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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Thirty-first session

Copenhagen, 7–18 December 2009*

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

Progress on the implementation of decision 1/CP.10

Possible further action on the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention and decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10

Submissions from Parties and relevant organizations

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirtieth session, invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 28 September 2009, with the option to make further submissions by 22 March 2010, their views on possible further action on this matter (FCCC/SBI/2009/8, para. 45). The SBI requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration at its thirty-first or thirty-second session.
2. The secretariat has received two such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, the submission received from a Party is attached and reproduced** in the language in which they were received and without formal editing. In line with established practice, the submission from a non-governmental organization has been posted on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/3689.php>>.

* Exact dates within the sessional period are subject to confirmation.

** This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

**SUBMISSION FROM SWEDEN ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Stockholm, September 23, 2009

Subject: Further views on the assessment of the status of implementation of Article 4.8 and decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 with regard to actions and activities addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

The European Union and its Member States welcome this opportunity to share further views on the status of implementation of Convention Article 4.8 and COP decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 with regard to actions and activities addressing the adverse effects of climate change. During 2008, the EU submitted its views (contained in FCCC/SBI/2008/MISC.4) and FCCC(SBI/2008/ Misc 9. and Add1) on the status of implementation of Article 4.8 and COP decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 which included information on measures the EU has undertaken to support the implementation of the above mentioned Article and COP decisions. Those submissions outline how the EU has responded to the provisions of the Convention on adaptation as well as to the decisions 5/CP7 and 1/CP10. They include examples of the nature of activities that have been undertaken and of the key lessons learned.

Since the preparation of the submissions, the EU and its member states has continued to actively engage in dialogue with developing country Parties within the Convention process as well as through discussions held bilaterally and in other multilateral fora to identify how to enhance the implementation of effective adaptation actions in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions.

The EU further recognises that the AWG LCA discussions to elaborate a Framework for Action on Adaptation that aims at facilitating enhanced action on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change from now, up to and beyond 2012 should draw on the work already undertaken and progress made under this agenda item. The areas outlined in this submission for further work should thus be seen as continuing the efforts to achieve effective adaptation and thus be part of the process of enhanced action.

While the EU is of the view that significant work has been undertaken on adaptation and in particular to implement the Convention Articles and relevant decisions, a lot remains to be done to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience in developing countries. This relates not only to deepening our understanding in key areas, but also to set in place the necessary tools and measures to ensure continuity. Thus, the EU suggests that further efforts should be made in the following areas.

Financial resources; A clear area that has been highlighted for further work is the need to better understand the costs and benefits of adaptation. This is important especially as concerted efforts are needed to the financial and technical resources necessary to support adaptation actions, in particular for the most vulnerable namely the least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries affected by drought, desertification and floods. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring better access to information on available support, procedures and modalities for access as well as support to enable the particularly vulnerable countries to receive and absorb the support.

Vulnerability and adaptation assessments to raise awareness and build capacities at the local, national and regional levels to enable planning, preparation and responses to adaptation.

Further work is also needed to enhance the understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to climate change and approaches to adaptation. Lessons learned and experiences from the implementation of adaptation actions are essential to improve our understanding of that constitutes effective adaptation and is particularly important for building capacity within countries and across regions. There is thus a need to follow up and review and evaluate on the effectiveness of adaptation actions in order to identify best practices, avoid maladaptation and highlight policy, information and resource gaps for further action.

Adaptation planning and implementation;

Adaptation is a process and one which must be embedded in national development processes and strategies. Adaptation to climate change cannot be addressed in isolation of other economic and developmental concerns. Furthermore, adaptation requires the actions of a broad range of actors within and across sectors and at different levels of society. Political commitment and cooperation amongst ministries are essential and key government ministries such as finance and planning need to be involved in the development of adaptation strategies and plans. Thus, it is important to ensure that support provided to adaptation actions is consistent with the national needs and priorities of countries and that the requirements of the Convention process do not constitute an additional burden to planning processes in countries.

Data, systematic observation and monitoring;

Further work is needed to build the institutional capacities to collect, process and analyse relevant data in order to make vulnerability and adaptation assessments. Furthermore, the coarse resolution of most available climate model outputs, makes it very challenging to use the results as a basis for adaptation. The development of higher resolution models, coupled with building capacity to apply them to national circumstances, training for model development and support for climate observations is needed.

Regional collaboration and cross-cutting issues; There is also a need to enhance the engagement of relevant actors and organisations and to promote synergies between relevant processes and the work of international and regional organisations and the private sector.

Risk management and risk reduction; Further work is needed to improve the understanding and promote the use of risk management instruments, including through involvement of the private sector and private-public partnerships.

Capacity-building, education, training and public awareness; There is a need to further strengthen local institutions and knowledge systems and make use of and invest in, available capacities for the proper assessment and evaluation of the climate vulnerability in the short- and long-term as well as to implement adaptation actions.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to continue working with all Parties to support adaptation activities and programmes in developing countries in order to enhance their resilience to address the impacts of climate change.

Further views on the assessment of the status of implementation of Article 4.8 and decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 with regard to actions and activities addressing concerns arising from the impacts of the implementation of response measures

In 2008, the EU submitted its views (contained in FCCC/SBI/2008/MISC.4 and FCCC/SBI/2008/ Misc 9. and Add1) on the status of implementation of Article 4(8) and COP decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 which included information on measures the EU has undertaken to support the implementation of the

above mentioned Article and COP decisions. These submissions give a good overview of how the EU and its Member States are dealing with this issue.

The EU are continuing to strive to minimise the potential adverse impacts of the implementation of its climate change policies and measures. The EU and its Member States will be reporting on these efforts in their 5th National Communications which are due at the end of 2009. Once this information is available it will provide a base for input to future discussions and submissions on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

The EU believes that a new global deal to be agreed later this year will give a possibility to address the concerns raised by the impact of response measures by providing predictability and means of implementation, finance, capacity building and support to technology innovation, development and transfer.
