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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

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

Compilation and synthesis of initial national communications

Views on the sixth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its twenty-third session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 13 February 2006, their views on the sixth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention contained in document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add.1–6 and Add.3/Corr.1 (FCCC/SBI/2005/23, para. 38).
2. The secretariat has received five such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

* 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.

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* This submission is supported by Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

PAPER NO. 1: AUSTRALIA

**Views on document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add.1-6:
Sixth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from Parties not included
in Annex I to the Convention**

The twenty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, held in December 2005, invited Parties to submit their views on the documents FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add.1-6 for compilation into a miscellaneous document. Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide views on these documents which, along with the above-mentioned miscellaneous document, will be considered by the SBI at its twenty-fourth session.

While providing an opportunity to correct typographical and inadvertent errors in the documents, this submission process also provides a valuable opportunity to review the progress made, and challenges faced, by non-Annex I (NAI) Parties in preparing their national communications, as mandated by Article 4 paragraph 1, and Article 12 paragraph 5 of the Convention.

The synthesis of information from 122 NAI initial national communications provides a practical overview of the range of measures being implemented to address climate change. Australia notes that NAI countries are taking a range of proactive measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better respond to the threat of climate change. National communications from NAI Parties, along with compilation and synthesis reports, are particularly salient as they demonstrate the range of creative and innovative approaches being implemented. Australia values these examples and considers them in its own policy development.

The synthesis report also highlights the constraints identified by NAI Parties in preparing their national communications. This distilled information serves as a useful resource for the SBI in preparing guidance for the Consultative Group of Experts on non-Annex I national communications (CGE), to achieve its objective of improving NAI national communications. It would be appropriate for the SBI and the CGE to consider the information in documents FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add.1-6 when considering cost-effective training and technical assistance activities to ensure that future NAI national communications contain accurate, up-to-date and consistent information. Up-to-date and comparable information is critical in assisting all countries in their efforts to address climate change.

Australia encourages the 19 NAI Parties that, as of 13 February 2006, had not submitted their initial national communications to avail themselves of the support available and to make reasonable efforts to complete and submit these important reports in a timely manner. Australia believes that there is not a compelling need for the secretariat to prepare a seventh compilation and synthesis report of initial national communications before the majority of these outstanding communications have been submitted. Australia looks forward to discussions with all Parties, at an appropriate time, on the utility of a compilation and synthesis report on second national communications from NAI Parties.

Australia appreciates the efforts of the secretariat in compiling these useful documents, and the continuing efforts of NAI Parties in meeting their reporting requirements under the Convention.

PAPER NO. 2: AUSTRIA ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS
MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro

Vienna, 31 January 2006

**Subject: National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention
Views from Parties on document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add.1-6, "Sixth
compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from Parties not
included in Annex I to the Convention**

Austria on behalf of the European Community and its Member States welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the compilation and synthesis of initial national communications.

The EU is of the opinion that national communications are of outstanding importance since they are a key source of information for all Parties. The EU noticed with interest that 129 countries so far, among them many LDCs, submitted their initial national communications and 3 countries have already submitted their 2nd national communications. The EU wants to continue the open dialogue with the aim of improving the process of preparing the national communications in line with the new guidelines for national communications of non- Annex I Parties agreed at COP 8.

In general, the EU sees considerable benefits for developing countries through the national communications process. In the medium term, the information contained in national communications should contribute to the integration of climate change concerns into sustainable development planning.

A. 6th compilation and synthesis of initial national communications form Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

The EU thanks the Secretariat for the comprehensive synthesis provided, which gives a good overview of the efforts made by developing countries in integrating climate change concerns into national sustainable development planning, completing GHG inventories, developing measures to address climate change, research activities, awareness raising and in communicating adaptation needs. In particular, the efforts of developing countries to mitigate GHG emissions should be highlighted in this regard.

Whilst most Parties provided information on activities and programmes relating to sustainable development that also contribute to addressing climate change, many Parties referred to the need to strengthen national coordination among sectors and different policy objectives to ensure a consistent climate change policy. In this regard, the EU stresses the need to integrate climate change objectives into national sustainable development planning exercises and national poverty reduction strategies. This will also assist bilateral and multilateral donors to provide support for climate change needs.

The EU notes that two-thirds of total GHG emissions in NAIC derives from CO₂, while the majority of African countries reported methane (CH₄) as being the highest contributor. The energy sector was the largest source of GHG emissions in 70 Parties, and more than half of the Parties stressed the development and promotion of renewable energy sources, in particular small-scale hydro projects.

The EU notes as well that increasingly NAIC Parties' national communications are including information on capacity building efforts and recognizes the value of national communications themselves as capacity building tools.

The EU welcomes the useful output of the national communications of non-Annex I Parties related to inventories. The EU expects that the 2006 IPCC Guidelines that are under preparation will provide improved guidance also for NAI-Parties thus facilitating next steps.

The reports show progress with regard to reporting on mitigation. The EU would encourage a discussion on how to further standardize the current approach in order to be able to better address needs and constraints of NAI Parties in a cost efficient manner.

With regard to systematic observation and research the EU believes that the significant importance of both issues has been fully recognized by all Parties as reflected in the recent conclusions by SBSTA23. The findings reflected in the national communications confirm the need for additional effort. The EU therefore encourages all Parties to support those initiatives and processes already underway.

B. The way forward

The EU welcomes decision -/CP.11 taken on the Submission of 2nd and, where appropriate, 3rd national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, which gives guidance on preparing the next round of national communications. The EU looks forward to discussion of a decision for adoption at COP 15 which highlights next steps for this work.

Lessons learned from the initial communications should be incorporated into the preparation of subsequent communications, which will be based on the guidelines adopted at COP 8 (decision 17/CP.8). Several processes within UNFCCC as well as in the UN system in general should also be drawn upon for data collection and information. Emphasis should be put on the use of existing information and data sources and processes in this work.

The EU places importance on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) to make recommendations on the preparation of national communications. This includes facilitating ways to improve the preparation of projects identified in their national communications in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention, in order to improve access to financial and technical support for such projects. The EU has been consistent in this approach already for some time.

Related processes within UNFCCC:

The more specific parts of the synthesis document on climate change impacts, adaptation measures and response strategies indicate that the information included in the national communications might provide helpful material to inform the SBSTA 5-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The EU notes with interest that all but 8 non annex 1-Parties reported emission data for the LUCF sector. The sector has been identified to be a net sink for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and other regions, but not for Latin America and the Caribbean. It might be worthwhile to learn more about the data used in this assessment, and to increase the quality of data, if necessary, in the medium term.

With regard to education, training and public awareness on climate change the EU encourages all non-Annex I Parties to put more emphasis on this area, as most Parties have reported on the importance of Article 6 activities.

The EU welcomes the information on technology needs in non-Annex I national communications. In addition a number of non-Annex I Parties have prepared technology needs assessments as part of the technology transfer framework. The EU welcomes the technology needs assessments and is working with

the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) on this issue. The workshop on innovative options for financing the results of technology needs assessments held in October 2005 is part of this ongoing process.

A lesson learned from the review of implementation of the framework for capacity building in developing countries was that the availability of data is critical. Parties should therefore draw on information also from reports and other submissions, including national capacity self assessments, as well as from GEF reports, among others. The UNFCCC Secretariat website TT:CLEAR also provides a considerable amount of technology related information.

The LDCF, SCCF, as well as the Adaptation Fund will promote measures to facilitate adaptation and support concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Kyoto Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation. Developing country Parties that consider themselves particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and wish to receive funding to assist in meeting the costs of adaptation shall report on such effects and their vulnerability to these effects in their national communications. Funding for these projects will require funding from all other sources, including from IFI's, and private flows.

Existing frameworks such as the adaptation policy framework or NAPAs can assist in the identification of potential adaptation options, strategies and measures. They may also help provide information to national processes for adaptation, such as designing the adaptation strategies or specific adaptation projects, and mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development programmes.

Related processes in the UN context:

In implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation most countries have developed national sustainable development strategies, and several countries have implemented poverty reduction strategies. National communications should draw on the information provided in these documents to highlight also the interlinkages between meeting the objectives of the Convention and sustainable development, and vice versa. At the same time, the partnerships created in the follow-up up to World Summit for Sustainable Development provide valuable tools and capacity building assistance.

The Commission on Sustainable Development in the biennium 2006/07 will focus on the themes of energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development. Much information on national circumstances will be collected in this process which should also be available as input into the next round of national communications.

The Millennium Development Goals process has created country teams which put together national MDG reports drawing on information from all stakeholders. Useful and up-to-date socio-economic data can be accessed through the MDG process.

PAPER NO. 3: BRAZIL

Brazilian Submission on Document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add. 1-6

In response to the invitation made by SBI in document FCCC/SBI/2005/L.26 Brazil welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 and Add. 1 to 6 for compilation in a miscellaneous document.

Brazil believes that the Sixth Compilation and Synthesis of initial national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention is a proof that non-Annex I Parties are continuing to fulfill their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1, and Article 12, paragraph 1.

However, Brazil does not consider appropriate the conversion of estimates provided by Parties into CO₂ equivalent estimates using 1995 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) global warming potentials (GWP) to present compiled data on inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of greenhouse gases.

The option of aggregating the reported emissions to produce carbon dioxide equivalent with the use of the Global Warming Potential (GWP) for a time horizon of 100 years has not been adopted by Brazil in its Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC, for the reasons explained in the box at its page 95:

“The GWP is based on the relative importance of greenhouse gases, relative to carbon dioxide, in producing an amount of energy (per unit area) a number of years after a pulse of emission. This variable does not represent adequately the relative contribution of different greenhouse gases to climate change. Climate change whether it is measured in terms of the increase in global mean surface temperature, mean sea-level rise or any statistics of meteorological elements related to damages, is not proportional to energy, except for very short periods of time. The use of the GWI would thus be conducive to inadequate mitigation policies. In addition, its use wrongly overemphasizes the importance of short-lived greenhouse gases, and that of methane in particular.”

As document FCCC/SBI/2005/18 is a Compilation and Synthesis of the Initial National Communications, in choosing to use this conversion to present Brazilian emissions and removals, the document should have highlighted this fact.

Moreover, on the report of regional greenhouse gas profiles, Brazil does not consider appropriate the fact of pointing out in the graphics the contribution of specific countries in the regional distribution of the aggregate GHG emissions (see FCCC.SBI/2005/18/Add. 2, Figures 2,3 and 4)

Brazil calls the attention for the pending financial, technical, institutional and capacity-building issues' constraints and problems encountered in the preparation of national communications (see FCC/SBI/2005/18, para. 84-100).

Brazil suggests, therefore, that the secretariat should be requested to prepare for the SBI consideration at its twenty-sixth session an information document, in consultation with the financial mechanism of the Convention and its implementing agencies, on possible means to address the major needs and constraints identified by Parties in the preparation of national communications in order to strengthen their efforts in meeting their reporting commitments under the UNFCCC.

PAPER NO. 4: SWITZERLAND

SBI 24

National Communications from non-Annex I Parties

The non-Annex I Parties have submitted their initial national communication in the course of various years. Responding to successive COP's decisions, the Secretariat has synthesized and compiled six times the vast amount of information contained in these communications in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines. These documents show that non-Annex I Parties are fulfilling their commitments under Articles 4.1 and 12.1 of the Convention.

We appreciate the work done by the Secretariat so far in response to the COP's decisions, but we consider that it is time to go further in the consideration process of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. The reasons are : the experience gained in considering the national communications; the dynamic that has emerged in non-Annex I countries concerning the implementation of measures relevant to climate change, and the new phase in the international process under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the COP 11 decision establishing a dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention, and the process under the Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol.

The SBI 24 should therefore prepare a draft decision on these matters for adoption by the COP 12 with the following elements :

- To proceed to a desk review of the national communications from non-Annex I Parties. This review should consider single countries or groups of few countries belonging to the same region or having similar national circumstances
- To focus this review on areas such as :
 - sustainable development and the integration of climate change concerns into medium- and long-term planning
 - trends in inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases. Particular attention may be paid to specific sectors
 - measures contributing to addressing climate change
 - research and systematic observation
 - climate change impacts, adaptation measures and response strategies, paying particular attention to needs and capacities
 - education, training and public awareness.
- To involve in this review the experts that have been trained under the Convention as reviewers
- To involve as well the CGE in this review. The mandate of the CGE should be accordingly modified at COP 13

This review should prepare future developments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

PAPER NO. 5: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**U.S. Submission on Sixth Compilation and Synthesis of Initial National Communications
from Parties not Included in Annex I to the Convention**

February 13, 2006

The Sixth Compilation and Synthesis consists of an Executive Summary (FCCC/SBI/2005/18) and six addenda and presents present information contained in 122 initial national communications (INCs) from non-Annex I Parties. The addenda describe and discuss the following major issues: a) sustainable development and the integration of climate change concerns into medium- and long-term planning; b) inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases; c) measures contributing to addressing climate change; d) research and systematic observation; e) climate change impacts, adaptation measures, and response strategies; f) and education, training, and public awareness. The Executive Summary summarizes the six addenda.

FCCC/SBI/2005/18 – Executive Summary

The Executive Summary summarizes the information and issues presented in the six addenda. U.S. views on these matters are addressed in the context of the specific addenda.

Add.1 – Sustainable Development and the Integration of Climate Change Concerns into Medium- and Long-Term Planning

Based on these 122 INCs, it is clear that the vast majority of NAI Parties appreciate the important interrelationships between sustainable development and climate change. Most NAI Parties dedicated a chapter or section to sustainable development and the integration of climate change into medium- and long-term planning. They identified their national development priorities and provided information on activities and programs relating to sustainable development that also contribute to addressing climate change. They pointed out that many measures that helped address vulnerabilities in one sector had co-benefits in other sectors. Many initiatives and programs addressing climate change were reported as having multiple benefits for sustainable development, economic growth and the environment. Understandably, most Parties identified poverty reduction as their most important development objective and identified many linkages between poverty and greater vulnerability to climate change.

Parties identified numerous practical steps that they were taking to integrate climate change into their national development planning processes as well as important difficulties or barriers to fully accomplishing this. The U.S. agrees strongly with addressing climate change in this broader development context and believes that the process of preparing a national communication can contribute greatly to sustainable development. Mitigation analysis, as outlined in the recently completed CGE handbook on this subject, provides a helpful analytical framework and set of tools for understanding the driving forces in a country's economy and the major opportunities for improving efficiency. Vulnerability and adaptation analysis, also as outlined in a recent CGE handbook, provides a helpful methodological framework and set of tools for understanding the basic physical components underlying a society and the major potential stresses on these components. The process of preparing a national communication can also foster dialogue among a variety of stakeholders within a country's government and society that are often not part of governments' long-term planning processes.

Add.2 – Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Most NAI Parties went beyond the guidelines for initial national communications provided by 10/CP.2 and used the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. Some NAI

Parties also reported for more than one year, applied both reference and sectoral approaches to estimate fuel combustion emissions from the energy sector, and made an effort to estimate the range of uncertainty in their emission estimates. NAI Parties should continue to be encouraged to use IPCC Good Practice Guidance (GPG) and make use of tools that have been developed which facilitate implementation of GPG.

Two significant areas of difficulty identified by Parties were problems with data availability and the appropriateness of the default emission factors. The U.S. expects that the IPCC emission factor database, if countries participate in it, and the process of producing a second or third national communication, will help significantly in addressing the latter. In addition, we believe that the quality of countries' GHG inventories and the effectiveness of their efforts could be enhanced by focusing resources and improvements on the most significant sources identified through a key source analysis. As such, we urge the Secretariat, the CGE, and NAI national communications support programs such as UNDP's National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) to facilitate the use of more effective inventory management techniques and processes.

Most NAI Parties identified financial and technological needs for the continuous collection and archiving of data for future inventories, as well as the need for strengthening the capacity of institutions to conduct these inventories. The U.S. believes strongly in the importance of high quality and timely GHG inventories. However, we note that almost all NAI Parties are seeking to produce an inventory only about once every ten years. Biennial updates of GHG inventories by those countries which are not least developed would help sustain this data and institutional infrastructure over time.

Improving collection of activity data involves improved coordination and communication between the inventory agency and data-supplying agency or a national statistical agency. This is an area where NAI countries should be encouraged to exchange "strategies" on collecting the appropriate type of data (linking to other policy needs, etc.). Institutionalization of the inventory process, which includes proper documentation and archiving, will reduce overall costs and efforts required in raising awareness with relevant agencies and institutions, maintaining institutional knowledge as well as trained personnel. We encourage the Secretariat, the CGE, and NCSP to consider including these topics within future focused GHG inventory management training workshops.

Add.3 – Measures Contributing to Addressing Climate Change

Almost all the Parties covered in this report included a chapter on measures addressing climate change. Those that did not described options for addressing climate change in other chapters. Sometimes information on how the measures were being assessed (e.g., expert judgment or an analytic model) was provided. The addendum provides useful information on the major types of measures identified by Parties and the regional distribution of these measures, but country-specific examples are somewhat limited. Based on the information in the addendum, it would appear that significant technical opportunities exist to reduce the growth of GHG emissions in these countries and that many countries are taking, or intend to take, advantage of some of these opportunities. However, the implementation status of many of these measures was unclear, while many others were in an early stage of being assessed. The U.S. encourages countries to provide more information on the status of measures included in their next national communications. We also encourage NAI Parties to consult with the CGE, the NCSP and other sources of relevant expertise on appropriate tools and approaches for the assessment of potential measures (e.g., LEAP, COMAP, and USEPA's Integrated Environmental Strategies' Handbook).

Many Parties also provided information on their proposed projects submitted under Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention. It is not clear in the addendum whether the projects identified by Parties are linked conceptually to the measures identified in their national communications. We would like to see this addressed in the next compilation and synthesis report. In addition, we encourage Parties to consider their

projects in the context of their measures. This would strengthen the rationale for implementation. This is a matter on which the CGE and EGTT might usefully collaborate.

Add.4 – Research and Systematic Observation

Most Parties reported on their research activities in general. Some also provided a detailed breakdown of research initiatives and results into climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation. The addendum provides a comprehensive and clear summary of the information provided on institutional arrangements, research activities, systematic observation activities, and research needs, along with a significant number of country-specific examples. Many NAI Parties appear to be participating actively in a variety of international research and systematic observation initiatives, including the Global Climate Change Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). The U.S. encourages more NAI Parties to participate actively in these programs and to report on this in their national communications. We also encourage the Secretariat to include additional country-specific information on this participation in the next compilation and synthesis report.

Add.5 – Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation Measures, and Response Strategies

The addendum summarizes the information provided by NAI Parties on: a) climate change impacts and vulnerability; b) methods and approaches used in V&A assessments; c) key sectors that are vulnerable; and d) sectoral adaptation and response measures. Unfortunately, the ability to understand the importance of the information presented is limited by the relative paucity of country-specific examples. We encourage more country-specific information be included in the next compilation and synthesis report.

The addendum notes that most Parties presented only a list of possible adaptation options without evaluating, prioritizing and/or costing them. It also identifies the lack of data needed to meet the demands of the various assessment methodologies as a serious constraint to V&A assessments in NAI Parties, but provides little specific information. The U.S. believes that NAI Parties would benefit significantly from a greater exchange of information and experience on both these matters in the context of discussion among subject matter experts. We encourage the CGE to consider this matter more closely and suggest ways in which this might be accomplished.

Add.6 – Education, Training, and Public Awareness

All the INCs covered in this report contained information regarding education, training and public awareness, with many including a separate chapter or section on the topic. Approximately half the Parties provided detailed information. Most of the others provided general information on their programs and activities, while a few provided little information. The addendum provides significant country-specific information through the use of a few well organized tables, and the text includes a number of country-and region-specific examples. Overall, it is clear that Article 6 under the Convention serves as a critical tool to support all Parties efforts to implement the UNFCCC.

The U.S. encourages NAI Parties to provide information in their national communications on efforts made under Article 6 of the Convention as these national communications will be an important source of information for future Article 6 reviews.

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