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Report on the further development of CC:iNet

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The full-scale version of the climate change information network clearing house (CC:iNet) was launched in December 2010 to facilitate the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. In response to a request by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-fourth session, this report reviews the further development of CC:iNet and assesses its functionality and accessibility by drawing on the results of a user survey. This report concludes with a synthesis of recommendations by Parties and other users for the further development and promotion of CC:iNet.

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* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the date of the submission of views.

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Contents

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1.   The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 9/CP.13, adopted the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and decided to undertake a review of its implementation in 2012.

2.   The COP, by decision 7/CP.16, requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to develop terms of reference for the review of the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme, with a view to launching the review at its thirty-sixth session.

3.   The SBI, at its thirty-fourth session, endorsed the terms of reference for the review of the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme as contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2011/7 and requested the secretariat to prepare reports to support the review. In particular, the secretariat was requested to prepare a report on the further development of the climate change information network clearing house (CC:iNet) and assess its functionality and accessibility through a user survey.[1]

B. Scope of the note

4.   This report reviews the further development of CC:iNet since the launch of its full-scale version in December 2010 and assesses its functionality and accessibility by drawing on the results of a user survey conducted in January and February 2012.

5.   This report concludes with recommendations for the further development and promotion of CC:iNet based on the views of Parties and other CC:iNet users as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2012/MISC.4 and on the responses to the user survey.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6.   The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report and identify further steps for the improvement and enhancement of CC:iNet with a view to their possible incorporation in a successor work programme on Article 6 of the Convention.

II. Current status of CC:iNet development

A. Background

7.   The secretariat was requested to develop CC:iNet to facilitate the implementation of the New Delhi work programme by providing a platform for the exchange of information and experiences between Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the six areas of Article 6 of the Convention: education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation.

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[1] FCCC/SBI/2011/7, annex I, paragraph 6(b).

8.   Since the inception of the prototype of CC:iNet in December 2005, the secretariat has continued to further develop the information clearing house.[2] The full-scale version of CC:iNet was launched in December 2010.

B.   Development and promotion of CC:iNet

9.   After the launch of the full-scale version of CC:iNet in 2010, its further development depended largely on the resources available. The secretariat has made every effort to address suggestions for further development as requested by Parties, including the following:

(a)   Increased accessibility through the translation of the navigation structure and keywords into French and Spanish and enhanced access to the login page for registered users and the registration page for non-registered users through the addition of navigation entries and access buttons on the CC:iNet home page;

(b)   Increased functionality through the development of a dedicated portal for youth as one of the focus groups of the amended New Delhi work programme;

(c)   Enhanced promotion of CC:iNet by means of e-mail notification to Parties and more than 1,600 admitted observer organizations. CC:iNet has further been promoted through partnerships with other United Nations organizations and collaboration on the development of their respective climate change information clearing houses[3] and through the prominent posting of training videos at the top of the CC:iNet home page;

(d)   Regular updating and maintenance of CC:iNet, including the list of national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention. The number of focal points has increased from 52 in 2010 to 76 in February 2012.

10.   The secretariat has facilitated, through the organization of workshops, networking and the exchange of information and good practices between national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention. It will continue to strengthen this networking and exchange of information through the development of a networking platform for focal points under CC:iNet.

C.   Scope of the database and number of users

11.   The continuous development and promotion of CC:iNet has contributed to the increase of both the scope and diversity of its information and the number of its registered and non-registered users.

12.   Currently the information pool contains 1,198 items, in seven languages, categorized according to the six thematic areas of Article 6 of the Convention as specified in paragraph 7 above.

13.   Since 2007, the overall number of registered users has tripled, while the number of registered users from countries not included in Annex I to the Convention has more than quintupled in the same period. In particular, the strong interest of African countries has

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[2] Detailed information on the development and promotion of CC:iNet from 2005 to 2010 is contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2007/26 and FCCC/SBI/2010/24.

[3] United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UN CC:Learn <http://www.uncclearn.org/inventory-search>) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CCE Clearinghouse <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/climate-change-education/cce-clearinghouse/>).

been confirmed by the almost tenfold increase of registered users from that region. Furthermore, the average number of site visits per month has increased from 6,579 in 2010 to 7,524 in 2011.

III. Results of the CC:iNet user survey 2012

14. As requested by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session,[4] the secretariat developed and conducted a CC:iNet user survey in January and February 2012.

15. The survey was launched on 30 January 2012. In order to maximize participation, the secretariat advertised the survey on the UNFCCC website and the home page of CC:iNet, and sent e-mail notifications to Parties and more than 1,600 admitted observer organizations as well as to registered CC:iNet users and participants of regional workshops on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. The survey closed on 13 February 2012, with 70 complete and 14 partial responses. A detailed report on the results of the user survey is available on the UNFCCC website.[5]

16. Both registered (51 per cent) and non-registered (49 per cent) users responded to the survey. Responses were received from non-governmental organizations (42 per cent), Parties (39 per cent) and academia (12 per cent).

17. The feedback of the respondents on the structure, design and content of CC:iNet was overall positive.

18. A total of 86 per cent of respondents found that the navigation structure provides easy access to information, and 70 per cent rated the layout of CC:iNet web pages as good (63 per cent) or excellent (7 per cent). While the majority of respondents considered the visibility of CC:iNet as good (57 per cent) or excellent (4 per cent), 57 per cent suggested that its visibility should be enhanced by giving it more prominence on the UNFCCC website.

19. A total of 70 per cent of the respondents found the quality of information on CC:iNet good (60 per cent) or excellent (10 per cent).

20. According to the survey results, the main barriers to accessing information on CC:iNet are the limited availability of content in languages other than English (24 per cent) and the current search function (23 per cent). Almost half of the respondents found search results on CC:iNet only somewhat relevant (44 per cent) or poor (3 per cent).

IV. Summary of proposed improvements

A. Synthesis of improvements proposed by Parties

21. Parties acknowledge that CC:iNet is an important tool for the dissemination of information on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, but see a need for strengthening it further. Drawing on responses to the user survey and the views expressed

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[4] As footnote 1 above.
[5] Survey results are available at <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/information_pool/simple_search/items/3522.php?displayPool= 1467>.

in the submissions in document FCCC/SBI/2012/MISC.4, the following actions were suggested by Parties to further enhance CC:iNet:

(a)   Create an Article 6 national focal point network;

(b)   Establish a mailing list for all registered CC:iNet users to facilitate information sharing and networking;

(c)   Create a discussion forum for all users to allow for practical collaboration;

(d)   Actively encourage Parties to make full use of CC:iNet and include the promotion of CC:iNet in a successor work programme on Article 6 of the Convention;

(e)   Disseminate information on Article 6 of the Convention through a regular CC:iNet bulletin;

(f)   Use CC:iNet as a platform for online training on Article 6 of the Convention;[6]

(g)   Create a new design with a more user-friendly structure;

(h)   Categorize information items by one thematic area only in order to increase the accuracy of search results;

(i)   Enhance information provided in the database of organizations, website links and the calendar of events;

(j)   Ensure that the content on CC:iNet is available in the official languages of the United Nations and in other languages.

B.   Synthesis of improvements proposed by other users

22.   In addition to the improvements proposed by Parties given in paragraph 21 above, the following suggestions for the further development and promotion of CC:iNet were made by other users:

(a)   Modernize the layout and increase its attractiveness by including photographs and graphics;

(b)   Promote CC:iNet through social media and a newsletter;

(c)   Simplify and improve the search function.

V.   Conclusions and issues for further consideration

23.   CC:iNet has met its objective of facilitating the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and providing increased access to, and improving the availability of, relevant and reliable information on the six thematic areas of Article 6 of the Convention. However, responses to the user survey and the views expressed in document FCCC/SBI/2012/MISC.4 suggest that Parties see a need for the further development of CC:iNet.

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[6] Two online video guides are accessible on CC:iNet that highlight the features, functions and usage of CC:iNet, available at
<http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/information_pool/simple_search/items/3522.php?displayPool=1384> and
<http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/six_elements/education/items/3526.php?order=addedD&displayPool=1224>.

24.   Increasing the amount and diversity of content, while developing CC:iNet into an interactive communication platform, will require the active participation of Parties, especially through their national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention, but also an increased involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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