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National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Compilation and synthesis of initial national communications

**Sixth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from
Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

Note by the secretariat*

Addendum

**Sustainable development and the integration of climate change concerns into
medium- and long-term planning**

Summary

This document compiles and summarizes information relating to the integration of climate change concerns into sustainable development, including initiatives and programmes, and specific information provided by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) on their needs, barriers and constraints in this regard. It also contains information on national action plans on climate change, sustainable development initiatives and institutional arrangements as reported by non-Annex I Parties in their national communications.

* This document is submitted after the due date because all the necessary information was not available on time.

CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1–2	3
II.	REPORTING	3–5	3
III.	OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION.....	6–37	4
	A. Climate change and sustainable development	8–25	4
	B. Integrating climate change into national development planning processes	26–37	9
IV.	NEEDS AND CONSTRAINTS	38–42	11
V.	CONCLUSIONS	43–44	12

I. Introduction

1. The need to address the problem of climate change and respond to the priority needs of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and eradicate poverty is one of the guiding principles that govern the implementation of the Convention. Article 3.4 of the Convention states that Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. It further states that policies and measures to address climate change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.
2. In order to emphasize the importance of the link between climate change and sustainable development, the guidelines for the preparation of initial communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) annexed to decision 10/CP.2,¹ request that non-Annex I Parties should seek to include programmes relating to sustainable development in their initial national communications. The information contained in this document has been compiled based on the activities and programmes reported by Parties relating to sustainable development and integration of climate change into medium- and long-term planning.

II. Reporting

3. Information presented in the initial national communications of non-Annex I Parties indicates that their work on sustainable development is guided by the international framework developed since 1987 as well as the political declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which stresses that the poverty eradication, changing consumption and production pattern, and protecting and managing natural resources for economic and social development are overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development. Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the WSSD form the blueprint of their actions and measurable targets for sustainable development at the national level.
4. Non-Annex I Parties have pursued sustainable development and reported relevant activities and programmes in their initial national communications. The majority of Parties that reported have dedicated a chapter or section to sustainable development and integration of climate change into medium- and long-term planning (see box 1). Parties that did not include a section on sustainable development still had relevant information distributed in other chapters of their national communications.

Box 1. Parties that included a chapter/section on sustainable development

Africa	Asia and the Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other
Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Sudan, Swaziland,	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kiribati, Malaysia, Niue, Papua New	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Kitts	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

5. Most Parties provided information on activities and programmes relating to sustainable development that also contribute to addressing climate change. Some Parties, such as Georgia, Kiribati, Lesotho and Nicaragua, provided detailed information on their climate change national action plans, and

¹ FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

others, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, India and Malaysia, provided information about their plans to integrate climate change into their national development planning processes. Parties that provided information on their sustainable development and climate change national action plans included information on actions needed to adapt to the impacts of climate change, policies and measures to target sectoral greenhouse gas (GHG) abatement, and engaging key stakeholders and the public.

III. Overview of information

6. The report prepared by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 elaborated the concept of sustainable development. Subsequent to that, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 adopted the global programme entitled Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be adopted globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations system, governments and major groups in every area in which human activities impact on the environment. It includes social and economic dimensions of development, emphasizing poverty reduction and integrating environment and development in decision-making. It urges the conserving and managing of resources for development, such as water, soil, ecosystem and atmosphere including addressing climate change.

7. The principle of sustainable development, as elaborated by UNCED, includes preserving natural resources for present and future generations, exploiting such resources in a sustainable manner, balancing one State's use with the needs of others in an equitable manner, and integrating environmental considerations into economic, social and developmental issues. In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, in which all the 199 member States pledged to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. These eight goals range from eradicating extreme poverty, providing universal primary education, and reducing health threats, to ensuring environmental sustainability. The latter explicitly requires integrating the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes.

A. Climate change and sustainable development

1. Climate change and Agenda 21

8. Most non-Annex I Parties developed their national action plans on Agenda 21 in the 1990s following the adoption of Agenda 21 that called all governments to adopt a national strategy for sustainable development based on the implementation of decisions taken at UNCED. A number of Parties mentioned that the preparation and publication of their national Agenda 21 was one of the first initiatives relating to sustainable development and climate change. To implement Agenda 21, institutions have been established and actors identified to implement strategies on poverty alleviation, provision of basic education and public services, environmental protection and components of sustainable development that have links with addressing climate change such as rational use of energy and promotion of ecologically sound technologies.

9. Other Parties explicitly reported that they have developed their sustainable development strategy and action plan based on their national Agenda 21 (e.g. Brazil, Malaysia, Swaziland) and national priorities in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. Some have striven to integrate the Agenda 21 into their national economic and social development plan (e.g. Thailand). Tunisia reported that its coordination capacity was one of the achievements of the implementation of its national Agenda 21, which promotes an integrated approach to planning at the national and sectoral level.

2. National development priorities

10. All reporting Parties identified their national development priorities. National development matters that address basic needs of the people such as food, shelter, water, education and health are of prime concern according to the information presented by non-Annex I Parties in their national communications. Recognizing the potential impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on sustainable socio-economic growth, most Parties mentioned their efforts to pursue development programmes that also benefit the environment and climate change. Box 2 illustrates some of the development targets that Parties identified in their national communications.

Box 2. Samples of development targets reported by Parties

- **Armenia:** attain 70 per cent of the economic level of 1990 by 2010
- **China:** as a result of the five-year plan for national economic and social development, by the year 2000, China had developed 40,000 rural hydropower stations with a total of 24.8 GW
- **India:** reduce poverty ratio by 5 and 15 per cent by 2007 and 2012, respectively
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis:** reduce chemical and particulate air pollution by 50 per cent by 2020
- **South Africa:** the Moving South Africa project sets out the strategy for the transport sector to implement integrated development planning and promotion of public transport by 2020
- **Sudan:** develop rural environment for sustainable development and rehabilitate and preserve ecosystems for sustainable development (1992–2002)

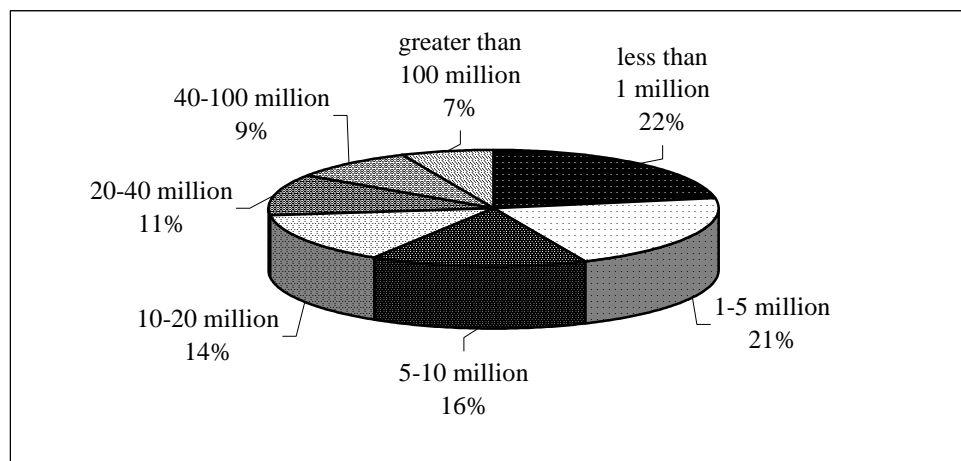
11. The national development priorities of reporting non-Annex I Parties are identified in the sections on national circumstances, sustainable development and national action plans on climate change. Some Parties provided details of their development priorities and plans to address them in the context of short- and long-term development plans, whereas others provided only broad information on this matter. Most Parties, however, emphasized that climate change measures, particularly on GHG abatement, are primarily aimed at addressing energy needs. Different national circumstances determine to a large extent countries' priorities and goals for sustainable development. Climatic, geographic, demographic and land-use profiles, natural resources endowment, energy mix and economic structures are among the most important aspects of national circumstance affecting the profile of a country's GHG emissions, its vulnerabilities to climate change and other challenges it is facing.

3. Sustainable population growth

12. Some Parties identified the link between size of population and climate change as part of their policy framework in achieving sustainable development. Parties with particularly high or low populations reported on factors that render them vulnerable to climate change. Parties with populations greater than 100 million, which make up 7 per cent of non-Annex I Parties that submitted national communications, generally highlighted population control as an important policy for addressing sustainable development especially as it relates to poverty alleviation, health and education, as well as for contributing to curbing the growth of national GHG emissions. Some of them underlined the complexity of their administrative structures and decision-making process regarding urbanization, industrialization and promoting growth in gross domestic product in a climate friendly manner as factors that affect the capacity of these countries to deal with climate change and its adverse effects. On the other hand, Parties with populations of less than one million, many of which are least developed countries, all reported that

they were particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Figure 1 presents a breakdown of the population ranges of non-Annex I Parties that reported.

Figure 1. Population range of non-Annex I Parties



13. Uganda mentioned that population pressure leads to changes in land-use practices that contribute to climate change and climate variability, and projected that impacts of climate change will be severe on densely populated areas. In the light of these challenges, many Parties adopted or intended to follow a “no regrets” approach that will prioritize the development and implementation of strategies that are beneficial for both the environment and the well-being of the population.

14. India, for example, stated in its initial national communication that it endeavoured to pursue sustainable development with reduced population growth, a market economy and a sophisticated science and technology sector. This emphasis on the demographic aspects of sustainable development was also underlined by China in its sustainable development strategy, *China Agenda 21 – the White Paper on China’s Population, Environment and Development in the 21st Century*, as highlighted by its initial national communication.

4. Poverty reduction

15. For most Parties, poverty reduction is the overriding development priority and the key for attaining Millennium Development Goals. Many non-Annex I Parties reported that poverty reduction is the overriding developing priority due to their high levels of poverty. Some Parties reported that more than 60 per cent of their total population live below the poverty line (Bolivia, Haiti, Malawi, Sudan, Uganda). In order to combat poverty, a number of Parties have developed special poverty programmes. For example, in Malawi, the Government was developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper that would guide all development activities in the country.

16. Parties recognized that poverty leads to high dependence on natural resources and the environment resulting in their overexploitation. In many Parties (China India, Malawi, Zambia and others), there is high dependence on biomass energy, which contributes to deforestation. The poor usually depend on the production and sale of firewood and charcoal as sources of income and this leads to deforestation. Parties recognized that poverty also exacerbates the major health risks, such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. Malaria, which is currently endemic in many non-Annex Parties, is expected to increase with the advent of climate change.

17. Parties reported that their approach to combating climate change would therefore be influenced by such issues as improving production and resource utilization efficiency, improving health due to reduction in pollution levels, and creating additional opportunities for employment and wealth. Uganda, South Africa and others mentioned that due to uncertainty about the impacts of climate change, they would put emphasis on win-win and no-regrets climate change measures. The poor will be the most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, and national strategies which aim to alleviate poverty will also enhance capacity to deal with climate change. All Parties highlighted the urgent need to adopt an integrated approach in dealing with environmental, social and economic issues.

5. Food security

18. Parties pointed out that many measures addressing vulnerabilities in one sector also had co-benefits in other sectors that are vulnerable to climate change. Agriculture was cited as a typical sector having considerable potential not only for integration of mitigation and adaptation but also for integration of mitigation into economic and rural development. This is particularly true for non-Annex I Parties given the importance of agriculture, not only in terms of its contribution to the national and local economy, but also in terms of its importance for employment, food production and food security, for the majority of the population in many non-Annex I Parties.

19. Many Parties indicated that climate change would be taken into account in current and future national planning processes: Eritrea's strategy included investment in rural infrastructure, and development of agriculture and fisheries; Uganda highlighted its plans to modernize its agricultural sector; and Guyana mentioned the need for policy changes to ensure the viability of the fishing sector. Ethiopia noted that the growth of its economy is highly influenced by climate variability, particularly drought, so one of its agricultural policies is to increase production (both quality and quantity) of food crops to ensure food self-sufficiency.

6. Sustainable economic strategies

Sustainable energy development

20. National resource endowments, economic structure and energy mix are key determinants of sustainability challenges for any country. Brazil reported that more than 90 per cent of its electricity generation was from hydropower, which explains why its energy sector was not the biggest source of GHG emissions. Instead, the land-use change and forestry sector is the biggest source of emissions (more than half of total GHG emissions in 1994), mainly due to desertification. On the other hand, both China and India are rich in coal, which in turn largely determines the energy mix. As a result, energy has been the biggest source (also more than half for both countries) of their GHG emissions and therefore central to mitigation effort as well as to their sustainable development strategies.

21. Many initiatives and programmes addressing climate change were reported as having co-benefits for development and local environment. See box 3 for samples of projects that have development and climate change benefits. For example, some Parties have reported the need to import large amounts of fossil fuel to meet their increasing demand for energy and economic growth, and to lift the population from poverty. Renewable energy and energy efficiency were cited by many Parties as a means of reducing not only the GHG emissions but also their reliance on imports, consequently saving precious foreign currency for other more needed development purposes.

22. Some Parties indicated the need to re-examine and assess planned or ongoing structural change in energy and industry from a climate change perspective. These changes involve replacement of capital stock and avoiding long-term, carbon-intensive technology lock-in. Some Parties stressed that these changes could bring benefits for sustainable development and should be embarked on as early as

possible. Such policies can have important long-term impacts on efficiency and subsequently emissions, which in turn will influence the environmental sustainability of development and poverty alleviation efforts. Some Parties stressed that the structural and systematic changes that will bring benefits for sustainable development should be embarked on as early as possible.

Box 3. Samples of projects that have development and climate change benefits

Party	Project	Development benefits	Climate change benefits
Brazil	National Alcohol (ethanol) Programme	Saved 550 million barrels of oil (1975–2000) Currency savings of USD 11.5 million	Avoided 400 Mt. of CO ₂ emissions
China	China Green Light Program	Saved 17.2 million MWh of electricity (1996–1998)	An equivalent amount of GHG emissions avoided
India	Promotion of renewable energy and energy conservation	Provided energy to the population and avoided consumption of coal	Avoided 330 Mt of CO ₂ emissions
Lesotho	Reforestation of indigenous forests	Increased forest cover of 286,000 ha by 2030	CO ₂ uptake of 185 tonnes per ha
Malawi	Improved usage of biomass	Better cooking facilities and alternative energy introduced	200,000 tonnes of wood saved by 2010

23. Some Parties adopted a top-down approach, namely to include means and resources to incorporate climate change issues in national planning (e.g. Paraguay). Other Parties combined the top-down and sectoral approach, i.e. to incorporate climate and other environmental concerns into national plans for sectoral development, such as development plans for energy supply and demand. For example, improving energy efficiency and material use efficiency has been undertaken in many sectors under cleaner production and environmental management initiatives. Such measures are “no-regret” in that they can often reduce production cost and waste with economic as well as environmental benefits in addition to reducing GHG emission. Ghana reported that its national committee on climate change is mandated to review policies and programmes that can complement the national development priorities while at the same time contributing to reducing GHG emissions and increasing carbon sinks.

Implementation of response measures

24. Some Parties (Iran, Singapore, South Africa) noted that the impacts of the implementation of measures in reducing their GHG emissions may have a major impact on their economies which are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing, export and consumption of fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum. For South Africa, this issue was raised in the context of this Party being the world’s second largest exporter of coal and the world’s largest producer of coal-based synthetic oil. The Fund for Research into Development, Growth and Equity has been established to evaluate the potential impact of response measures on the South African economy.

25. Iran presented a quantification of the impact on the Iranian economy of the policies and measures implemented by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) in meeting their GHG emission reduction commitments under the UNFCCC. These impacts were estimated using the general equilibrium model MS–MRT (Multi Sector–Multi Region Trade) and supported by information from the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Four scenarios were run: “business-as-usual”; Kyoto Protocol with “no flexible mechanisms” and no tax adjustment; Kyoto Protocol with “no flexible mechanisms” and with tax adjustment; and Kyoto Protocol with flexible mechanisms and no tax adjustment. The model was also used to estimate the possible adverse

consequences on trade interactions between Annex B and non-Annex B countries. Economic impacts were estimated for each scenario for the period 2000 to 2030. Impacts on the Iranian economy under these four scenarios ranged from a potential loss of USD 6.3 billion to a potential gain of USD 1.6 billion (at 1995 prices) by 2030.

B. Integrating climate change into national development planning processes

26. Mainstreaming climate change into national policies and development planning processes is one of the strategies that most Parties identified as a means to ensure that climate change is given prominence at the national level. Most Parties provided information on their national development plans and/or national action plans on climate change. Some Parties adopted a sectoral approach to integrating climate change concerns into development planning of the economy, urbanization, the environment and ecosystems, and forestry. The selection of priority sectors was reported to be based on economic and environmental significance, cost-effectiveness, emission reduction, contribution to other development goals (e.g. Albania), technological benefits, level of barriers, potential to attract funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other sources, and contribution to risk minimization.

27. Bhutan's middle path of development identified three key driving principles: effective natural resources management; integrated urban and rural planning; and development planning that is sensitive to traditional values. This development plan is expected to be beneficial for preserving natural and cultural assets that form the basis for the tourism industry, important for the country's economy. Jamaica also identified sustainable development programme for its tourism sector.

28. Many Parties also provided information on their national action plans for climate change. These action plans establish a framework for the operation of the national focal point on climate change and capacity-building in priority agencies and sectors. The action plans were also expected to improve the interaction of climate change actions with those on other environmental issues.

1. Synergy with other environmental objectives

29. As climate change cuts across other environmental issues, many Parties recognized the benefits of, and emphasized the need for, an integrated approach in dealing with overall environmental issues, including climate change. In this regard, Parties reported that policies relating to the multilateral environmental agreements are being addressed through national legislation on promotion, protection and management of environment. Parties such as Bahamas, Costa Rica, Indonesia and Madagascar mentioned the adoption of national laws on environment that include measures to address climate change, biodiversity, forestry and coastal/marine conservation.

30. Making use of and strengthening existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms to implement projects and policies relating to multilateral environmental agreements has been shown to be cost effective and efficient. Some Parties, such as Chad, Gabon and Haiti, have implemented activities that have climate change and biodiversity components. In an effort to establish closer cooperation between agencies, Jamaica mentioned the need to establish an interdisciplinary committee composed of national focal points of the Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. The committee will also involve the private sector and representatives from other government agencies.

2. Institutional arrangements

31. Most Parties described the institutional structure and arrangement to foster integration of climate change considerations into development. The institutional framework for environmental management in general, and climate change in particular, was set up relatively recently. Parties had either used existing institutions or created committees for coordinating sustainable development and climate change and for implementing programmes. An inter-ministerial committee for climate change or a branch of an inter-

ministerial committee on environment was often chosen as the forum to discuss, and as the means to coordinate, climate change policies and activities with those of development. The committees were designed to institutionalize the exchange of information and coordination among key agencies responsible for natural resource management and climate change.

32. Institutionally, most Parties initially assigned a governmental body that is in charge of science and technology or meteorology to be responsible for climate change at country level. Some Parties still maintain such an institutional arrangement. This choice has much to do with the national circumstances of specific countries, such as the size of the economy and population, political structure and historical factors. The most typical arrangement is for the ministry of environment to assume the overall responsibility for climate change and serve as the national focal point. This can bring the benefits of better synergy among other environmental goals because this ministry is often charged to deal with other local and global environmental issues, such as pollution control, biodiversity, desertification and ozone depletion.

33. In some countries, such as China, with the realization that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also affects every aspect of economy and society, the overall responsibility has been shifted from the Meteorological Service to the Ministry of Science, and eventually to a multi-ministerial coordination committee for climate change. This committee reports directly to the National Development and Reform Commission, a government body overarching all ministries in charge of overall economic planning and coordination of sectoral development. Bolivia created a Ministry of Sustainable Development and Planning, which manages all programmes and projects that combine environment as well as development concerns.

3. Integration of climate change into national legislations

34. Legislation has been the framework and the main instrument to facilitate the implementation of national action plan for climate change in many non-Annex I Parties. Most countries have relevant legislation on environment in place to support sustainable development and climate change objectives, in various degrees. The National Environmental Management Act of South Africa, for example, has been an enabling act aiming at improving environmental management while facilitating sustainable development and improving coordination and governance of environmental issues. As mentioned in its initial national communication, South Africa's future approach to reducing emissions will be based on a holistic evaluation of the options, taking into account life-cycle assessments, the impact on the macro-economy of the country, and the national priority of poverty alleviation.

35. Brazil's 1988 Constitution declares its Amazonian forest, to be a national heritage area and any use would be subject to the law. It also passed the Environmental Crimes Law in 1998 to expand sanctions in its legal system for crimes against flora in particular. A number of other Parties (e.g. Egypt) also believe that they have adequate environmental legislation. The major challenge lies in implementation and enforcement because of administrative and institutional difficulties, inconsistent policies and legislation across different sectors, lack of sufficient respect for the law or lack of capacity and resources.

36. Although some Parties enshrine in their constitutions the right of their citizens to live in an atmosphere free of pollution (e.g. Chile), many pointed out that their existing environmental legislation needed to be updated to reflect the global concerns codified by international conventions such as the UNFCCC. Efforts to amend and update relevant legislation have been under way in some non-Annex I Parties.

37. The choice of future options needs to be viewed in the general context of sustainable development which dictates parallel and complementary actions and concomitantly call for awareness

and changes in attitude right across the economy and society. To this end, many Parties underlined the urgent need to address literacy as part of its climate strategy.

IV. Needs and constraints

38. Most Parties reported on their needs to integrate climate change considerations into sustainable development plans. Box 4 shows some examples of needs identified by non-Annex I Parties. Parties identified barriers for effective coordination and communication of climate change activities. One reported recommendation is stakeholder involvement in national policy-making and relevant activities. Another Party recommended awareness raising among decision makers and stakeholders and the need and importance for further work in integrating climate change considerations into development. The effective participation of the private sector, academia and local community-based organizations in the development of integrated development policy would ensure the effective implementation and wide acceptance of strategies and measures.

Box 4. Examples of needs identified by non-Annex I Parties for effective integration of climate change considerations into sustainable development

- Ability to incorporate climate change and other environmental issues in socio-economic and/or sectoral plans and in achieving Millennium Development Goals
- Capacity to mainstream mitigation and adaptation strategy into broader national development
- Ability to formulate, analyse and implement integrated strategies and policies
- Need to strengthen coordination and support mechanisms at national and local levels
- Ability to assess and plan mitigation, adaptation and integrated actions
- Data collecting, processing and management for integrated assessment and decision-making
- Ability to assess technology transfer needs and capacity for project and programme development
- Human resources in policy design and analysis, and negotiation and technical skills
- Institutional strengthening and capacity to seek synergy among conventions at national level
- Education, public awareness and continuous training on the integration of climate change into sustainable development

39. Many Parties referred to the need to strengthen national coordination among sectors and different policy objectives to ensure a consistent climate change policy. They provided information on needs and efforts for institutional strengthening, which is essential for the effective implementation of climate change activities. Others provided information on needs and initiatives to improve coordination, for example among sectors and ministries, and to establish links between research and decision makers, and among national government, local authorities and rural communities. Other coordination efforts include integration of databases and improvement of information and networking.

40. Coherence and consistency of relevant policies, laws and regulations need to be improved so as to remove some of the barriers to the implementation of climate change strategies. Brazil concluded that the dispersal of environmental legislation in several laws was mainly the result of different political and institutional contexts in its recent history. Some Parties (e.g. Mongolia) recognized the need for adequate policies and strategies both at the national and the local levels, and the need for adequate legal, regulatory and standardization frameworks to effectively implement adaptation and mitigation policies.

41. Many Parties reported the need to improve capacity for implementing programmes and undertaking work relating to climate change. Their focus is mainly on capacity-building at individual (human resources) and institutional levels. Few mentioned capacity-building at systemic level, which means to create enabling environment for the implementation of policies and programmes. A number of

Parties reported the lack of comprehensive local data and country specific information to support assessment and studies needed for decision-making. Basic data and systems for collecting and managing statistics are so essential that they in fact constitute part of the enabling environment.

42. Some Parties also argued that advances in science and methodologies required continuous development of capacity at country level in order for the Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. To achieve this, experts and decision makers dealing with economic planning at national and sectoral level need continuous training.

V. Conclusions

43. The majority of non-Annex I Parties followed the UNFCCC guidelines to include sustainable development strategies, priorities and programmes in their initial national communications in various degrees. Some made explicit reference to Agenda 21 as a framework for sustainable development, which had guided Parties to formulate and implement integrated climate change policies with sustainable development. Many institutional, legislative and governmental initiatives have been undertaken by non-Annex I Parties to integrate, coordinate and implement climate change activities at national and local levels. Parties have identified their needs, common barriers and constraints to the integration of climate change policies and activities into national sustainable development plans and actions. Synergy and co-benefits with other environmental and development objectives can also facilitate effective integration of climate change and other environmental concerns into various national plans to sustain a long-term social and economic development.

44. Many Parties noted that although climate change will make it more difficult for them to achieve their poverty eradication and sustainable development objectives, they have been able to identify many opportunities to lessen the pressure on natural resources and address the challenges posed by climate change while pursuing a path towards sustainable development.

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