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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twelfth session

Bonn, 12-16 June 2000

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Article 6 of the Convention: education, training and public awareness**

#### **Submissions from Parties**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **Addendum**

1. In addition to the submissions already received and included in document FCCC/SBSTA/2000/MISC.3, a further submission has been received.\*
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and is reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

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**DRAFT POSITION OF THE AFRICA GROUP, GRULAC AND CHINA<sup>1</sup>  
ON ARTICLES 5 and 6 OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
(UNFCCC).**

Research and Systematic Observation – ARTICLE 5  
Education, Training and Public Awareness – ARTICLE 6

*As background* and in respect of item 11 of the Provisional Agenda for the Twelfth Session of the SBSTA (Doc. FCCC/SBSTA/2000/1), the Africa Group, GRULAC and China recognize that climate change is a major challenge for scientists, decision makers and the general public. We also recognize that Item 11 only considers Article 6 and we propose that Article 5 be also considered.

In carrying out the commitments under Article 4 of the UNFCCC, Parties are expected to provide adequate data through systematic observation networks. The data is necessary to carryout meaningful research to improve our understanding of climate change and the impacts of the adverse effect of climate change.

In line with Article 5 of the UNFCCC and in carrying out their commitments, Annex I Parties must provide the necessary support to strengthen systematic observation networks in developing countries. Specifically, those countries that need financial and technical support to strengthen and improve endogenous technical research capacities and capabilities; data collection, data and information analysis and to conduct research on climate change and its impact at regional and sub-regional scales [level].

The availability of region-specific data and information on climate change and its impacts will enhance our ability to educate and inform the policy makers and the general public to ensure adequate response to climate change.

*Furthermore* and to carryout their commitments under the UNFCCC, it is necessary that public participation in the climate change debate by and within developing countries be enabled. In this way those countries will develop appropriate and adequate responses to address climate change. The citizens of developing countries will learn the possible impact of climate change on their daily lives and will also better participate in the design and implementation of the response and adaptation strategies.

*Acknowledging* the importance of the above, it is necessary that Annex I country Parties provide financial and technical support to developing countries to enable them to address the lack of adequate capacity to fully benefit from the use and application of data and information from existing systematic networks.

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<sup>1</sup> This position is supported by all members of the Group of 77 and China.

Furthermore, there is need to facilitate the timely availability and dissemination of information on extreme weather associated with climate change and climate change induced hazards and impacts. The countries also lack the technology and also the capacities to [benefit from the use of] utilize geographic information technologies for assimilation and analysis of data required for modeling complex climate change scenarios. We therefore note the following needs;-

- Identify the support needs of the regional and national centers including universities, on approaches such as the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and also the need for networking to facilitate data collection to address data gaps.
- Identify systematic observation networks already in place for performance enhancement and assist in the identification of capacity requirements and systems performance and the development of strategies to address these requirements.
- Promote and support involvement of developing country experts in the climate research programs and support the training and manpower development in the National Centers, Agencies and Institutions, through for example, scholarship program.
- Promote the development of national centers and strengthen existing identified National, Sub-regional and Regional Centers, Universities, Agencies and Institutions for adequate data collection, archiving and management and for research applications.
- Facilitate and provide public access to information on climate change and its effects and provide specific support to public awareness programs and networking through for example; exhibitions, supporting the production and dissemination of information in local languages, media intervention.
- Embark on regional modeling of climate and its impacts in consultation with and to promote the participation of scientific and technical experts.
- Establish mechanism for exchange programmes and partnerships with developed country institutions in order to achieve the above and also in the strengthening and building centres of excellence in developing countries.

In line with the above, we therefore propose that the two items; Article 5 (Research and Systematic Observations) and Article 6 (Education, Training and Public Awareness), be taken up as substantive agenda items at SBSTA 14 (COP6) with a view to identify the specific needs identified in Article 5 and Article 6 of the UNFCCC and to further report on the progress to the SBSTA at its Sixteenth Session (COP7).