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## **Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Thirty-sixth session**

**Bonn, 14–25 May 2012**

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**

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 7 March 2012. The CGE considered progress on the implementation of its work programme for 2011–2012. 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 2012.

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by 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). By the same decision, the COP mandated the CGE to develop a work programme for 2010–2012 at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and 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 Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

2. The SBI, at its thirty-second session, took note of and welcomed the work programme of the CGE for 2010–2012 contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.2.<sup>1</sup>

### **B. Scope of the note**

3. This report contains the proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the reconstituted CGE. At that meeting, the CGE reviewed progress in the implementation of its work programme since its last meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, on 12 and 13 September 2011, and also agreed on the organization of the group's work for 2012.

4. In addition to this report, there are three other reports that contain detailed information on the regional hands-on training workshops that were organized by the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, between September 2011 and March 2012:

(a) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment;<sup>2</sup>

(b) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories;<sup>3</sup>

(c) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on mitigation assessment.<sup>4</sup>

### **C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

5. The SBI, having considered this report, may wish:

(a) 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 the implementation of its work programme for 2012;

(b) To invite Parties and multilateral agencies in a position to do so to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the implementation of the work programme of the CGE in 2012 and to invite multilateral and bilateral programmes to collaborate with the

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 21.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBI/2012/12.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2012/13.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2012/14.

CGE in the provision of financial and/or technical support to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

## **II. Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts**

6. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the reconstituted CGE was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 7 March 2012. The meeting was held back to back with the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on mitigation assessment, which took place from 27 February to 2 March 2012 at the same location. The objectives of the meeting were, inter alia, to review progress in the implementation of planned activities under the work programme of the CGE since its last meeting, held in Santiago on 12 and 13 September 2011, and to organize the implementation of its activities in 2012.

7. The meeting was attended by 20 CGE members.<sup>5</sup>

8. Ms. Sangchan Limjirakan (Thailand), the outgoing Chair of the CGE, opened the meeting on 5 March 2012. In her opening remarks, she welcomed the members to the meeting and expressed her gratitude, on behalf of the CGE, to the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting.

### **A. Election of the Chair and the Rapporteur**

9. The outgoing Chair reminded the CGE that pursuant to rule 6 of the rules of procedure for the CGE, representatives from the three regional groups of non-Annex I Parties serve as Chair and Rapporteur on a rotational basis. The Chair serves for a period of one year. The Rapporteur succeeds in serving as the Chair, at which time a new Rapporteur is nominated. In keeping with this rule, Ms. Ruleta Camacho (Antigua and Barbuda), representing the Latin America and Caribbean States, who served as the Rapporteur in 2011, was elected as the new Chair of the CGE. Ms. Patience Dampney (Ghana), representing the African States, was elected as the Rapporteur.

### **B. Organization of work for the meeting**

10. The Chair outlined the organization of work for the meeting, which included the following:

- (a) Implementation of the work programme of the CGE for 2011–2012;
- (b) Progress reports for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-sixth session;
- (c) Organization of the work of the CGE for 2012.

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<sup>5</sup> Representatives of Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the European Union, Ghana, Grenada, Japan, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, and two experts representing international organizations (the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme).

### **III. Implementation of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts**

11. The CGE reviewed the progress of the revision of the CGE training materials, the organization of the regional hands-on training workshops since the last meeting of the group and other activities planned under its work programme.

#### **A. Revision of the Consultative Group of Experts training materials**

12. The secretariat provided an update on the revision of the CGE training materials, undertaken with the assistance of consultants, covering national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and mitigation assessment. The CGE convened into three thematic groups and considered the draft revised CGE training materials with a view to making progress towards finalizing them. Based on the feedback and recommendations from workshop participants, and the experiences of CGE members, the CGE provided further detailed comments on the training materials.

13. The secretariat was requested to review the detailed comments provided by the thematic groups of the CGE and to classify them into those that can be implemented by the secretariat and those that should be referred back to the consultants for further revision. The CGE noted that the updating of the training materials is a continuous process and that including some of the comments made may be beyond the scope of the current terms of reference developed for the revision of the training materials.

#### **B. Organization of the regional hands-on training workshops**

14. Between September 2011 and March 2012, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, conducted four regional hands-on training workshops that aimed to enhance the capacity of national experts from non-Annex I Parties involved in the process of, and preparation of, national communications, namely:

(a) The hands-on training workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean region on national GHG inventories, held in Santiago from 5 to 9 September 2011;

(b) The hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7 to 11 November 2011;

(c) The hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on national GHG inventories, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 January to 3 February 2012;

(d) The hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on mitigation assessment, held in Bangkok from 27 February to 2 March 2012.

15. These workshops, which were conducted on the basis of the draft revised CGE training materials referred to in paragraph 12 above, also served as a platform for an exchange of views among the participants and the experts, and generated feedback on the revised training materials for their further improvement.

16. The CGE welcomed the progress achieved in successfully conducting the workshops and, to that end, appreciated the assistance of the secretariat. The CGE encouraged the secretariat to continue to assist it in conducting the remaining hands-on training workshops scheduled for 2012.

17. While acknowledging that the hands-on training workshops are contributing positively towards enhancing the capacity of national experts involved in the process of,

and preparation of, national communications from non-Annex I Parties, the CGE noted that the effectiveness of the workshops, and of online training, could be further enhanced by the following:

- (a) Developing and implementing e-learning programmes to complement the workshops and providing opportunities for continuous learning after the workshops;
- (b) Developing and maintaining a forum for discussion, in the form of an e-network, for the exchange of views, experiences and information among the workshop participants and the experts;
- (c) Preparing multiple sets of training exercises to address different levels of expertise; the materials could be structured, starting from providing basic knowledge to detailed information at the sector level;
- (d) Developing and disseminating supplementary materials, particularly detailed information on the different methods, tools and models used;
- (e) Providing national focal points and workshop participants with a list of regional centres of excellence for further in-depth training opportunities;
- (f) Encouraging Parties and the national focal points to nominate, in a timely manner, suitable experts with the appropriate experience to participate in the hands-on training workshops;
- (g) Encouraging the national focal points to conduct a half-day familiarization discussion with nominated participants in order to ensure that they understand the objectives and expectations of the workshops they will attend;
- (h) Strengthening the practice of providing agendas and training materials well in advance of the workshops, and providing the contact details of trainers to whom questions may be posed by participants prior to the workshops;
- (i) Strengthening the call to encourage participants to bring relevant national data to the workshops;
- (j) Strengthening the call to encourage participants to share what they learned with their colleagues after the workshops.

### **C. Development of e-learning programmes and a web-based network of experts**

18. In its work programme contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.2, the CGE identified the development and implementation of e-learning programmes and the establishment of a web-based network of experts as activities for providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

19. The CGE, at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, began consideration of the scope, content and target audience of the e-learning programmes. The CGE agreed to continue consideration of this issue at its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, planned to be held in September 2012, by which time the revision of the CGE training materials, which would form the basis for the e-learning programmes, is expected to be finalized.

20. Noting the importance of a network of experts, the CGE requested the secretariat to develop a platform for such a network, initially beginning with those experts who participated in the regional hands-on training workshops.

## **D. Provisions referred to in items of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2010–2012**

21. In accordance with paragraph 2(d) of the annex to decision 5/CP.15, the CGE is mandated to provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1(f), of the Convention. Similarly, in accordance with paragraph 2(e) of the annex to decision 5/CP.15, the CGE is to provide non-Annex I Parties, upon request, with information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, in order to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

22. In response to those mandates, the CGE, as a part of its work programme, planned to collect and synthesize the following:

(a) Technical information on the tools and support available for the provision of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions;

(b) Information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

23. This information will be made available on the UNFCCC website, at the latest by the end of May 2012.

## **IV. Organization of the work**

### **A. Organization of the work of the Consultative Group of Experts in 2012**

24. After reviewing progress of the implementation of activities under its work programme, the CGE planned to undertake, with the assistance of the secretariat, the following activities, subject to the availability of financial resources:

(a) Finalizing the updating of the CGE training materials;

(b) Establishing a network of experts;

(c) Revising a survey questionnaire used to gather feedback on hands-on training workshops and the materials used for those workshops;

(d) Compiling references/tools on the integration of climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and making them available on the UNFCCC website;

(e) Compiling information on relevant training programmes conducted by regional centres of excellence, and making it available on the UNFCCC website;

(f) Organizing a side event in Doha, Qatar, during the eighteenth session of the COP and the eight session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to present the achievements of the CGE under its present term and mandate;

(g) Conducting the remaining regional hands-on training workshops;

- (i) The hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on national GHG inventories, planned to be held in Namibia from 23 to 27 April 2012;
- (ii) The hands-on training workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, planned to be held in Uruguay from 9 to 13 July 2012;
- (iii) The hands-on training workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean region on mitigation assessment, planned to be held in Uruguay from 16 to 20 July 2012;
- (iv) The hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on mitigation assessment, planned to be held in Ghana from 10 to 14 September 2012;
- (v) The hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, planned to be held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 8 to 12 October 2012.

25. The secretariat presented the estimated financial resources required to organize the workshops referred to in paragraph 24(g) above, which amount to USD 1,645,000, out of which the secretariat has already secured about USD 865,000. The CGE thanked those Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties)<sup>6</sup> and multilateral agencies<sup>7</sup> that had made financial contributions for the implementation of the work programme of the CGE thus far. The CGE noted that the implementation of the activities identified above is subject to the availability of resources, and encouraged those Annex I Parties and multilateral agencies in a position to do so to continue to contribute financial resources.

26. The CGE agreed to review the progress of the implementation of the activities listed in paragraph 24 above at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the group.

## **B. Informal discussion on decisions 14/CP.17 and 2/CP.17**

27. The review of the term and mandate of the CGE and the need for the continuation of the group, as requested in decision 5/CP.15, paragraph 6, was initiated at the seventeenth session of the COP. The COP did not conclude the consideration of that issue, but decided to continue the group under its current mandate as contained in the annex to decision 5/CP.15, and the work programme, until the end of 2012.<sup>8</sup>

28. The COP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 5 March 2012, their views on the term and mandate of the CGE and the need for the continuation of the group and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-sixth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision on this matter for adoption by the COP at its eighteenth session.<sup>9</sup>

29. Further, the COP, at its seventeenth session, adopted a number of decisions relating to nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties, including guidelines for the preparation of biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties, and modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Canada, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<sup>7</sup> National Communication Support Programme, Technical Support Unit for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 14/CP.17, paragraph 1.

<sup>9</sup> Decision 14/CP.17, paragraphs 2 and 3.

<sup>10</sup> Decision 2/CP.17.



30. Without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations under the SBI and the COP, the CGE held an informal discussion on the possible term and mandate of the CGE should its mandate and term be extended beyond 2012. With a view to informing the discussion, the secretariat was requested to present an overview of the decisions adopted by the COP at its seventeenth session that may have possible implications for the future work of the CGE.

31. While the group had a fruitful initial informal discussion, it felt that further discussions would be more focused if held after the Parties had an opportunity to consider the matter at the thirty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. Hence, the group agreed to continue with the informal discussions at its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, to be held in September 2012.

**C. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts**

32. The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CGE will be hosted by the Government of Ghana from 17 to 19 September 2012 in Accra, Ghana.

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