

Dear colleagues,

The subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC met in their twentieth sessions from 16 to 25 June 2004 in Bonn, Germany. They adopted several important conclusions and prepared the ground for a successful tenth session of the Conference of the Parties in December 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Non-Annex I Parties in Bonn continued to send a positive and encouraging message on their high commitment to the Convention process. The message was reinforced by the fact that 115 non-Annex I Parties have submitted their initial national communication. India presented its initial national communication during a special side event at this session of the subsidiary bodies and impressed many participants with the vast scientific and administrative effort that led to the completion of this important document. The message was further emphasized by the fact that nearly half of all non-Annex I Parties have already initiated the process of preparing second national communications and that three non-Annex I Parties have completed this process. Uruguay is the first non-Annex I Party to submit its second national communication using the guidelines adopted at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

This fourth issue of the *NAI UPDATE* contains a summary of conclusions and side events that are relevant to the national communication process in non-Annex I Parties. I hope you find this information useful.

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NAI UPDATE is prepared by the Non-Annex I Implementation Subprogramme immediately after each session of the subsidiary bodies and is sent to all UNFCCC national focal points and national communication project coordinators. Please provide comments to Lornaliza Mangosing (fax: +49 228 815 1599, email: lmangosing@unfccc.int).

SBI 20

Highlights relating to national communications from non-Annex I Parties

Submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications

In accordance with Article 12, paragraph 5, of the Convention, each non-Annex I Party shall make its initial national communication within three years of the entry into force of the Convention for that Party, or of the availability of financial resources. Parties that are least developed countries may make their initial communications at their discretion. Article 12 further states that the frequency of subsequent communications by all Parties shall be determined by the Conference of the Parties (COP), taking into account the differentiated timetable set by paragraph 5.

The COP, at its eighth session, decided that the frequency of submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications by non-Annex I Parties shall be determined at its ninth session. However, Parties could not agree on a decision on the issue at COP 9.

Parties negotiating at the twentieth session of the SBI clarified their positions on the issue. The positions are reflected in a bracketed draft COP decision and a submission made by the Group of 77 and China. The timeframes proposed by Parties for the submissions of second and, where appropriate, third national communications varied from three to six years after the initial disbursement of financial resources. In its conclusions, the SBI decided to continue deliberations on this issue at its twenty-first session.

The text of the conclusion and the draft decision is available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/l10.pdf>

The text of the submission of the Group of 77 and China is available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/misc03.pdf>

Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE)

In the conclusions on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), the SBI welcomed the efforts of the Group in prioritizing activities within its multi-year programme of work. It invited Annex II Parties, and other Parties in a position to do so, to provide financial and technical support for these activities. The SBI welcomed efforts to cooperate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the [Expert Group on Technology Transfer \(EGTT\)](#), as well as the offer by the Government of Panama to host the first hands-on training workshop on greenhouse gas inventories. The SBI reiterated the need for closer cooperation between the CGE and the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Communications Support Programme (NCSP).

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/108.pdf>

Provision of financial and technical support

In the conclusions on financial and technical support, the SBI welcomed the [submission](#) by 115 non-Annex I Parties of their initial national communications and of three second national communications.

The SBI took note of specific needs and concerns of non-Annex I Parties as identified at the [workshop](#) on the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties held in May 2004 in Manila, Philippines. The workshop informed non-Annex I Parties on the use of the UNFCCC guidelines and the user manual for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. It facilitated the exchange of information on financial and technical support, for example, on procedures for accessing funds for the preparation of national communications from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the support to be provided by its implementing agencies. It also facilitated discussion on the process of preparation of second national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

The SBI reiterated in its conclusions the need to strengthen national institutions, regional and subregional climate change centres and centres of excellence, especially in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/109.pdf>

Other matters relating to non-Annex I Parties

Financial mechanism of the Convention

In the conclusions on matters relating to the implementation of decision 5/CP.8, the SBI welcomed the successful and substantial third replenishment of the [GEF Trust Fund](#). It noted that inputs by the COP to discussions on the fourth replenishment should be consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC and the [Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) between the COP and GEF Council on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the UNFCCC. The SBI requested the UNFCCC secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat, to prepare a report for the COP at its tenth session on the assessment of funding necessary to assist developing country Parties in fulfilling their commitments that will assist in determining jointly with the GEF Council the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention as defined in the MOU between the COP and the GEF Council. The report should be based on information and data identified in the MOU on the determination of the level of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with guidance provided by the COP. It should also describe data and methodology used by the secretariat to prepare the report, in order to enable the results to be verified at a later stage. The SBI agreed that deliberations should continue at its twenty-first session, with a view to preparing a draft decision for adoption by the COP at its tenth session.

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/crp01.pdf>

Article 6 of the Convention

The SBI encouraged Parties to cooperate in the key areas identified at the [African regional workshop](#) held in January 2004 in Banjul, Gambia. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare an intermediate review report on progress in implementing Article 6, based on information contained in national communications and other information received by the secretariat by 15 August 2004. The report of the secretariat will form the basis for a draft COP 10 decision. The SBI encouraged intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to communicate to the secretariat, by 15 September 2004, their programmatic responses to the [New Delhi work programme](#) and to provide information on progress achieved in supporting its implementation, as part of the interim review process.

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/106.pdf>



Capacity-building

The SBI decided, inter alia: to complete a draft decision at SBI 21 on the range and effectiveness of capacity-building activities in developing countries aimed at implementing [decision 2/CP.7](#); to request the secretariat to convene a meeting of practitioners with the aim of contributing to the comprehensive review at COP 10, and to present the outcome to the SBI at its twenty-first session; to invite additional information on the effectiveness of capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition (EIT countries); and to request the secretariat to prepare an analytical paper on the effectiveness of the implementation of the [framework for capacity-building in EIT countries](#).

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/105.pdf>

Progress on the implementation of activities under decision 5/CP.7

Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention calls on Parties to consider actions, including those relating to funding, insurance and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries in this regard, listing categories of countries that may be particularly affected (e.g. small island developing States and countries whose economies are highly dependent on fossil fuel).

At COP 6 part II, Parties completed work on a decision on the implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention that was formally adopted at COP 7 ([decision 5/CP.7](#)).

The SBI, at its nineteenth session, invited Parties and relevant international organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 15 May 2004, information on current and/or planned activities including, where appropriate, support programmes, to meet the specific needs and circumstances of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change, in support of the various provisions of decision 5/CP.7.

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/111.pdf>

Matters relating to the least developed countries (LDCs)

The SBI endorsed the proposed work programme of the [LEG](#) for its second term (2004–2005). The work programme includes advice on the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), focusing in particular on the elements which were identified during the previous term to require more work; and guidance on the implementation strategy of NAPAs. The Chair of the LEG was requested to update the SBI at its twenty-first

session on progress on the implementation of the work programme.

The text of the conclusions is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/104.pdf>

CC:FORUM: Side events

Financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties

The secretariat provided an overview of the status of non-Annex I Party national communications and of the history of financial and technical support for the preparation of initial national communications.

UNDP outlined the [National Communications Programme for Climate Change](#), a joint initiative of the GEF, UNEP and UNDP. The "Umbrella Project" consists of three funding components: USD 1.95m for financing Parties' self-assessment activities for the preparation of project documents; USD 52.65m for national communications in up to 130 non-Annex I Parties; and USD 5.6m for the [NCSP](#). The latter will offer technical support for all non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications.

The Technical Research Centre of Finland presented [Finland's efforts in increasing the preparedness for climate variability and global change in small island developing States in the Caribbean region](#). It highlighted Finland's initiatives that aim at: building institutional and personnel capacities; improving capacity to monitor climate change impacts; improving systematic observation; and increasing awareness of important meteorological observations in adapting to climate change.

Japan's Ministry of Environment described the annual [Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change](#), the [Asia Pacific Network on Climate Change](#), and activities of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It drew attention to the [Resource Book on climate change in the Pacific region](#), produced by Japan's Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the [South Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#).

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) outlined its [Climate Protection Programme](#), which seeks to mainstream the philosophy of climate change adaptation into German development cooperation. It stressed the importance of taking a holistic approach, and highlighted the fact that national communications provide

information useful in identifying opportunities and priorities for concrete adaptation measures.

Presentation of newly submitted national communications and a national implementation strategy

Malta presented its [initial national communication](#), highlighting the fact that emissions in the country have stabilized despite growing energy consumption. Improved practices in power generation, such as the elimination of coal in 1995 and the introduction of gas turbines burning gas oil, as well as the reduced demand for water production, have eased CO₂ emissions. Possible greenhouse gas abatement measures were presented, including: improved energy efficiency; three-way catalytic converters in vehicles and alternative fuels such as bio-diesel; and increased composting and methane collection from landfills.

Uganda also presented its [initial national communication](#) emphasizing the country's particular vulnerability, as an LDC, to climate change impacts. Several of its national policies were highlighted as being relevant for implementing the Convention, such as its Poverty Eradication Action Plan and Plan for Modernization of Agriculture.

The Republic of Korea presented its [second national communication](#) highlighting the fact that although per capita emissions had increased during the period 1990–2001, emission intensity per unit GDP had decreased.

Uruguay presented its [second national communication](#) noting that it was the first one that followed the new guidelines contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8.

Benin presented its [National Implementation Strategy](#), which contains the country's vision on climate change and the Convention, and how it relates to Benin's national economic and development plans.

In this side event, India provided an overview of its [initial national communication](#) and pointed out that its preparation took three years and involved more than 350 Indian scientists. India also organized its own special side event at this session, where it presented in more detail the various elements of its initial national communication.

CC:FORUM is an initiative of the secretariat to provide a forum for the exchange of information on national communications from non-Annex I Parties and related financial and technical support. CC:FORUM events are open to all participants of the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

Web links to selected other highlights of the twentieth session of the subsidiary bodies

In-session SBSTA workshops

A new feature of the twentieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies were in-session workshops. The two workshops, mandated by SBSTA 19, dealt with the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, and the scientific, technical, and socio-economic aspects of mitigation. The workshop on adaptation was held on Friday, 18 June; while the one on mitigation took place on Saturday, 19 June.

Copies of the provisional agendas and the presentations are available at:

<http://unfccc.int/sessions/sb20/index.html>

Upcoming events



September 2004 (tentatively scheduled)

CGE hands-on training workshop on national greenhouse gas inventories for the Latin America and the Caribbean region
Panama City, Panama (to be confirmed)

October 2004 (tentatively scheduled)

CGE hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessments for the African region
Venue to be determined

December 2004

Third meeting of the CGE
Buenos Aires, Argentina

February 2005 (tentatively scheduled)

CGE hands-on training workshop on national greenhouse gas inventories for the Asia-Pacific region
Shanghai, China (to be confirmed)