

## **April 2006 – Focal Point report**

The purpose of this report is to briefly update the CNCA members on key developments in the preparation of the Roundtable process.

1. **April 5: CNCA planning meeting.** Purpose: to discuss government proposal and gather suggestions for input in the planning retreat later in the month. (Minutes available).

2. **April 10/11: Steering Committee/Advisory Group Meeting.** The meeting was convened to discuss issues included in the Government's proposed Background and Strategic Framework for the National Roundtables. It brought together for the first time the Advisory Group (AG) and the Steering Committee (SC) along with the Focal Points (FP) from civil society and industry.

**Outcomes:** The meeting was productive and the Government reacted positively to some of the NGO's concerns and suggestions. Though agreement was not reached on all issues, a follow up process was established to resolve pending issues.

### Agreements reached:

- **Foundation Document:** The process will be guided by a Foundation Document to be made publicly available in advance (4 to 3 weeks) of the First Roundtable. It will serve to frame the discussion by providing an overview of the five themes (stemming from issues raised in the SCFAIT report) and the key questions to be addressed in the process. FAC is completing a first version of this document.
- **Public Forum:** Each roundtable will offer room for public participation. It will take place in late afternoon or early evening and will include a discussion on the five themes. The Government is open to our idea of having a small representation of members of the AG & SC in this session.
- **Issue Focus Session.** It will aim to explore specific questions in depth, identify policy options and develop concrete recommendations.

The Issue Focus session will have a maximum of 30 active participants including members of the Advisory Group and the Steering Committee. Invited participants will include not only subject experts but also voices from affected communities in the South and people working on-the-ground. They will need to have capacity to engage in broader discussions beyond presenting individual cases. There was broad support for strong involvement of the Canadian indigenous population in the Roundtable process.

This session will use the Chatham House rules, with reports of the meeting to be made available to the public through a website and distribution by the FP. A meeting of the SC and AG will follow the Issue Focus Session and review the key findings and recommendations for inclusion in the Evolving Issue document.

- **Themes.** Based on our suggestions, changes were introduced to the sequence that was originally proposed. The agreement reached reflects the natural linkages among standards, incentives (positive & negative) and monitoring/verification and conflict

resolution. Issues of governance and capacity building are dealt together in the last two events.

- **Dates & Host Cities:** The first roundtable is scheduled for mid-June in Vancouver. The Government accepted our suggestion to suspend the Roundtable process during the summer and to resume it in September. Based on political considerations, this process needs to be finished before the end of 2006.

<b>Host City</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Themes to be covered D</b>
<b>Vancouver</b>	June 15-16 (possible change to 14-15)	CSR standards & best practices: scoping of “incentives & instruments”
<b>Toronto</b>	Week Sep 5 (6/7/8)	Incentives & monitoring and verification instruments focused on Mining
<b>Calgary</b>	October	Incentives & monitoring and verification instruments focused on oil & gas
<b>Montreal</b>	Week of Nov 14	Host Country governance and assistance to companies
<b>Ottawa</b>	Week of Dec 1	Host Country governance and assistance to companies/wrap up

- **Facilitator.** A facilitator will manage the whole process. The government invited a selected group of people to make proposals and the final candidate will be chosen following the governmental bidding process. A list of 6 potential candidates (w/bios) was prepared and circulated among participants.
- **Research:** A study benchmarking Canada’s progress compared to other countries is underway. FAC will make it available after it is finalized though no idea of timeline was provided.

Pending Issues & Follow Up:

- **Foundation document:** Civil society expressed strong concerns over the framing of the governance theme and some of the key questions identified to guide the discussion. Comments on the themes and accompanying questions were sent to FAC. (See our letter dated April 20). A draft of the Foundation Document will be circulated to AG members for comments by May 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Participants for the Issue Focus session:** AG, SC and Focal Points were asked to forward recommendations for participants, with priority on June roundtable, to

FAC. We proposed 15 participants for the 1<sup>st</sup> Roundtable. (See our letter dated April 20). A second letter was sent with contact details and CVs (April 28). A decision on participants is expected to be taken the week of May 1.

- **Facilitator nomination:** AG and Focal Points were asked to forward reactions on facilitator candidates and any recommendations to FAC. We raised a few concerns regarding one of the candidates. (See letter dated April 20).
- **Public forum:** There is a need for further definition on the organization of this session. FAC is to seek civil society suggestions.
- **Advisory Group:** Its composition is not yet finalized. FAC is working on seeking a participant from environmental groups and is having discussions with indigenous groups with regard to their participation (having a focal point and/or a member in the AG).
- **Draft report on the April 10-11 planning meeting.** FAC has circulated a short report of this meeting. We reviewed it and submitted feedback on some of the retreat outcomes that were not well reflected in this draft (Comments dated April 18). No final version of the report has been released yet.
- **Funding proposal.** It was submitted in early April but is not approved yet.

Ottawa, April 28 2006

Prepared: AB