussions and formal meetings with the initiative and involvement of elected legislators at local levels over the next one year to create/increase mass awareness on atmospheric issues. This will provide a “bottoms up” thrust to the initiative and help in arriving at feasible solutions beneficial to environment friendly decision-making and catalysing correct policy decisions.

Documentation

Briefing Papers: five reader-friendly briefing papers highlighting legislative aspects of ozone depletion and climate change (and related issues) will be produced for information dissemination to a larger audience i.e. concerned civil society representatives, representatives from judiciary, research institutions, business community and media persons over the next three years. These briefing papers will be of 6-8 pages, and printed in A4 size coloured paper.

Newsletter: a dedicated 4-page newsletter highlighting latest developments taking place on atmospheric issues and requirements to address the issues of climate change and ozone depletion will be published bi-monthly. One page of this newsletter would carry the views of elected legislators.

Electronic Newsletter: a 2-page electronic newsletter will be circulated in every month to the members of this forum and other stakeholders.

Reports: deliberations at the meetings will be published and distributed to all the stakeholders and to the larger audience.

Web Pages: dedicated web pages will be developed to facilitate information exchange between and among the stakeholders. This would serve as a tool of information exchange. It would try to generate awareness among a larger number of effective parliamentarians on the twin issues of ODS phase-out and climate change and the commitments made by the respective countries in this context.

Stocktaking meeting during CSD11: A stock taking on the progress of the South Asian phase of the initiative will be taken during CSD11.

Other relevant information:

Unique aspects of this initiative are:

- Innovativeness – combined efforts of legislature and consumer groups
- Concrete objectives and outcomes
- Global character
- Outreach initiative throughout the project period

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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