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ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Agenda item: 5
ENGLISH ONLY

USE OF FUNDS FROM THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

(Submitted by New Zealand on behalf of the Task Group set up by the Panel)

Proposal for the use of funds from the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize

Background:

The IPCC was jointly awarded, with Mr Al Gore, the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and as part of this award the IPCC received an amount of 885,000 CHF as its share of the award money.

In the paper presented to the 28th Session of the IPCC it was suggested that the funds be used to support, broaden and enhance the creation and dissemination of knowledge about climate change, its impacts, and the management of climate risks through adaptation and mitigation. It was also suggested that they will be used in a manner which both increases the engagement of developing country scientists and complements and supports the work of the IPCC.

Below, we review the discussion at the 28th Session, outline a preferred option for the use of the funds, suggest a proposal to be put to the 29th Session, and provide an Appendix with further details.

Proposals to the Twenty-Eighth Session:

A task force under the guidance of the UK prepared three proposals for the use of funds from the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. These were discussed by delegates to the 28th Session of the IPCC in Budapest, 9 – 10 April 2008. These proposals were, in brief:

1. Dissemination of IPCC knowledge and collection of further knowledge on current vulnerabilities and coping capacities.
Activities could target specifically vulnerable regions and communities and regions, be used to disseminate specifically targeted IPCC knowledge, and be designed to facilitate gathering additional knowledge and understanding about traditional local coping capacities, insights about current and projected vulnerability and adaptive and mitigative capacity.
2. Support for scientists in developing countries.
This could be through one of the following mechanisms:
 - a. Cooperation arrangements, which would involve joint projects, training activities or fellowship programmes between institutions with high capacity in some regions and institutions with low or medium capacity in other regions.
 - b. Fellowships for young scientists
 - c. Internships in relevant institutions and international organizations
 - d. Access to online journals for developing country authors.
 - e. Workshops to identify research needs and to facilitate access of developing country institutions to relevant funding.
3. Preparation of a special report on climate change and peace.

Support was expressed at the 28th Session for proposed activities one and two, namely dissemination of IPCC knowledge and collection of further knowledge on current vulnerabilities and coping capacities, and support for scientists in developing countries. Many delegates agreed with the proposal to use the funds for a special purpose and to accept funding from other sources to carry out sustained activities. The proposal was also made to set up a special trust fund.

A proposal building on the second of the options above, but also at the same time addressing much of the intent of the first option, was presented from the floor by the Delegation of Australia, and appeared to have broad general support amongst delegates in Budapest. This proposal was to create a scholarship fund for young post-graduate or post-doctoral students in climate change sciences from developing countries, especially least developed countries. The Task Team feels that it has become overwhelmingly the preferred proposal and accordingly it has been the focus of the further work.

Scholarship Fund

This proposal seeks to create a scholarship fund for young post-graduate or post-doctoral students in climate change sciences from developing countries, especially least developed countries.

Despite strong efforts to enhance developing country participation in climate change studies and in IPCC assessment work, the representation of experts from various developing country regions, and particularly the representation of young scientists, is still a reason for concern. Several governments and IPCC authors have suggested earlier that further support be provided to enhance the participation of young scientists from developing countries.

The characteristics of this fund:

- it would be a scholarship fund for young post-graduate or post-doctoral students in areas immediately related to climate change
- it would be for scholars from developing countries, especially least developed countries
- it would provide opportunities that would not otherwise be available
- it would be distinct from regular IPCC activities
- it would attract and accept additional funding
- it would leave a long-term legacy
- the administration overheads would be low
- governance would be by small group of trustees elected as part of the IPCC Bureau election process

Expanding briefly on these characteristics:

Aim and Purpose of the Fund: The Aim and Purpose of the Fund is to build capacity in the understanding and management of climate change in developing countries, through providing opportunities for young scientists from developing countries to undertake studies that would not otherwise be possible without the intervention of the Fund.

Distinct from regular IPCC activities: The Fund would be invested and administered separately from other IPCC funds by elected Trustees. It would be clearly distinguished, by the name of the fund, from other IPCC activities.

Attract additional funding: A key element of this proposal is that the fund would be an attractive investment vehicle for benefactors interested in climate change solutions, and those interested in capacity building in developed countries. Our soundings suggest that because of the focus on both capacity building and on climate change, and the low overheads associated with the fund, significant enhancement of the resources available for distribution is possible.

It would be expected (but not a requirement) that in some cases host organisations would provide additional support. In these cases a model similar to that of the Fulbright Fellowships is envisaged where this Fund would offer travel funding and limited studentship support.

Long-term legacy: All delegations consulted felt it important that the fund was used in a way that provides a long-term legacy. This can be achieved in two ways:

(i) Scholars who have studied with the support of the fund can be expected to provide a lifetime of returns to the community.

(ii) The intention would be to fund scholarships from income from the fund (both investment income and additional donations), rather than from the Nobel Prize capital, so that the fund would be perpetual.

Low administration overheads: Given the existing structure, skills and resources of the IPCC Secretariat, it may be possible for the day-to-day administration of the fund to be absorbed within the Secretariat once the initial set-up period of the fund is complete.

Governance: The three Vice-Chairs of the IPCC and the IPCC Chair or his nominee, serving as a Science Board, would set the priorities for selection of scholars and would make the final selection of scholars.

This Science Board will be aware of the current science landscape, of the gaps both in science and in national capacity, and have a developed/developing country balance.

Management of the general financial and other affairs of a fund of this type should be by a small group of Trustees. At the formation of the Fund the members of the Science Board would serve as the Trustees of the Fund.

The Aims and Purpose of the Fund and the governance structure of the Fund may only be changed by the IPCC in Plenary Session.

If additional skills and specialist expertise are required the Trustees may seek assistance from the IPCC Secretariat or other UN body.

Reporting: Scholars would report regularly to the Trustees on the progress of their studies, in a short report. The trustees would report annually to the IPCC Plenary on the names, study topics, and success of scholars. The accounts of the Fund would be audited and the details made available with those of the other IPCC activities.

Proposal to be put to the Session:

- (i) **That the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change creates a scholarship fund for young post-graduate or post-doctoral students in climate change sciences from developing countries, especially least developed countries.**
- (ii) **That the funds received by the IPCC as its share of the award money for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize be transferred to this scholarship fund.**
- (iii) **That the fund be open to donations from individuals, organisations and governments supporting the Aims and Objectives of the Fund.**
- (iv) **That the Secretary be asked to arrange for the development of a trust deed, which will set out the details governing the fund. The deed should reflect the characteristics outlined earlier in this document and in the Appendix that follows.**

APPENDIX

Aims and Purposes of the Fund:

The Aim and Purpose of the Fund is to build capacity in the understanding and management of climate change in developing countries, through providing opportunities for young scientists from developing countries to undertake studies that would not otherwise be possible without the intervention of the Fund.

A unique feature of this Fund will be that those receiving support from the Fund will where practicable participate in IPCC activities e.g. by assisting chapter writing teams, thereby helping in the assessment process.

Selection of scholars: The selection criteria should be set each award cycle by the Science Board and notified through a request for nominations. It is suggested that in the first instance Scholars will be selected by the Science Board based on the following criteria:

- The needs of their country for capacity building in climate change science.
- The ability of their country to utilise capacity that is developed through the Fund
- Their ability to use their study for the benefit of their country
- The extent to which the study to be undertaken by the scholars will address the science gaps identified in the most recent comprehensive Assessment Report, any subsequent Special Reports, or in the scoping process for forthcoming reports
- The extent to which the study will address the dissemination of IPCC knowledge and collection of further knowledge on current vulnerabilities and coping capacities.
- The scientific and academic excellence of the candidates

In general the Board should seek to supply equivalent support for study in the topic areas of each of the three Working Groups.

Nomination of scholars: To avoid unreasonable demands on the administration of the fund, scholars should be nominated by their country Focal Points. The nomination criteria should be set each award cycle by the Science Board. It is suggested that in the first instance nominations be limited to no more than two candidates per country.

Governance of the Fund:

General: It will be important to distinguish between the science responsibilities associated with the Fund, and the responsibilities associated with managing the financial and other affairs of the Fund.

The Aims and Purpose of the Fund and the governance structure of the Fund may only be changed by the IPCC in Plenary Session.

Science Board:

The three IPCC Vice-Chairs and the IPCC Chair or his nominee, serving as a Science Board, would set the priorities for selection of scholars and would make the final selection of scholars. This Science Board will be aware of the current science landscape, of the gaps both in science and in national capacity, and have a developed/developing country balance.

Trustees:

The affairs of the Fund will be managed by a small group of no more than four Trustees elected by the IPCC in Plenary Session. At the formation of the Fund the members of the Science Board would serve as the elected Trustees of the Fund. The Trustees can subsequently advise the Plenary if at future elections the Trustees should be automatically the members of the Science Board (i.e. the three Vice-Chairs plus the IPCC Chair) or whether separate nominations and elections should occur.

Any Trustees must bring clearly identified skills to the Fund, must be selected to maintain the developing / developed country balance of the Trustees, and must not place significant additional overheads on the Fund.

The Trustees will not be remunerated for their activities as Trustees.

To avoid additional overhead expenses, the business of the Fund would be carried out by email and at meetings held in conjunction with regular IPCC Bureau or Plenary meetings.

The Trustees may receive solicited or unsolicited donations and in-kind contributions including bequests and endowments for the purposes of the Fund. They may also at their discretion accept designated gifts for specific purposes, provided these purposes fall within the purposes of the Fund (e.g. the offer of support from host organisations for study in specified fields).

The Trustees will manage the affairs of the Fund, including making awards (on the advice of the Science Board) and the management of funds. They will be accountable to the Plenary Session of the IPCC and will report annually to the Plenary on the affairs of the Fund.

It is intended that the Trustees will have the fullest possible powers in relation to the Fund, however:

- they may not do anything which prejudices the aim and purposes of the Fund
- they may not do anything which prejudices the academic integrity of the scientists receiving support from the Fund, nor the integrity and independence of the IPCC
- all the Trustees powers, authorities and discretions shall be subject to any direction to the contrary by the IPCC in Plenary Session

Administration of the Fund:

Initially administration of the fund will focus on arranging for a Trust Deed for the Fund to be drawn up. It will also include arranging for any professional assistance required by the Trustees in order for them to exercise their responsibilities under the Trust.

Once the Fund is established there will be a need to assist in growing the Fund.

In the longer term the day-to-day administration of the fund will include: advertising for scholar nominations, management of the selection process, disbursement of scholarship monies, monitoring of the reporting requirements of scholars, and reporting to the Trustees of the Fund and (on their behalf) to Plenary.