

COP16 agrees on plan on education, training and public awareness of climate change

ECA Press Release No. 95/2010

CANCUN, Mexico, December 4, 2010 (ECA) – Negotiators attending the 16th conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change today clinched the first consensus of the Conference, according to correspondents of the Information and Communication Service (ICS) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) present in the Mexican sea side resort city.

The consensus is on education, training and public awareness activities on climate change. Although the education, training and public awareness plan is one of the least contentious issues in Cancun, the approval is seen as indicative of the general willingness among participants not to allow the chances of sealing deals on other significant issues slip away, according to observers here.

The most significant aspects of the consensus text, which still has to be adopted by COP 16, includes a definition of Article 6, the promotion of youth participation as well as that of major groups in the climate change processes. It also urges the development of national and regional projects for the implementation of Article 6 and the promotion of formal and non formal education on climate change.

Reports say that the consensus came as a real surprise because the issue of the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention had only been raised as an informal consultation by the Dominican Republic.

However, the Group of 77 + China took it up and formulated a proposal for a decision that was eventually adopted on the issue.

Delighted by his country's leadership in obtaining the very first consensus in Cancun, the Vice President of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Omar Ramirez, issued a communiqué saying "this is a historic moment because this consensus has demonstrated that with enough desire, consensus could be achieved on many topics in Cancun".

He later called a news conference to elaborate on how they had gone about the negotiation, saying it is an example of how much can be achieved in Cancun, "if there is the will".

The consensus is said to have generated a lot of enthusiasm on the Cancun outcomes within working groups

Issued by:

ECA Information and Communication Service
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251 11 5445098

Fax: +251-11-551 03 65

E-mail: ecainfo@uneca.org

Web: www.uneca.org
