

The Marrakesh Accords and Developing Countries

Kalpada Chatterjee

CLIMATE CHANGE

It took three years after Rio for the Climate Convention to enter into force. It took two more years to design and adopt the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. It seems that the negotiations have slowed down with every meeting and the commitments made by the developed country Parties in Kyoto are being diluted by offering concessions to achieve ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. By far, the biggest winner in Marrakesh was Russia. The Kyoto treaty cannot come into force unless at least 55 country Parties to the Convention that emit 55 percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions during 1990 from the Parties included in Annex I have ratified the Protocol. So far, 40 countries have ratified the Protocol including one developed country (Romania). The Marrakesh Conference was attended by 171 governments and about 4500 participants. COP 8 will be held from 23 October to 1 November 2002 and will be hosted by India.

The Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol

One of the important affirmation recorded in the Marrakesh Accords is their affirmation that it is the responsibility of the Parties to the Convention as well as to the Protocol to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of human kind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic condition. Accordingly, it is primarily the responsibility of developed countries to take the lead in combating climate change and adverse effects thereof.

Funding

Another very important Marrakesh accord is the creation of different funds for the implementation of the commitments of the developed countries made under the Convention. These funds are:

- Increased GEF replenishment
- The special climate change fund to be established under this decision

- The least developed countries fund to be established under this decision
 - Bilateral and multilateral sources
- Developed country Parties are to:
- Develop appropriate modalities for burden sharing among Annex II Parties
 - Report their financial contribution on an annual basis

The Conference of Parties is to review the reports annually.

As a part of the Marrakesh accord, European Community and its member states, together with Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland made a joint declaration to contribute collectively US \$ 401 million annually by 2005, with their level to be reviewed in 2008.

The accord also decided to establish an adaptation fund to finance adaptation projects and programmes in the areas of water resource management, land management, agriculture, health infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems and integrated coastal zone management in developing country parties that are Parties to the Protocol.

Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) under the Pilot Phase

The Marrakesh accord decided to continue the pilot phase for AIJ, to provide the developing country Parties opportunity for learning by doing. The geographical distribution of Activities Implemented Jointly however still remains unbalanced despite recent improvements.

Participation in AIJ under the Pilot Phase provides an important opportunity for learning by doing.

Capacity building in Developing Countries

Capacity building for developing countries is essential to enable them to participate fully in and to implement effectively their commitment under the UNFCCC and for their effective participation in the Kyoto Protocol process. There is no "one size fits all" formula for capacity building. Capacity building must be country driven, addressing the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and

reflecting their national sustainable development strategies, priorities and initiatives. Capacity building is a continuous, progressive and iterative process, where implementation should be on the priorities of developing countries.

One of the areas of capacity building as identified by the COP is Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), preparation of emission baseline, additionality test methodologies, certified project activities, incorporating Sustainable Development Goals and their M&V and certification by OEs.

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

The purpose of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is to assist developing country Parties in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention and to assist the developed country Parties in achieving compliance with their commitments made under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol (KP). The Marrakesh Accords affirmed that it is the host Party's prerogative to confirm whether a CDM project activity assists the country in achieving sustainable development, and further emphasized that CDM project activities should lead to the transfer of environmentally safe and sound technologies and know how in addition to the transfer of funds in addition to normal ODA flows to that developing country.

A reliable, Transparent and Conservative Baseline

A reliable, transparent and conservative baseline to assess additionality criteria as defined in paragraph 5 (c) of the Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol which states that emission reduction from each project activity has to be certified by operational entities (OEs) on the basis of reduction in emissions that are additional to any that would occur in the absence of the certified project activity and carbon reductions / carbon avoided through a CDM