

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Eighth session

Bonn, 2-12 June 1998

Agenda item 11

FCCC/SBI/1998/CRP.3

6 June 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Proceedings

1. The SBI considered this item at its 6th meeting, on 4 June. It had before it document FCCC/SBI/1998/5; documents previously issued on this agenda item were also available (FCCC/SBI/1997/14, FCCC/SBI/1997/14/Add.1, and FCCC/SBI/1997/MISC.7). These documents were briefly introduced by the Executive Secretary. Statements were made by representatives of five Parties, and by representatives of two non-governmental organizations, representing the environmental and the business and industry constituencies, respectively.

2. Parties stressed the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations at the meetings of the Convention bodies, and in the implementation of the Convention. Representatives of non-governmental organizations who spoke emphasized their willingness to contribute to the Convention process.

2. Conclusions

3. At its 6th meeting, on 4 June, the SBI, having considered a proposal by the Chairman, adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBI took note that the current arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations are satisfactory, and that no change in the accreditation procedures is required. The SBI requested the secretariat, if the availability of resources permitted, to provide additional information to the Convention bodies on the objectives of already accredited observer organizations, as well as on new ones when accredited;

(b) The SBI noted that representatives of recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) constituencies may be allowed to participate in informal contact groups, if the chairmen of those groups agree. The SBI recognized that such groups would need to keep their intergovernmental nature and that NGO participants could be asked to leave during certain phases of the discussions;

(c) The SBI noted that the existing three recognized constituencies: (i) environmental, (ii) business and industry, and (iii) local authorities, do not always provide a practical way to group the NGO constituencies. The SBI concluded that a new framework could be based on elements provided by the Executive Secretary in paragraphs 5-6 of document FCCC/SBI/1997/14/Add.1, as well as on the list of major groups in Agenda 21. In this regard, the SBI requested the secretariat to continue consultations with representatives of different NGOs to arrive at an improved set of NGO constituencies, possibly to be confirmed by the SBI at its tenth session;

(d) The SBI recognized that NGOs, if they are to be effectively involved in the implementation of the Convention, must be well informed about the Convention process. The SBI welcomed the proposals of the secretariat for improving the availability of documentation and information to NGOs, and encouraged the secretariat to proceed with those activities, within available resources.

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