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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Item 4 (a) 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

Views on 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

Submissions from Parties

1. At its twenty-fourth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 August 2007, their views on 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 (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, para. 28). At its twenty-sixth session, the SBI reiterated its invitation for Parties to submit their views and requested the secretariat to compile these views into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-seventh session (FCCC/SBI/2007/15, para. 30).
2. The secretariat has received 11 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 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.

** Reissued for technical reasons.

FCCC/SBI/2007/MISC.7**

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

PAPER NO. 1: AUSTRALIA

Submission by Australia to the UNFCCC

15 August 2007

**Views on 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 Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to share its views on a possible future mandate for the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its twenty-fifth session.

The Australian Government considers that the CGE has preformed a valuable role in undertaking activities in accordance with its current mandate and its 2003-2007 work programme, and we congratulate the CGE for successfully delivering these activities.

The Australian Government does not view the mandate of the CGE as fixed. As the needs and circumstances of non-Annex I Parties change in view of their increasing experience and expertise in preparing national communications, so too should the role of the CGE change. Under its 2003-2007 work programme, the CGE has provided extensive assistance to strengthen the capacity of experts in developing countries to prepare national communications – organising six regional hands-on training workshops, one global workshop, contributing to non-Annex I national communication guidelines, providing twenty technical reports to the SBI, and developing training materials on GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation, and mitigation assessment. This is in addition to the activities conducted under its 1999-2002 work programme.

After eight years of activities focused on building the capacity of non-Annex I Parties, the Australian Government considers that it is time for the CGE to shift its focus to the consideration of the outcomes of this work through the regular, individual examination of non-Annex I national communications. Such a process would build on its current mandate to examine non-Annex I national communications (as set out in paragraph 9(c) of the annex to Decision 3/CP.8) and would enable all Parties to more clearly determine the outcomes of the activities undertaken by the CGE and identify where best to target future support. Furthermore, it would benefit non-Annex I Parties by:

- Providing technical assistance, guidance and support tailored to their individual needs and circumstances;
- Providing the information necessary to improve the quality and consistency of future national communications by identifying how their most recent national communication could be improved and options for achieving this improvement; and
- Providing a mechanism to highlight the positive actions they are taking to respond to climate change.

The individual examinations would inform and complement the compilation and synthesis reports prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat and the examinations conducted by the CGE (such as its current examination of non-Annex national communications submitted after 2 April 2005). In addition, the nature and scope of the examinations could be tailored to the particular needs of non-Annex I Parties. Australia considers that the CGE would be a suitable body for managing the individual examinations as it

has developed relevant expertise through its preparation of compilation and synthesis reports. Depending on their volume and scope, the examinations could be conducted by the CGE members, or alternatively, examiners could be drawn from a voluntary and rotating list of Annex I and non-Annex I experts, such as is the case for the review of Annex I reports.

To reflect the CGE's examination role, the Australian Government proposes that a revised CGE mandate should have as its objective "the improvement of the second and subsequent national communications of non-Annex I Parties". The reference to improving the "process of preparation" in the CGE's terminating mandate should be deleted to make it clear that the work of the CGE is not narrowly limited to process of preparing national communications, but extends to the direct consideration of the information contained in these documents.

In addition to undertaking regular individual examinations, and the examinations set out in its current mandate, the following functions which are largely drawn from FCCC/SBI/2007/10/Add.1 should also be considered for inclusion in the CGE's mandate:

- Providing guidance on the integration of climate change issues into national development policy and planning processes;
- Identifying and assessing technical problems and constraints for NAI Parties that adversely affect the preparation of their national communications;
- Identifying and assessing the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the use of guidelines and methodologies for the preparation of their national communications; and
- Providing technical advice and support on the development and implementation of systems for facilitating the regularisation and institutionalisation of the national communications process.

In line with the enhanced CGE role proposed above, the Australian Government favours a scaling back of CGE training activities from the levels undertaken in its previous work programmes. As the CGE has been undertaking extensive training activities since 1999, its future focus should be on assessing the outcomes of this training in the form of improved second national communications. If additional training is necessary, in our view this could largely be provided by an organisation/s with specific training expertise and regularised funding processes, or through bilateral support mechanisms. For example, the Australian Government has provided targeted bilateral support for the inventory component of China's second national communication through the Australia-China Climate Change Partnership.

The Australian Government looks forward to discussing the CGE's mandate with Parties at the UNFCCC's thirteenth Conference of the Parties, and to agreeing to a new and useful role for this important body.

PAPER NO. 2: BOLIVIA

**Submission of Bolivia to The Secretariat of The United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change**

15 August 2007

Observaciones sobre el mandato y las atribuciones del Grupo Consultivo de Expertos para las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (CMNUCC)

Mandato

En respuesta al secretariado de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático decisión FCCC/SBI/2006/11, Párrafo 28 “Observaciones sobre el mandato y las atribuciones del Grupo Consultivo de Expertos para las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático”.

Posición de Bolivia sobre el Mandato y las Atribuciones del Grupo Consultivo de Expertos para las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático.

Bolivia considera importante el rol que juega el Grupo Consultivo de Expertos (GCE) para las Comunicaciones Nacionales no incluidas en el Anexo I de la CMNUCC en la elaboración de las comunicaciones nacionales. Sin embargo, Bolivia considera que los siguientes aspectos deben ser evaluados:

- a) En referencia al mandato del GCE para las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I Bolivia considera que su mandato debe ser renovado debido a que el GCE viene cumpliendo de manera exitosa su apoyo técnico para el óptimo desarrollo de las Comunicaciones Nacionales de las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I de la CMNUCC.
- b) En cuanto a las atribuciones del GCE, él mismo deberá seguir prestando todo el apoyo técnico requerido por las Partes no incluidas en el Anexo I de la CMNUCC en materia de inventarios nacionales de gases de efecto invernadero, mejorar las evaluaciones de vulnerabilidad, en especial aquellas “bottom-up” e institucionales que permitan realizar mejores valoraciones regionales e institucionales.
- c) El GCE debería trabajar en el desarrollo sobre herramientas que permitan elaborar un adecuado análisis de los escenarios socioeconómicos, los cuales facilitarían los análisis de la vulnerabilidad al cambio climático, el impacto de las medidas de adaptación y de mitigación, tanto a nivel regional como local.
- d) Bolivia sugiere que el GCE trabaje en enfoques metodológicos que permitan introducir el cambio climático en las políticas y planes de desarrollo de las Partes.
- e) Se sugiere que se trabaje en coordinar las Agendas de trabajo de la comunidad de cambio climático y de gestión de riesgos, de tal forma que los esfuerzos técnicos, económicos y de gestión sean más efectivos.

- f) Finalmente se sugiere que los asuntos transversales requieren contar con un mejor material técnico que permita un mejor desarrollo y una mayor uniformidad de la presentación de esta información en las comunicaciones nacionales.
- g) Se alienta a seguir trabajando con el PACN, el IPCC y el EGTT para seguir mejorando los documentos, actividades de capacitación y otras acciones necesarias que permitan una mejor calidad de esta información en las comunicaciones nacionales.

PAPER NO. 3: BRAZIL

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

Submission by Brazil

Following the invitation contained in the conclusions of the 24th session of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (paragraph 28 of document FCCC/SBI/2006/11), the Government of Brazil welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts to be compiled into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-seventh session.

The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall continue to have the objective of improving the process of preparation of second and subsequent national communications from non-Annex I Parties and, as appropriate, and where relevant, initial national communications from Parties which have not yet submitted them, by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties.

Brazil believes that the number of experts under the Consultative Group of Experts shall be extended to increase the participation of experts from Non-Annex I countries. Thus, the Consultative Group of Experts shall comprise 30 experts as follows:

- (a) Seven members from each of the regions of non-Annex I Parties, namely, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) Six members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including one from countries with economies in transition;
- (c) One member from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of national communications.

Representatives from the three regional groups of non-Annex I Parties shall serve as Chair and Rapporteur on a rotational basis. The Chair shall serve for a period of one year. The Rapporteur shall succeed in serving as Chair, at which time a new Rapporteur shall be nominated.

Brazil believes that the mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain the same of the current one, as contained in paragraph 9 of the Annex of Decision 3/CP.8 (document FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1).

Brazil also believes that the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be reviewed at its sixteenth session.

PAPER NO. 4: CHINA

**China's Views on the Mandate and TOR of the CGE
On National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties**

At its 24th session, the SBI invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 August 2007, their views on the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, and requested the secretariat to compile these views into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-seventh session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, Para. 28).

China welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the Mandate and TOR of the CGE, and believes that this will enable the CGE to better assist Non-Annex I Parties in preparing their second and subsequent national communications by providing technical advice and support.

China takes note of the report of the CGE on the outcomes of its stocktaking exercise for the period 2003–2007 (FCCC/SBI/2007/10/Add.1), and acknowledges that the CGE has made great contributions to the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties by providing technical advice and support under its work programme 2003–2007.

China believes that the current Mandate and TOR of the CGE provided in Decision 3/CP.8 is sufficient, and the continuation of the current Mandate and TOR of the CGE is important to the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

PAPER NO. 5: NIGERIA

**SUBMISSION BY NIGERIA ON THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERT
ON NON-ANNEX I NATIONAL COMMUNICATION**

Nigeria observes that the compilation of the non Annex I National Communications revealed that capacity development of the African region in particular, and the developing country in general, is much desired to enhance the quality of the document. This becomes imperative in view of the fact that preparation and submission of national communication remains an important obligation required of the developing country Parties by the UNFCCC. In this regard, Nigeria acknowledges the work of the Consultative Group of Expert on Non-Annex I National Communication for providing necessary guidance towards enhancing the quality of Non-Annex I national communications.

Nigeria believes that non-Annex I Parties, particularly the African Parties need capacity building in greenhouse gas inventory in their respective countries. Furthermore, they need guidance in establishing inventory managing systems and national inventory data base. Vulnerability and adaptation assessments have become imperative for the African region not only because they are major components of their national communication but also because it has been indicated by the Fourth Assessment report of the IPCC that the region is the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Reporting vulnerability and adaptation to the impacts of climate change to a very large extent would then depends on proper guidance of the CGE to accurately conduct V&A assessments. There is need, therefore, for training of trainers at both regional and national levels to undertake such assessments. Provision of such trainings form an important component of work of the CGE.

Furthermore there is need for Parties to share experience and/or lessons learned, through information exchange, in the area of better management and institutionalization of preparing national communications. The Consultative Group of Experts is well situated in providing fora for sharing such experience and exchange of information, especially after the examination of the first national communications submitted by the non-Annex I Parties to the Convention.

Nigeria appreciates the efforts of the UNFCCC Secretariat in coordinating the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on NAI national communication. We therefore urge the COP to renew CGE mandate for another five (5) years to continue their good work. .

Mr. Executive Secretary, the Nigeria believes that for CGE to continue their work effectively, there is need for continued UNFCCC Secretariat's support. In turn, there will be need to provide resources for the Secretariat to provide such support to the work of the CGE. We therefore urge the SBI to give further support to the Secretariat in order to assist in quality production of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

PAPER NO. 6: PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Ukraine
and Serbia**

Lisbon, 12 July 2007

Subject: Work of the Consultative Group of Experts

Portugal, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the above subject.

The Consultative Group of Experts was created by Decision 8/CP.5 with the objective of improving the process of preparation of National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (NAIP). Its mandate and terms of reference were included in the Annex to that Decision. The mandate was extended by 3/CP.8. According to this decision the mandate shall be reviewed at COP 13.

The CGE has performed the tasks of its mandate and 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 (NCs), for example through regional workshops, and in examining the initial NCs (FCCC/SBI/2006/4), and identifying problems and constraints in the process of preparation. The EU supports renewing the mandate for the CGE, expecting it to continue to take a leading role in improving the process of preparation of NCs.

The EU considers that the preparation of NCs is a useful process both to NAI countries producing them, and to the wider international community in assessing progress against our commitments under the UNFCCC. When improving the quality of the reporting in UNFCCC or other processes, the most significant contributions to improvements in reporting have often come about as a result of processes which examine and reflect on the reports submitted. The EU considers that a technical, non-confrontational and facilitative examination of NCs, which the CGE should be involved in, has a key role to play in improving the process or preparation of NCs.

The EU believes that the hands-on training workshop organised by the CGE have facilitated NAIPs in their preparation of the second, and in some cases subsequent NCs. In the feedback on these workshops, among others, requests for more thorough training have been put forward. The EU believes that the main responsibility of such training should be borne by the NCSP.

EU 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 NAIP.

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

The EU considers that SBI 27/COP 13 should continue the mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from NAIP, with the objective of improving the process of preparation of second and subsequent national communications and the quality of information on implementation of the Convention. The EU looks forward to working with other Parties at SBI 27/COP 13 to agree new terms of reference for the CGE.

The EU considers that the elements of a possible future role of the Consultative Group of Experts presented in the Note by the Chair of CGE (FCCC/SBI/2007/10/Add.1) give valuable inputs for the new mandate.

The NCs contain much useful information, and dissemination of this within the NAIPs and making use of it in national development plans and policies is important. The EU believes the CGE can play an important role in this process (paragraph 34(e) and paragraph 34(g)).

Paragraph 34 (c) is particularly important in guiding future work and ensuring that the preparation of NCs is a useful process to both NAI parties and wider UNFCCC processes.

Many NAIPs are now finalising their NCs, and this should be seen in activities of the CGE. The focus should be in facilitating the use of the NCs in responding to climate change issues, and in assessing the NCs to provide guidance to the COP on how the process for preparation of the 3rd and subsequent NCs could be developed and made more efficient.

The CGE should examine second and subsequent national communications of non-Annex I Parties with a view to providing the COP with information on the quality of the National Communications of non-Annex I Parties. This examination 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.

Since a large number of second NCs of NAI parties are expected to be completed in the near future, it is expected that the CGE will assist the SBI in the consideration process that it must undertake according to Article 10 paragraph 2 of the UNFCCC. The CGE should continue its role to ensure continuity and consistency of efforts in such areas as GHG inventory preparation, and research and systematic observation. Making comparative assessments of similar countries will identify useful transferable lessons for improving the quality of subsequent NCs and assist countries preparing their adaptation strategies. In addition, comparison of the first and subsequent NCs would be useful to assess progress in the quality of preparation.

Institutional continuity in the preparation of the NC has been identified as vital for ensuring development and efficiency in the process. The CGE could provide guidance and provisions for exchange of experiences to facilitate the regularization and institutionalisation mentioned in the paragraph 34(f).

In addition, the EU would strongly support, as suggested in paragraph 33 of the Chair's note, efforts on the part of the CGE to ensure that their work is complementary, and not in duplication, to that of the UNFCCC secretariat, the NCSP, IPCC and other bodies. In performing the review of existing activities, suggested in paragraph 34 (h), it would be helpful if the CGE could identify areas of possible duplication or lack of coordination between bodies involved in supporting NAI NCs, and strive to resolve these.

PAPER NO. 7: SOUTH AFRICA

VIEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION: FUTURE MANDATE OF THE CGE

The government of South Africa welcomes the opportunity to submit its views regarding the possible future mandate of the CGE.

Article 12, paragraph 7, of the Convention provides the basis for technical and financial support to non-Annex I countries in developing their national communications. This article addresses the communication of information relating to implementation of the Convention and states that “From its first session, the Conference of the Parties shall arrange for the provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support, on request, in compiling and communicating information under this Article, as well as in identifying the technical and financial needs associated with proposed projects and response measures under Article 4. Such support may be provided by other Parties, by competent international organizations and by the secretariat, as appropriate.”

Pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a number of decisions to address the availability and distribution of and access to financial and technical assistance, as well as guidance to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of national communications (see box 1). In particular, decision 17/CP.8 provides the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

South Africa acknowledges that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention has made important contributions to the revision of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and has over the years provided valuable assistance to the non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications. They have also produced valuable information materials that assist developing countries in preparing their national communications; and

- Providing technical advice to the SBI through the preparation of technical reports including on the examination of initial national communications;
- Providing advice and technical support to Parties through the organization of hands-on training workshops;
- Cooperating with other expert groups under the Convention and with the NCSP;
- Conducting activities in response to guidance from the SBI.

Given the above, South Africa believes that some elements of the previous mandate are still relevant and should continue to form part of the mandate of the CGE. It further recommends the following be included in the new mandate for the CGE:

- Identification and assessment of technical problems and constraints that adversely affect the preparation by non-Annex I Parties of their national communications and make recommendations to address them;
- Identification and assessment of difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the use of the guidelines and methodologies for preparation of their national communications and make recommendations for their improvement, as necessary;
- Examination of national communications prepared in accordance with the guidelines annexed to decision 17/CP.8, with additional assistance of the secretariat and/or other appropriate means, with

a view of improving the quality and consistency of information to be provided in the future national communications;

- Provision of technical advice and support, including through workshops and the development of good practice materials, the integration of climate change issues into national development policy and planning processes;
- Provision of technical advice and support, including through workshops and the development of good practice materials in areas such as national GHG inventories, V&A, mitigation and on their socio-economic implications; the integration of climate change issues into national development policy and planning processes; and training on use of the guidelines for preparing national communications;
- Provision of technical advice and support on the development and implementation of systems for facilitating the regularization and institutionalization of the national communications process;
- Provision of technical advice and support for dissemination and outreach of the national communications;
- Review existing activities and programmes, including those of multilateral funding sources, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, and report on its findings;
- Preparation of technical advice to the SBI on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention by non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate.

PAPER NO. 8: SWITZERLAND

SBI 27

**National communications from non-Annex I Parties:
Mandate and terms of reference of the CGE**

1. Switzerland considers that the CGE has played an instrumental role in helping non-Annex I Parties in the elaboration of their national communication. In this context, we consider that the CGE has to continue playing such a role in the future. Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to submit views on the renewal of the mandate of the CGE.
2. We consider that a number of elements have to be taken into account when renewing the CGE mandate:
 - Reporting under Article 12 of the Convention is not an end per se but a means to reach the overarching objective of the Parties that is the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.
 - In this context, non-Annex I Parties should aim at improving the process of preparation of the second and subsequent national communications and the quality of information on the implementation of the Convention
 - The Convention's process should be able to proceed to a regular examination of individual national communications from non-Annex I, allowing for more flexibility concerning the national communication from Least Developed Countries Parties
 - This examination process should be facilitative and non-confrontational, and should be carried out in cooperation with the concerned non-Annex I Party and be country-driven. The expected result of the examination is an assessment of the completeness and consistency of the information provided across covering all main issues in particular the relations to the sustainable development goals of the non-Annex I Party
 - In this context, we consider that the CGE may play an important role through its involvement in this examination process. The CGE shall in this task be supported by additional experts from the UNFCCC roster.
 - The participation of the CGE above-mentioned examination process required that the CGE should not be as heavily involved in training as it has been in the previous two periods since 2000. Training should be handled through the basic funding of national communications (enabling activities) by the GEF.
 - Greater attention has to be given to the development and institutionalization of systems for the ongoing production of national communications and the information contained therein.
3. We look forward discussing these ideas with other delegations with the view to adopt a decision at COP 13 providing the CGE with a renewed mandate.

PAPER NO. 9: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. Submission on the Mandate and Terms of Reference of the CGE

Under Article 4.1 (j) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all Parties have committed to “Communicate to the Conference of Parties information related to implementation,” Additional details of this communication are elaborated in Article 12. Fulfillment of reporting requirements is important for allowing the international community is able to assess our individual and collective progress in addressing the matter of global climate change.

The requirements regarding content and timing of non-Annex 1 Parties’ national communications are different from those of Annex 1 Parties. This is appropriate in view of the differing national circumstances among Parties. Fundamentally, however, the national communications of all Parties should be guided by the need to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention. In this context, the world has changed substantially since the Climate Convention was agreed in 1992. A number of non-Annex 1 Parties are among the largest economies and largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. If the international community is to be able to reasonably assess our collective progress, it is not sufficient for major economies and GHG emitters, whether Annex 1 or not, to submit greenhouse gas inventories or to report on the steps they are taking to address other important elements of Article 4, paragraph 1, every five to ten years.

The capacity of most non-Annex 1 Parties to produce high quality national communications has increased substantially in the past fifteen years. Significant funds, training and other forms of technical support have been and continue to be provided for this purpose. In some cases, important limitations remain. In general, however, in-country institutions and associated personnel are substantially stronger than they were ten to fifteen years ago.

Taking into account the importance of GHG emissions from a number of non-Annex 1 Parties, the increased capacity of these countries to produce national communications and the ongoing provision of funds for this purpose, the U.S. believes that non-Annex I Parties, excepting least developed country Parties, should:

1. Submit an inventory of greenhouse gases every two years and update emissions from the energy sector annually; and,
2. Submit national communications every four years.

Additionally, individual national communications should be examined by experts accredited by the UNFCCC Secretariat with a view to improving information on implementation of the Convention.

The future role of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from non-Annex 1 Parties (CGE) must also be framed within the context of the evolving capacity of most non-Annex 1 Parties to produce high quality national communications along with the ongoing availability of funds, training and technical support. The CGE has contributed importantly to this improved capacity by: i) facilitating the exchange of information and experience among non-Annex I Parties; ii) analyzing difficulties faced by these Parties in producing their national communications and developing helpful recommendations for overcoming these difficulties; iii) providing training and developing related materials; and, iv) examining initial national communications. The results of the CGE’s work program, its experience and ideas for possible elements of a future mandate are well summarized in FCCC/SBI/2007/10 and Add. 1.

Suggested text for key elements of a revised mandate for the CGE is provided below. Not included in this text is provision for a CGE role in training. We believe training has evolved into a routine part of

the support process and should be handled through the basic funding of national communications by the GEF. Provision will need to be made by the GEF to ensure that this occurs.

Elements of a Revised TOR and Mandate

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 improving the process of preparing second and subsequent national communications from non-Annex I Parties and the quality of information on implementation of the Convention, by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties. In order to achieve this objective, greater attention will need to be given to the institutionalization of the national communications process, notably including the production of greenhouse gas inventories.
2. The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) shall be composed of experts with demonstrated competence in greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation and other matters relating to the preparation of national communications.
3. The Consultative Group of Experts shall comprise 25 experts as follows:
 - a. Five members from each of the regions of non-Annex I Parties, namely, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - b. Six members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including one from countries with economies in transition;
 - c. One member from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of national communications;
 - d. One member from the GEF Secretariat.
4. The experts referred to in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above shall be appointed by the Parties from the region in order to ensure geographical balance. The experts from Annex I shall be appointed by the Annex I Parties. In addition, one expert from each of the three international organizations referenced in 3(c) above shall be selected by the secretariat. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) shall be notified of these appointments. Additional experts shall be selected from the roster of experts on an ad hoc basis, when required, on the basis of their specific areas of expertise and in consultation with the Chair of the SBI, who will decide on their terms and length of service.
5. Members of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be nominated for a period of two years and shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. For reasons of continuity and institutional memory, two members of each regional group of the CGE shall continue to serve for a period of one year. Thereafter, new members shall be nominated to replace those who have served their terms.
6. Representatives of the three regional groups of non-Annex I parties shall serve as Chair and Rapporteur on a rotational basis. The Chair shall serve for a period of one year. The Rapporteur shall succeed in serving as Chair, at which time a new Rapporteur shall be nominated.
7. If a member of the CGE resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term or to perform the functions of that office, the CGE may decide, bearing in mind the proximity of the next session of the Conference of Parties, to request the group that had nominated the member to nominate another member to replace the said member for the remainder of that member's term. In such a case, the CGE shall take into account any views expressed by the group that had nominated the member and shall notify the Chair of the SBI of any replacement. Failure to

attend two consecutive meetings may be considered evidence of a member's inability to perform the functions of the office.

8. The Consultative Group of Experts shall meet not more than twice a year, each time in conjunction with meetings of the subsidiary bodies or other events necessary for it to accomplish its mandate. Ad hoc meetings may be convened, subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with the Chair of the SBI, when deemed necessary to fulfill its mandate.
9. The Consultative Group of Experts shall be mandated to:
 - a) Develop recommendations for the structure and operation of an individual national communication examination process for consideration by the SBI. The process should make maximum use of individuals from non-Annex I Parties with demonstrated competence in relevant areas of expertise, should take account of alternative costs, and the least cost alternative consistent with a high quality examination should be identified;
 - b) Support and participate in an agreed individual national communication examination process;
 - c) Examine national communications submitted to the Secretariat, with assistance from the Secretariat and/or other appropriate means, with a view to making recommendations to the SBI for improving the quality, consistency and transparency of information on implementation of the Convention;
 - d) Develop recommendations for consideration by the SBI regarding the elements of revised guidelines for the production of third and subsequent national communications of non-Annex I Parties, taking into account relevant decisions by the Conference of Parties;
 - e) Provide advice and make recommendations to the SBI and individual non-Annex I Parties on the development and institutionalization of systems for the production of national communications, and the information contained therein on a continuous basis;
 - f) Provide advice and make recommendations to the SBI and individual non-Annex I Parties on the submission every two years of a greenhouse gas inventory, with annual updates of emissions from the energy sector;
 - g) Review existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and report on its findings to the SBI;
 - h) Organize and conduct workshops and similar meetings of non-Annex I Parties as needed to implement its mandate subject to the availability of funds;
 - i) Prepare technical advice and make recommendations to the SBI on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention by non-Annex I Parties, as requested by the SBI;
 - j) Carry-out other requests directed to it by the SBI.

PAPER NO. 10: URUGUAY

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

Views on 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

Submission from Uruguay

August 14, 2007

Following the invitation contained in the conclusions of the 24th session of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (paragraph 28 of document FCCC/SBI/2006/11), Uruguay would like to present its views on the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts to be compiled into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-seventh session.

The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall continue to have the objective of improving the process of preparation of second and subsequent national communications from non-Annex I Parties and, as appropriate, and where relevant, initial national communications from Parties which have not yet submitted them, by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties.

Uruguay believes that the number of experts under the Consultative Group of Expert shall be extended to increase the participation of experts from non-Annex I countries. Thus, the Consultative Group of Experts shall comprise 30 experts as follows:

- a) Seven members from each of the regions of non-Annex I Parties, namely, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
- b) Six members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including one from countries with economies in transition;
- c) One member from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of national communications.

Representatives from the three regional groups of non-Annex I Parties shall serve as Chair and Rapporteur on a rotational basis. The Chair shall serve for a period of one year. The Rapporteur shall succeed in serving as Chair, at which time a new Rapporteur shall be nominated.

Uruguay believes that the mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain the same of the current one, as contained in paragraph 9 of the Annex of Decision 3/CP.8 (document FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1).

Uruguay also believes that the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be reviewed at its sixteenth session.

PAPER NO. 11: UZBEKISTAN

View of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**on mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts
on National Communications from Parties not included
in Annex I to the Convention**

Republic of Uzbekistan supports the Secretariat activity on improvement of work of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

Republic of Uzbekistan emphasizes an important role of CGE in the preparation of the national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

Republic of Uzbekistan after having considered achievements of CGE on implementation of work programme for the period 2003 – 2007 wishes to emphasize usefulness of holding training meetings on green house gases inventory, vulnerability and adaptation assessments and curbing climate change as well as collaboration with other groups of experts and programmes.

Prepared by the CGE thematic groups tables of the common reporting format on cross-sectoral themes in the national communications from Parties not included in Annex I is an important step in monitoring of the UNFCCC implementation.

Realizing mandate and terms of reference CGE contributes to the implementation of the Nairobi work programme through providing technical and consultative assistance on methodology, tools and processes related to vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

From our viewpoint the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention are being well fulfilled and CGE makes a worthy contribution in successful implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
