



“National Workshop on Climate Change Negotiations - Training to Enhance the Skills of the Lebanese Negotiators”

Beirut, 24 – 25 September 2013

Final Report

30 September 2014

Ecologic Institute conducted a training “National Workshop on Climate Change Negotiations - Training to Enhance the Skills of the Lebanese Negotiators” on behalf of the German Embassy in Beirut. The training took place in the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment in Beirut, on 24 and 25 September 2014, and was conducted by Dr. Camilla Bausch and Lena Donat.

Objective

The immediate objective is to enhance the negotiating capacity of the Lebanese climate change negotiating team, including the technical and political level at home, and the general capacity of other Lebanese stakeholders to understand and support the climate change negotiations. This is to strengthen the effective participation of Lebanon in the relevant fora.

The workshop was designed as a follow-up on a workshop conducted in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Environment in December 2013 (“Workshop I”), which focussed on essential knowledge and background of UNFCCC¹ negotiations. The second workshop was designed to enhance participants’ practical negotiation skills, providing more detail and depth as well as a different more practical perspective.

The target audience included participants from relevant Lebanese ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and other political levels as well as participants from academia, media and civil society in Lebanon. While the focus was on those who had already participated in the first training, a short recap session at the beginning of the workshop and small information sections before certain sessions made sure that also “newcomers” were able to follow the workshop.

The workshop provided insights in how to coordinate and participate effectively in the climate negotiations in a practical sense, including the interaction or coordination between the negotiators and the team at the conference and the political and technical level at home. Through an interactive approach, the workshop practiced practical skills and also facilitated mutual learning among participants – as well as network building.

¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Content of the workshop

The first workshop day provided tips and tricks on how to strategically organise the participation of a delegation in the international climate negotiations. The session focused on how to gather but not get lost in information, and how to use the available resources of a delegation efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, participants were introduced to the variety channels and fora negotiators can use to influence negotiations, their advantages and risks. These included back channels, such as the media or NGOs, and the official negotiation fora. Special attention was paid to formal bilateral meetings, which participants practiced in an interactive exercise. Finally, the afternoon was used for a moderated discussion on a strategy for Lebanon in the negotiations. Participants discussed which actors Lebanon could approach, and what to offer them, to gain support for Lebanon's key priorities.

The second workshop day focussed on means to understand and influence the wording outcome text of negotiations. Participants got acquainted with the most essential codes used by delegations in the context of the negotiations of the new climate agreement. The session also familiarised participants with language used in decision or agreement text, and with specific terms negotiators should pay attention to. The participants used these skills in the afternoon to analyse in depth a draft decision text that will be on the table of the next negotiations in December 2014. They developed proposals for amending the text to reflect the Lebanese position.

Throughout the two workshop days, participants were engaged in an interactive negotiation exercise. Participants were asked to represent countries and to negotiate a decision text on a long term vision for the new climate agreement. Country sheets with strategic advice informed their position building and negotiations. They actively engaged in different negotiation settings, including a plenary session, bilateral negotiations and a contact group. Using these different settings served to use the insights gained during the workshop in practice.

Evaluation

Participants were given the chance to evaluate the workshop in a feedback form. The detailed results were provided to the Embassy and the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment. The positive feedback was overwhelming: In the overall assessment of the workshop, participants provided the workshop with 20 out of 20 possible points. Also, during the oral feedback at the end of the workshop, participants expressed that the workshop had met or even exceeded their expectations.