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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN
ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION**

**WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO
THE CONVENTION**

Submissions by Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its sixteenth session, took note of the information contained in the reports of the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) (FCCC/SBI/2002/2) and the workshop organized by that Group (FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.3), as well as the oral report of the fifth meeting of the CGE, presented by its Chair, on the activities undertaken by the Group since its last report submitted to the SBI (FCCC/SBI/2001/15). It invited Parties to submit, by 15 July 2002, their views on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE.
2. The secretariat received 12 such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced in the language in which they were received and without editing.¹

¹ These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

Parties making submissions

	Page
1. Bolivia (Submission received 18 July 2002)	3
2. Canada (Submission received 18 July 2002)	4
3. Chile (Submission received 22 July 2002)	5
4. Denmark, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Poland, and Slovenia (Submission received 11 July 2002)	7
5. Ecuador (Submission received 16 July 2002)	8
6. Kenya (Submission received 16 July 2002)	9
7. Myanmar (Submission received 14 August 2002)	9
8. New Zealand (Submission received 16 July 2002)	10
9. Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) (Submission received 19 July 2002)	12
10. United States of America (Submission received 24 July 2002)	16
11. Uruguay (Submission received 16 July 2002)	18
12. Uzbekistan (Submission received 17 July 2002)	20

PAPER NO. 1: BOLIVIA

**SUBMISSION CON RELACION AL MANDATO Y NUEVOS TERMINOS DE REFERENCIA
DEL GRUPO CONSULTIVO DE EXPERTOS SOBRE LAS COMUNICACIONES
NACIONALES DE LAS PARTES NO INCLUIDAS EN EL ANEXO I**

El rol que ha estado jugando hasta el momento el Grupo Consultivo de Expertos (GCE) sobre las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I ha sido sumamente importante, fundamentalmente porque está cooperando a los países no incluidos en el anexo I a comprender y abordar efectivamente el desarrollo de sus comunicaciones nacionales, en base al mandato establecido en la decisión 8/CP.5, por lo que la sostenibilidad de este GCE es importante en el proceso de fortalecimiento de capacidades.

En función de lo arriba mencionado se hace necesario no sólo la continuación de las actividades del GCE, sino profundizar más las tareas asignadas, toda vez que está en proceso de discusión la nuevas guías para el desarrollo de las Comunicaciones Nacionales de los Países no incluidos en el Anexo I, basado en la decisión 32/CP.7.

La implementación de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático es un proceso por el cual los países no incluidos en el Anexo I deben recibir una serie de apoyo por parte de los países del Anexo I, pero también desarrollar experiencias e información que les permita consolidar el fortalecimiento de sus capacidades institucionales y humanas, lo cual podrá ser posible en la medida que este GCE se consolide.

Las nuevas Guías para el desarrollo de las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I, busquen sistematizar mejor los análisis y procedimientos de cada uno de los componentes, por lo que es indispensable establecer, en ese marco, nuevos Términos de Referencia para el GCE.

TERMINOS DE REFERENCIA PARA EL CGE

De manera complementaria a los actuales Términos de Referencia, consideramos la necesidad de incluir los siguientes:

- Apoyo técnico científico al desarrollo y aplicación de las nuevas guías para el desarrollo de las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I.
- Desarrollo de talleres de difusión y promoción para el uso de metodologías comunes entre los diferentes países.
- Apoyar técnicamente, a solicitud voluntaria de los países No Anexo I, para la revisión de sus comunicaciones nacionales con la finalidad de proporcionarle recomendaciones que mejoren y den consistencia a las Comunicaciones Nacionales futuras.
- Fortalecer las redes regionales de expertos y compartir experiencia sobre los diferentes componentes de las Comunicaciones Nacionales.
- Trabajar en una red de soporte metodológico a nivel regional que permita que las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I puedan recibir orientación con relación al desarrollo de inventarios de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, factores de emisión, datos de actividad, análisis de vulnerabilidad, opciones de adaptación, transferencia de tecnología, análisis de escenarios climáticos e investigación y observación sistemática.
- Impulsar un sistema de orientación en materia de educación, formación y sensibilización pública y programas de apoyo financiero y técnico.

PAPER NO. 2: CANADA

**REVIEW OF THE MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS**

Submission of the Government of Canada

July 2002

Canada welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixteenth session (FCCC/SBI/2002/CRP.2).

Canada recognizes and congratulates the CGE on its valuable and important work to improve the process of preparation of the national communications from Non-Annex I Parties. Notably, the work of the CGE has included: improvement of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications; improvement of the IPCC methodologies used in the preparation of national communications; and effective facilitation of regional and interregional workshops that allowed for the exchange of experiences relating to the preparation of various elements of the national communications. Hence, it is clear that the CGE has made every effort to fulfill its mandate under the original and revised mandate, as provided in decision 8/CP.5 and 31/CP.7, respectively.

Canada's view is that *ad hoc* groups formed within the UNFCCC should not be permanent bodies. However, we are keen to explore the technical support needs related to Non-Annex I national communications and the best institutional arrangement to suit this purpose. During SBI16 the chair of the CGE delivered an oral report of the fifth meeting of the CGE, and presented views on possible future activities of the CGE to improve the preparation of national communications from Non-Annex I Parties. These activities were identified as: i) technical assessment of national communications on a voluntary basis, ii) organization of workshops on specific topics, iii) monitoring of capacity-building programmes as they relate to the preparation of national communications, and iv) strengthening of coordination between the national communication process and reporting activities under other environmental agreements. Of these activities, iii) and iv) would be better addressed within other domains: specifically, the monitoring of capacity-building programmes as they relate to the preparation of national communications is already a component that is included in the capacity building framework of the Marrakesh Accords (decision 2/CP.7); while the strengthening of coordination between the reporting activities under other environmental agreements is being considered by the Joint Liaison Group of the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.

Canada is of the view that activities i) and ii) of the future activities identified above by the CGE, relate to the provision of focused support and analysis of national communications on a voluntary basis. This support, which is not needed on a continuous basis, would be better addressed on a need-be-basis through a selection of a team of issue specific experts from the UNFCCC roster of experts. This approach would be a resource efficient and technically effective way to address the technical support needs related to Non-Annex I national communications.

PAPER NO. 3: CHILE

VIEWS OF CHILE REGARDING THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS IN NON-ANNEX 1 NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS: POSSIBLE NEW MANDATE AND TOR OF THE CGE.

Based on document FCCC/SBI/2002/CRP.2 and related documents, the Government of Chile would like to share its views on the work of the CGE:

1. Chile strongly feels that the work done by the CGE has been very useful and productive up to now, being one of its most important outcomes the draft guidelines for preparing second national communications for non-annex 1 countries.
2. Many countries have agreed that the existing guidelines are inadequate and difficult to use, being this the reason to adopt a decision (supposed to occurred by COP7!!) in order to improve this early process by creating a new document, enhanced in content and more specific to reflect the needs of all developing countries . The task was given to the CGE —an ad-hoc group specially created for this purpose— comprised by members from developed and developing parties.
3. Through a series of workshops, experts meetings and country review processes —where an important number of experts from developed and developing countries had the chance to state their views and expressed their needs concerning issues to be (or not to be) included in a new document— the CGE had drafted the new guidelines, which were vastly debated during Subsidiary Bodies Sessions (Bonn, June 2002).
4. Chile feels that these new guidelines have improved considerably compared to the existing guidelines, and are sufficiently open to allow developing countries to fulfil its chapters as free as they decide to do.
5. Nevertheless, given the whole set of new data and information required under them —which may imply new burden for developing countries in terms of data availability, methodologies, technical expertise, among others— Chile feels that the CGE should play a role during the implementation phase of these new guidelines, by assisting those non-annex 1 countries who may voluntarily require such assistance.
6. The above means that at a certain point in time, the use of these guidelines must be assessed in terms of evaluating technical problems and constraints encountered by parties (and ways to overcome them), such as scarcity of funds, lack of technical expertise, lack of data, lack of institutional capacity, among others. Chile feels that the most suitable expert group to address the task of evaluating the usefulness of the guidelines, is the CGE, since this group originated the document, knows very well the matter and is composed of excellent technical representatives.
7. For Chile, it will be very important that the CGE new mandate could consider this option in its future work.
8. During this implementation phase, the CGE should have a role in the following activities:
 - Organization of regional/national workshops to disseminate information on the new guidelines and on the means necessary for their implementation (funding, methodologies, information and data requirements, technical expertise needed, etc.).
 - To provide orientation to the UNFCCC Secretariat's work concerning the technical analysis of Non-Annex 1 national communications presented under the format of the new guidelines. This technical revision should be done upon request by Non-Annex 1 countries.

We hope that these ideas could be discussed in the CGE contact group during SBI 17, in order to arrange the new mandate and terms of reference of the CGE.

9. Lastly, we are ad-hoc of COP8, where a decision should be taken regarding the new draft guidelines. Without those guidelines being approved by COP8, it will be difficult for countries like Chile to make progress in the process of preparing second and subsequent national communications. We see the role of the CGE relevant to support a positive decision on this matter, and for that, its duties, revised accordingly, should continue beyond SBI 17.

PAPER NO. 4: DENMARK, ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY DENMARK ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS
MEMBER STATES, AND CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, HUNGARY, LATVIA,
ROMANIA, POLAND, AND SLOVENIA**

Copenhagen, 10 July, 2002

“WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS”

Denmark, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Poland, and Slovenia, welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the above subject.

INTRODUCTION

The Consultative Group of Experts was created by Decision 8/CP.5 with the objective of improving national communications from Non-Annex I Parties (NAIP). Its mandate and terms of reference were included in the Annex to this Decision. It was also Decision 8/CP.5 where the Conference of the Parties (COP) stated that the terms of reference should be reviewed at its seventh session.

Decision 31/CP.7 establishes two new functions to the CGE in addition to the mandate contained in the annex to decision 8/CP.5. These new functions were: (a) to identify and assess technical problems and constraints that have affected the preparation of initial national communications by NAIP that have yet to complete them, and make recommendations for consideration by the subsidiary bodies; and (b) to provide input to the draft improved guidelines for the preparation of national communications of NAIP. The same Decision 31/CP.7 states that the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE shall be reviewed at COP.8.

**REVIEW OF THE MANDATE AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTATIVE
GROUP OF EXPERTS**

The CGE has performed the tasks of its mandate and with few exceptions, has been able to draw on regular and constructive participation of its members. The EU considers that the CGE has played a valuable role, in particular in providing technical guidance to NAIP in producing their national communications, for example through regional workshops.

The EU stated clearly in Marrakesh at COP7 its view that the prolongation of the CGE was not justified. We accepted its extension to COP8 on the basis that the CGE shall identify and assess technical problems and constraints that have affected the preparation of initial national communications by Parties that have yet to complete them and shall also provide input to the draft improved guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Non-Annex I Parties.

The EU notes that 23 Non-Annex I national communications have been submitted since COP7 bringing the total to 84.

The EU considers that this is sufficient to inform the revision of guidelines for Non-Annex I national communications at COP8. We do not think it is possible to address the need for, the mandate of, or the terms of reference of the CGE before undertaking this revision.

PAPER NO. 5: ECUADOR

**ECUADORIAN SUBMISSION ON WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP
OF EXPERTS**

The existence of CGE is the result of a long discussion process to find a mechanism to directly help Non-Annex I Parties, to exchange experiences and propose alternatives to improve the preparation of national communications.

After the creation of CGE, the COP has taken a series of decisions showing that national communications are the main source of information to implement such decisions.

Both the COP and the SBI have emphasized the CGE's work, which has shown capability to adequately coordinate the exchange of experiences and the presentation of options to improve the process, as well as specific requirements. From the different reports of the convention concerning CGE, the need to continue improving its work has been emphasized, in order to better respond to the expectations of its creation. In fact, the Convention has already experience that can be improved in the future.

One of the future challenges of the Convention is the subsequent preparation of the National Communications, based in the new guidelines to be approved by the CP8. In this context, the CGE's roll can be essential for the following purposes:

- To promote the study of new guidelines, as an opportunity for the developing countries so that the National Communications be less descriptive, than most of the first national communications that have been presented up to the moment.
- To promote the analysis of importance of NC for the implementation of the different decisions to be applied in the future.

The Convention should support the work of the CGE and of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. Obviously, the convention should clearly define functions of the future work for CGE in the context of new guidelines to be adopted by CP8.

PAPER NO. 6: KENYA

Kenya welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on National Communication from Parties not included in Annex 1 to the Convention.

Kenya would like to note that the CGE was established in order to improve the preparation of National Communications from developing countries. Its mandate is to analyse problems encountered by non-Annex 1 Parties in the preparation of these communications and provide a forum for the Parties to exchange information on their experiences with the National Communication Process.

The CGE has fulfilled its mandate, organizing workshops with very focused discussions. In these workshops, there were consultations, support, consideration of sub-regional information and enhancement of cooperation and capacity on the preparation of national communications. While funds availed to non-Annex 1 Parties to carry out their Initial National Communications were limited, the CGE process enhanced the preparation of the communication.

Noting that National Communication is a continuous exercise and in view of the difficulties enumerated relating to the quality and availability of data, emission factors and methodologies for the integrated assessment of the effects of Climate Change and impacts of response measures, there is need for maintaining and enhancing national capacities in non-Annex I Parties for preparing national communications.

The Convention has had a CGE process in place that is successful.

Kenya is therefore of the view that the CGE process should be continued with additional terms of reference and that the funding for the work of the CGE should be through the core budget of the Convention.

PAPER NO. 7: MYANMAR

Submission of views to reference UNFCCC notification dated Bonn, 21 June 2002

Item 5. **Work of the Consultative Group of Experts**

Views on possible new mandate and terms of reference of the CGE.

View:- Activities to improve the preparation of national communications are very much welcome. National communication preparation could have been easier even for the assessment by using objective type questionnaires etc.

PAPER NO. 8: NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand submission on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

The provision of national communications is a fundamental commitment under the Convention that all Parties share, and New Zealand supports improvements in national reporting regardless of whether or not a Party is Annex I or non-Annex I. New Zealand notes the work undertaken so far by the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), and the role played with respect to providing a forum for improving the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. We further note the work of the CGE with respect to their input to revising the guidelines for national communications from non-Annex I Parties and hope that the process of revision can be completed at COP8 to enable non-Annex I Parties access to improved reporting guidelines as soon as possible.

In New Zealand's view, the work to date of the CGE has been extremely valuable for the experts that have been directly involved. This process has helped build capacity in national reporting and reviewing, and in addition has provided a pool of experts that have contributed to the review processes underway for Annex I Parties (greenhouse gas inventories and national communications) as well as the development of guidelines for reporting and review under the Kyoto Protocol.

New Zealand supports the continuation of the CGE beyond COP8 when its current mandate expires. We would agree with the CGE (FCCC/SBI/2002/2) that it has "substantially and successfully completed the work relating to its mandate and terms of reference". We note that many non-Annex I Parties have already submitted their initial communications, and we are anticipating early agreement to revised guidelines for non-Annex I national communications. Given the above, a shift in the focus of the CGE away from issues surrounding the preparation of national communications to more "review type" activities would be appropriate at this point in time. Thus, in our view, "review type" activities should be reflected in the revised terms of reference.

In New Zealand's experience, the various improvements in reporting guidelines for Annex I Parties have contributed to improvements in our reporting. However, the most significant contributions to improvements in our reporting have come about as a result of the review processes themselves, which are technical, but at the same time, non-confrontational and facilitative. Such review processes are able to give "credit" where things are done well, and at the same time, give encouragement in areas that could be improved.

In New Zealand's view, the work of the CGE should cover the following:

- a focus on second national communications
- provision of technical, non-confrontational and facilitative assessments of second national communications including greenhouse gas inventories
- identification of, at the country level and at a collective level, difficulties, problems and issues that arise with application of the revised guidelines for non-Annex I Party national communications
- provision of advice and encouragement in areas of the national communication that could be strengthened (at the country level)
- with respect to greenhouse gas abatement analysis, identification of options that are working well and that could provide examples for other Parties

There should be a core of designated experts appointed to the CGE to maintain continuity and provide leadership, while at the same time making use of a wider pool of experts to carry out its broadened assessment related tasks. This would enable further capacity building and also to some extent mirror the process being used for Annex I inventory review where co-lead reviewers are used.

New Zealand looks forward to working with other Parties at SBI17/COP8 to agree a new terms of reference for the CGE.

PAPER NO. 9: SAMOA, ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)

SUBMISSION OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)

on the

Work of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

on non-Annex I national communications

and

on a possible new mandate and terms of reference for the CGE

Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on non-Annex I national communications (CGE) and on a possible new mandate and terms of reference for the CGE. AOSIS reserves the right to make further comments on these issues at future meetings, and in light of the outcomes of meetings of the CGE.

At the outset AOSIS would again extend its sincere thanks to the CGE for its extremely valuable and comprehensive work, as well as to the generous providers of financial and technical support that have made possible the work of the CGE, and the UNFCCC Secretariat for its valuable support. AOSIS also recognizes the dedicated work of the experts and wishes to record its gratitude to the experts and their governments for having made them available to conduct the reviews, participate in regional and interregional meetings in order to achieve the mandate as set out in decision 8 CP/5. AOSIS notes with great pleasure the dedicated work of its experts in this process and the furtherance of capacity building among our regions.

AOSIS continues to strongly support the CGE and its functioning. In particular the CGE should be seen as an important tool in the effort to build the capacity among non-Annex I Parties in order to meet their commitments under the UNFCCC. This is especially important in view of the significance of the national communications (NCs) as a source of information on climate change concerns and issues at the national and regional level.

The work of the CGE has in our view provided an opportunity for the exchange of experiences and views for the improvement of NCs between and among non-Annex I parties as well as among the Annex I experts. In relation to GHG Inventories the CGE has underlined the need for strengthening institutional capacity and for development of relevant emission factors. For the important Vulnerability and Adaptation sections of NCs, the work of the CGE has provided a comprehensive assessment of the technical and institutional difficulties encountered and identified requirements for enabling non-Annex I countries to improve their assessments in this area. The commitment to report on efforts at GHG mitigation has been followed by most non-annex 1 countries and the CGE has identified a number of the methodological and policy issues relating to this component of the NCs. All other areas reported in the NCs have been reviewed and practical recommendations offered for improving second and subsequent NCs. It should be stressed, however, that this should not preclude urgent action on developing practical adaptation options. Nor should the need to strengthen vulnerability and adaptation option assessments be seen as a means to delay adaptation projects.

In terms of process, the work of the CGE has been designed to enable the fullest possible regional participation and input and to allow for the flow of experiences on cross-cutting and sectoral issues. Very importantly, the participation of technical experts from Annex I and non-Annex I countries has facilitated the sharing of views and allowed for the development of technical guidance for improvement of NCs from non-Annex I countries.

On a related matter, it should be noted that one of the key findings to emerge from the work of the GCE is the need to further strengthen national climate change coordinating mechanisms in order to ensure continuity and consistency of efforts in such areas as GHG inventory preparation, and research and systematic observation. Such concerns are particularly relevant to AOSIS Members where small size and limited technical and financial resources severely constrain efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change. This is an area in which practical opportunities for international cooperation would appear to exist particularly in terms of providing support to Small Island Developing States. Additionally, as the convention process has matured valuable synergies exist for capacity building and technology transfer as well as in the concerns expressed by LDC and the SIDS amongst them in the process of responding to CC and in order to meet its commitments under the UNFCCC. It should also be noted that the work on improving the national communications should be broad in relation to all requirements under the Convention, and should not be overloaded with issues relating to inventories of emissions. There are many other areas that require deliberation, so that future national communications can be valuable tools for national level discussions and project development as well as informative for the international community and the Convention process.

AOSIS would once again emphasize that funding for the process of preparation of second and subsequent and where still appropriate first national communications should be continued until a support mechanism has been decided upon. As has been noted before by AOSIS, and confirmed in the reports of the CGE, support for the national teams involved in the preparation national communications will be an essential element in advancing the sustainability of the NC process in non-Annex I Parties. These national teams play a crucial role in the full integration of climate change concerns into national policy. The work of the CGE contributes meaningfully towards strengthening the capacity of non-Annex I countries to receive technical guidance and to promote the direct exchange of experiences among technical experts involved in the management of the NC process at national and regional levels. While financial and technical support has been very difficult to measure, AOSIS takes note of the apparent willingness of a number of donors to contribute to this work. We welcome their support and encourage other donors to contribute to the CGE process, and beyond.

AOSIS believes that the CGE, as a process under the FCCC, has shown itself to be a valuable tool and a good model for cooperation among Parties. In particular both Annex 1 and non-Annex I countries can benefit from the continued exchange of technical experiences for the preparation of second and subsequent NCs. This will also serve to promote the progressive development of national capabilities to prepare NCs in non-Annex I Parties. There is the need to further define the nature and scope of vulnerability and adaptation assessments and of GHG mitigation/abatement assessments for non-Annex I countries, and the outputs from the CGE in this regard should be of significance not only to the UNFCCC NC process, but also to the GEF and other agencies providing technical and financial support to climate change response programs. AOSIS is of the view that the work of the CGE should be supported from the core budget of the Convention provided that no party will be discriminated against based on per capita income or any other punitive measure.

AOSIS has also reviewed the existing TOR of the CGE as appended to decision 8 CP/5 and has provided as attachment 1 the proposed revisions to the terms of reference for the future work of the CGE. We are also mindful of the need to periodically review the mandate and TOR of all such groups and suggest that this should occur every five years or as deemed necessary by the COP.

There is a need for a full discussion of the mandate Terms of reference and future work of the CGE, and AOSIS stands ready to contribute to that discussion at the appropriate time. AOSIS will also make the appropriate linkages to the general discussion on Non-Annex I national communications, and the preparations underway in the Group of 77 and China.

Draft

Revised Terms of Reference for the Consultative Group of Experts for non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC

1. The consultative group of experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall have the objective of making recommendations for improving the process of preparation of second and subsequent national communications by non-Annex I Parties and as appropriate and where relevant FNC for Parties which have not yet submitted them.
2. The consultative group shall be composed of experts drawn from the roster of experts with expertise in greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, abatement issues and preparation of national communications.
3. The experts shall be appointed as follows: five experts from Africa, five experts from Asia, five experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and six experts from Annex I Parties. The experts representing each developing region shall be appointed by the Parties from that region in order to ensure geographical balance. The experts from Annex I Parties shall be appointed by the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. In addition, up to three experts from organizations with relevant experience shall be selected by the secretariat to participate in the group. The Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies shall be notified of these appointments. The CGE shall also as appropriate and where relevant interact in accordance with the relevant mandates of the LDC expert group and Tech Transfer expert group on matters related to the preparation of national communications.
4. The consultative group shall meet at least once annually in time to report to the SBI. Additionally, in order to fulfill its mandate and as required, host workshops in accordance with 5 below.
5. The consultative group of experts shall be mandated to:
 - (a) Exchange experience and information on the process of preparation of second and subsequent national communications, including consideration of sub-regional experience on the basis of agendas to be decided by consultation among the participants at each level of meetings;
 - (b) Consider and make recommendations for strengthening institutional capabilities for preparation of national communications by non-Annex I including the needs for and availability of financial resources and technical support, and the identification of barriers to and gaps in this support;
 - (c) Consider, as appropriate, information in national communications from non-Annex I Parties and other relevant documents in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties not included in Annex 1 to the Convention;
 - (d) Review existing activities and programs to facilitate and support the preparation of second and subsequent national communications by non-Annex I Parties with a view to identifying gaps and making recommendations to better coordinate these activities and programs in order to enhance the process of preparing national communications;
 - (e) Review activities and programs to facilitate and support the training involved in the adoption and use of guidelines for second and subsequent NCs and the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties with a view to identifying gaps and making recommendations to better coordinate training and information dissemination activities on guidelines for second and subsequent national communications in order to further enhance the process of preparing national communications;

(f) Identify and assess as appropriate the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the use of the relevant guidelines and methodologies agreed on for the preparation of National Communications and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate;

(g) Identify and assess as appropriate the analytical and methodological issues, including technical problems in the preparation and reporting of greenhouse gas inventories, in particular with respect to the improvement of data collection, the development of local and regional emission factors and activity data, and the development of methodologies, where appropriate, with a view to enhancing the quality of future inventories;

(h) Encourage as appropriate interaction on relevant technical issues among experts from all Parties, particularly non-Annex 1 Parties and the LDC expert group as appropriate and in keeping with the relevant mandate of the CGE and LEG, including through the establishment and operation of an internet based web site for the sharing of data and information pertaining to the process of preparation of National Communications by non-Annex 1 Parties particularly in the areas of vulnerability and adaptation assessment, NAPAs, GHG mitigation/abatement, development and transfer of technology, research and systematic observation, and education and public awareness.

(i) Provide as appropriate technical advice to the SBI on matters relating to the implementation of commitments by non-Annex 1 Parties under the UNFCCC.

6. Recommendations of the consultative group on these matters shall be forwarded to the SBI for its consideration.

7. The CGE shall as is necessary and appropriate, to achieve its mandate organize and conduct workshops in each of the regions referred above, to consider both regional and sub-regional experiences. The five non-Annex I Party experts from their respective regions will conduct these workshops. The agenda for any proposed the workshop will be developed by the experts, in consultation with the UNFCCC secretariat, and will ensure adequate coverage of the issues identified in its mandate. Experts/resource persons at these workshops will be drawn from the roster of experts, and limited to 15 experts from the region, and five Annex I Party experts.

8. The secretariat shall coordinate these activities and facilitate the preparation of a report by the experts on each meeting and on workshops as appropriate, which will be made available to the Parties.

9. The secretariat should make arrangements for funding for the CGE to be drawn from the core budget of the UNFCCC.

PAPER NO. 10: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Views of the United States on the Consultative Group of Experts on Communications from Parties not included in Annex I

The work of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) over the past three years has been instrumental in improving the national communications of non-Annex I Parties. In particular, the quality of the draft revised guidelines for preparation of second national communications is a testament to the CGE's hard work.

The United States believes that the CGE can continue to play a vital role in the improvement of national communications, but its mandate should be revised to reflect the evolution of guidelines for national communications. Given that most non-Annex I Parties will begin the preparation of second national communications in the near future, the primary function of the CGE should be to review these national communications of non-Annex I Parties with a view to providing the COP with reliable information on the implementation of commitments by non-Annex I Parties. This review process should provide a technical, facilitative and non-confrontational assessment of the information in national communications and should provide constructive feedback to Parties on ways to improve subsequent national communications.

Due to the large number of second communications expected from non-Annex I Parties, it will be important to utilize the input and expertise from a much larger number of experts than currently participate in the CGE. Providing for broader participation in the CGE would lighten the potential burden on CGE members, create opportunities for capacity building and the training of new experts, and ensure that specific expertise is available when needed. For this reason the United States recommends that experts be selected from the roster of experts, when required, based on their specific area of expertise for participation in particular meetings of the CGE on an ad-hoc basis. However, to ensure continuity across meetings, the CGE should continue to have a small core group of experts appointed as standing members. This core group should be comprised of a smaller number of individuals than the current group of 21.

To facilitate the change in focus of the CGE's activities, the United States believes that it is also necessary to change the way that meetings are convened. Meetings of the CGE should not be convened on a pre-set schedule, but rather when a sufficient number of communications have been submitted to ensure a productive and effective use of the CGE's time. The location, timing and duration of these meetings should depend on the number of national communications to be considered.

We have attached a partial proposal for a revised terms of reference for the Consultative Group of Experts, which addresses the tasks to be performed by the CGE. Further consideration is needed on the composition and selection of experts, and on the appropriate number of communications to be reviewed at individual meetings. We look forward to discussing these issues with other Parties at COP-8.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

1. The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall consider national communications submitted from Parties not included in Annex I to provide the COP with reliable information on matters related to the implementation of commitments by Parties not included in Annex I.
2. The consultative group shall be composed of experts drawn from the roster of experts with expertise in GHG inventories, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, mitigation and other matters related to national communications.
3. The consultative group of experts shall provide a facilitative and non-confrontational technical assessment of information in second national communications from Parties not included in Annex I. In this regard the CGE should:
 - (i.) Identify any difficulties encountered individually and collectively by non-Annex I Parties in the implementation of the Convention;
 - (ii.) Make suggestions for strengthening individual national communications where appropriate;
 - (iii.) Identify any common methodological problems and recommend options to address problems encountered in the preparation of national communications, including the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories by non-Annex I Parties; vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and mitigation assessment.
 - (iv.) Provide regular reports on these activities, and on any other tasks requested by the Conference of Parties.
4. For purposes of assessing the Non Annex I National Communications, additional experts shall be selected from the roster of experts on an ad hoc basis, when required, based on their specific area of expertise.
5. Meetings of the CGE shall be convened when necessary based on the number of National Communications to be considered. The timing, location and duration will depend on the number of National Communications to be considered.
6. In conducting its work, the CGE shall encourage interaction among experts from all Parties.
7. Reports of the Consultative Group of Experts and any recommendations shall be forwarded to the subsidiary bodies for their consideration.
8. The secretariat shall facilitate the activities of the consultative group, including through the preparation of background materials, documents and meeting reports.

PAPER NO. 11: URUGUAY

A. Referente a las actividades que debería realizar el CGE:

1. Identificar y evaluar problemas o dificultades y realizar recomendaciones para su examen por los órganos subsidiarios, respecto a las siguientes materias:
 - a. preparación de las comunicaciones iniciales en aquellos países no Anexo I que aún no la han presentado;
 - b. aplicación de metodologías y modelos del Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático (IPCC);
 - c. selección, desarrollo y empleo de escenarios climáticos y socio-económicos para la evaluación de vulnerabilidad y la adaptación al cambio climático;
 - d. desarrollo o adecuación y utilización de modelos de impactos del cambio climático particularmente en el sector no energético;
 - e. evaluación de necesidades de transferencia de tecnologías y de conocimientos especializados ecológicamente racionales o de acceso a los mismos;
 - f. formulación de proyectos, evaluación de costos e identificación de necesidades para la ejecución;
 - g. necesidades y disponibilidad de recursos financieros y de apoyo técnico y de obstáculos y carencias que puedan afectar el proceso continuo de elaboración de las comunicaciones nacionales.
2. Organizar talleres regionales con la finalidad de:
 - a. difundir y promover el uso de las nuevas guías de elaboración de comunicaciones nacionales;
 - b. examinar experiencias, intercambiar información y promover la difusión en lo relativo a:
 - i) desarrollo, evaluación y utilización de factores de emisión regionales y nacionales;
 - ii) desarrollo o adecuación de modelos utilizables para la evaluación de la vulnerabilidad y la adaptación al cambio climático y para la elaboración de programas nacionales o regionales de mitigación y de adaptación a dicho cambio;
 - iii) organización, arreglos institucionales, solución de dificultades y creación de un ambiente favorable para la preparación de comunicaciones nacionales; y
 - iv) “buenas prácticas” y el proceso continuo de mejora en la elaboración de comunicaciones nacionales.

B. Referente a la organización y funcionamiento del CGE:

Se entiende que sería conveniente que cuando se establezca la forma de integración del Grupo se incluya un mecanismo automático de renovación de sus miembros.

En tal sentido se sugiere que se prevea que los expertos designados por las regiones sirvan en sus cargos por un período de 2 (dos) años, a contarse desde la puesta en funcionamiento del CGE, pudiendo ser elegibles por un máximo de dos períodos consecutivos.

Lo que se propone es de naturaleza similar a lo previsto por el numeral 4 del Apéndice a la Decisión 4/CP.7 para los miembros del Grupo de Expertos sobre Transferencia de Tecnologías.

PAPER NO. 12: UZBEKISTAN

VIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Work of Consultative Group of Experts

The Republic of Uzbekistan highly estimates results of activity of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from non-Annex I Parties. The assessments and the recommendations of Group have the large practical value at improvement of guidelines for the subsequent national communications from the non-Annex I Parties. However, terms of reference and mandate of an Consultative Group of Experts requires periodic auditing. In process of consideration of the first national communications, their compilation and the generalizations are appeared new problems and the new directions of Group's activity.

Uzbekistan supports a methods of consideration of the national communications preparation process. It is, in particular, perfection of methodologies, UNFCCC guidelines, creation and strengthening of regional and national networks on data collection, financial and technical support of the national communications preparation process.

At the present, the quality analysis of the national communications, the identification of the measures on reduction of GHG emissions and climate change adaptation, and also ways of effective overcoming of barriers in this activity is important. The Republic of Uzbekistan counts that necessary to begin the review of these questions.

Uzbekistan proposes to include in term reference of CGE the analytical activity under the review of elements of effective participation in the Convention of non-Annex I Parties. In case of an establishment of procedure of the review of efficiency of participation of the Parties in process of the Convention, the Consultative Group of Experts could be give an assessment to various kinds of activity in realization process of the Convention, barriers and ways of their successful overcoming.

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