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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**

Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The fifth meeting of the reconstituted Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) took place in Santiago, Chile, on 12 and 13 September 2011. The CGE considered the progress on the implementation of its work programme and the organization of its activities for 2011–2012. The group also considered the outcome of its greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory hands-on training workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean region based on the CGE training materials that are under review. The group was also presented with its report on the workshop on facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis, with a view to providing the Subsidiary Body for Implementation with recommendations. This report summarizes the outcome of the discussions of the CGE related to the implementation of its work programme, including the organization of its activities for 2011–2012.

* This document was submitted after the due date in order to include the outcome of the discussions that took place at the workshop held on 5–9 September 2011, and of those that took place at the fifth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, held on 12 and 13 September 2011.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 5/CP.15, reconstituted the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for three years, from 2010 to 2012, in order to improve the process of, and preparation of, national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties). The COP mandated the CGE to develop a work programme for 2010–2012 at its first meeting.
2. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-second session, took note of and welcomed the work programme for 2010–2012.¹
3. By its decision 5/CP.15, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the CGE by organizing meetings and workshops and compiling reports of its meetings and workshops for consideration by the SBI.

B. Scope of the note

4. This report contains the proceedings of the fifth meeting of the reconstituted CGE, relating to progress in the implementation of its mandate and discussions on the organization of its work programme for 2011–2012. This report has two addenda containing reports on two workshops. The first addendum contains a report on the workshop on facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, on a continuous basis,² and the second addendum contains a report on the training workshop on GHG inventory hands-on training for the Latin America and Caribbean region.³

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI, after having considered this report, may wish to provide additional guidance to the CGE on the implementation of its mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications and on its work programme for 2012.
6. The SBI may also wish to provide further guidance to the CGE on the implementation of its mandate relating to paragraph 2(c) of its terms of reference, contained in the annex to decision 5/CP.15, on the provision of technical advice to non-Annex I Parties in order to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of their national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis.
7. The SBI may further wish to reiterate its encouragement to Parties to take into account the recommendations made by the CGE on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not

¹ Contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.2.

² FCCC/SBI/2011/10/Add.1.

³ FCCC/SBI/2011/10/Add.2.

included in Annex I to the Convention” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties) contained in its progress report⁴ submitted to the SBI at its thirty-fourth session.

8. The SBI may wish to invite Parties in a position to do so to provide financial assistance for the implementation of the work programme of the CGE and to invite multilateral and bilateral support programmes to collaborate with the CGE in the provision of technical support to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

II. Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts

9. The fifth meeting of the reconstituted CGE was held in Santiago, Chile, on 12 and 13 September 2011. The meeting was held back to back with the training workshop on GHG inventories for the Latin America and Caribbean region, which took place from 5 to 9 September 2011 at the same venue. The objective of the meeting was, inter alia, to review the group’s progress to date and to organize the implementation of its work programme for 2011 and 2012.

10. The meeting was attended by representatives of 21 members of the CGE, as follows: experts from Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the European Union, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkmenistan and the United Republic of Tanzania, and three experts representing international organizations (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)).

11. Ms. Sangchan Limjirakan (Thailand), Chair of the CGE, made introductory remarks by welcoming the members to the meeting, expressing gratitude to the Government of Chile for hosting the meeting and stressing the importance of the meeting in the implementation of the mandate of the CGE to assist non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications.

12. Ms. Maria Ignacia Benitez, the Minister of Environment of Chile, delivered the opening remarks, which indicated the significance of global efforts to strengthen the fight against climate change. She further indicated that Chile was vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in particular its low-lying coastal zones, and was faced by widespread deforestation. Mr. José Luis Samaniego, of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the importance of climate change data in informed policymaking and also noted that national communications and national GHG inventories serve as important tools in improving policy design.

13. The Chair informed the members that Mr. Qiang Liu (China) had replaced Mr. Hongwei Yang (China) from the Asian Group, and that a member from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean still needed to be nominated.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Rev.1 and FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Add.1.

III. Discussions

A. Organization of the work

14. The Chair outlined the organization of the work of the CGE for the meeting. She informed the members that a progress report would be prepared for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth session. Further, the CGE considered, inter alia, the following:

(a) The implementation of the CGE work programme for 2011–2012, the progress report of the CGE for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth session and the reports on the outcomes of the two workshops the group had conducted in the implementation of its work programme mentioned in paragraph 4 above;

(b) The organization of the group's work for the remaining part of 2011 and for 2012.

B. Implementation of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2011 and 2012

15. Since the progress report to the SBI at its thirty-fourth session,⁵ additional activities have been carried out in the implementation of the CGE's current mandate in 2011.⁶ The CGE considered these activities, which included the following:

(a) The provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties based on updated CGE training materials. The CGE was updated by the secretariat on the progress of the revision of the CGE training materials. The secretariat presented the draft of the updated training materials and sought additional guidance from the CGE with a view to further improving the training materials to be used for other planned CGE regional training workshops in 2011 and 2012. The updated training materials on GHG inventories were used for the CGE hands-on training workshop on GHG inventories for the Latin America and Caribbean region, held from 5 to 9 September 2011 in Santiago. It was decided that the CGE will further review the draft training materials and will provide additional feedback to the secretariat after the meeting;

(b) The secretariat presented a synthesis of feedback, including some key recommendations for future workshops, received from the participants at the CGE hands-on training workshop on GHG inventories for the Latin America and Caribbean region,⁷ held in collaboration with the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) and the Technical Support Unit for the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The CGE noted the recommendations from the participants of this particular workshop for the improvement of future training workshops and the training materials;

(c) The CGE held substantive discussions on the organization of its training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the African region. The CGE agreed on the design and approach of the workshop, which will be held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the NCSP and UNEP, from 7 to 11 November 2011;

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Rev.1.

⁶ Decision 5/CP.15, annex, paragraph 2(a–c).

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2011/10/Add.2.

(d) The CGE considered its report⁸ on the workshop on facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis, held in Bonn, Germany, on 20 and 21 June 2011. The report contains the recommendations of the group for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth session;

(e) The CGE reiterated the recommendations contained in its progress report presented to the SBI at its thirty-fourth session,⁹ as appropriate, on the elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications. The CGE also noted that the outcome of the workshops organized by the CGE in line with its work programme may provide additional elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties;

(f) The CGE agreed to host a side event¹⁰ at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Durban, South Africa. The event will be used to present the mandate of the CGE and progress in the implementation of its work programme;

(g) The group took note that the term and mandate of the CGE and the need for the continuation of the group shall be reviewed by the COP at its seventeenth session.¹¹

C. Organization of the future work of the Consultative Group of Experts

16. The secretariat presented an overview of the following CGE activities scheduled to take place in 2011–2012, subject to the availability of resources, as outlined in the work programme of the group:

(a) The update of the CGE training materials for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties;

(b) The organization and preparation of the regional training workshops, including the training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the African region mentioned in paragraph 15(c) above;

(c) The preparation of technical papers for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fifth session and its sessions in 2012.

17. The CGE agreed on the tentative dates and venues of its future regional training workshops:

(a) The training workshop on GHG inventories for the Asian region will be held in Sri Lanka from 30 January to 3 February 2012;

(b) The training workshop on mitigation assessment for the Asian region will be held in Thailand from 27 February to 2 March 2012;

(c) The training workshop on GHG inventories for the African region will be held on 23–27 April 2012;

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2011/10/Add.1.

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Rev.1 and FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Add.1.

¹⁰ To be held on 28 November 2011 from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.

¹¹ Decision 5/CP.15, paragraph 6.

(d) The training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the Latin America and Caribbean region will be held on 9–13 July 2012;

(e) The training workshop on mitigation for the Latin America and Caribbean region will be held on 16–20 July 2012;

(f) The training workshop on mitigation for the African region will be held on 20–24 August 2012, back to back with seventh meeting of the reconstituted CGE on 27–28 August 2012;

(g) The training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the Asian region will be held on 1–5 October 2012.

18. The CGE also agreed to convene the sixth meeting of the reconstituted CGE in Thailand in conjunction with the training workshop on mitigation assessment for the Asian region referred to in paragraph 17(b) above.

19. The CGE thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for its offer to host the CGE training workshop on GHG inventories for the Asian region and the Government of Thailand for its offer to host the CGE training workshop on mitigation assessment for the Asian region and the sixth meeting of the reconstituted CGE.

D. Date and venue of the next meeting

20. The CGE agreed that its next meeting will be held in Thailand on 5–7 March 2011 at a venue to be determined, and that it will continue reviewing the progress made in the implementation of its work programme for 2012.

E. Any other business

21. The Chair informed the members that she had been invited by the secretariat to make a presentation at the UNFCCC joint workshop on matters relating to Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to be held on 21 September 2011 in Bonn, on the views and proposals of experts and observer organizations on enhancing reporting and verification.
