

Submission by the Government of Japan on the views on the term and mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts and the need for continuation of the group

The Government of Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit the following views on the term and mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and the need for continuation of the group in accordance with paragraph 2 of the decision at the COP17 “Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”.

(1) Basic recognition

- Japan recognizes that the CGE has made a substantial contribution to improving the process of, and preparation of, national communications (NCs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in accordance with its mandate outlined in the Decision 5/CP.15.
- Japan believes that the CGE should continue its work because the preparation of NCs and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) of non-Annex I Parties with more enriched contents and with improved quality is required based on the Cancun Agreements and the decisions of COP17, and the role of the CGE which provides technical support to non-Annex I Parties will become more important as well.
- However, the CGE could not provide flexible contribution in line with the change of situation around the NCs of the non-Annex I Parties because its current mandate does not refer to key decisions made by the COP in recent years including the Cancun Agreements. Based on this reflection, Japan thinks that the new mandate of the CGE should accommodate certain flexibility so that the CGE can play an appropriate role in accordance with the discussion at the COP and its subsidiary bodies.
- Japan has contributed to the work of the CGE by providing financial support and supporting participation of a Japanese expert in the CGE. Japan would like to express its willingness to continue its support to activities of the CGE if it is agreed that the work of the CGE continues after 2012.

(2) The mandate of the CGE

Japan's views on new mandate of the CGE based on the current mandate (Paragraph 2(a)- (f) of the Annex of Decision 5/CP.15) are as follows;

◆ **2(a), 2(c) and 2(f) (providing technical assistance and advice to the non-Annex I Parties)**

- These tasks have been major part of the work of the CGE so far, and should continue to be given priority in the new mandate as main tasks of the CGE with some modifications as proposed below.
- BURs should be added to the scope of mandate although the current mandate focuses on only NCs.
- The new mandate should refer to “taking the result of the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) into consideration” as it is useful and helpful to consider enough the information obtained from the ICA with a view to achieving these tasks.

- ◆ **2(b) (Providing recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of NCs)**
 - This mandate has also been one of main activities of the CGE and the outcome was the recommendations from the CGE submitted to the SBI34 in June, 2011 (FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Rev.1). Japan believes that the new mandate of the CGE should include: i) to further consider the revision of the guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, taking into consideration recommendations made by the CGE as well as relevant decisions made by the COP recently, and ii) to submit recommendations to the SBI.
 - In addition, the CGE should be given the task to provide recommendations to the SBI about the policies and elements of the revision of the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included Annex I to the Convention” (Annex III of the decision at COP17 “Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention”), taking into consideration the possibility of the revision of the guidelines based on the submission of the first BURs and the first round of the ICA.
- ◆ **2(d) and 2(e) (Providing technical support, advice and information, upon request by the non-AI Parties)**
 - These mandates state that the CGE provides advice and support to the non-Annex I Parties upon their request. However, they have never been carried out actually due to no requests have been made by the non-Annex I Parties. These tasks could be deleted from, or given lower priority in the new mandate of the CGE.
- ◆ **New elements**
 - The new mandate should refer that the CGE gives advice and recommendations to the SBI in accordance with the request of the SBI so that the CGE can flexibly respond to the change of needs in a timely manner.

(3) The term of extension of the CGE

- The next term of the CGE should be five years from 2013 to 2017, taking into account that the ICA process will progress after the submission of the first BURs in December 2014 and that the modalities of the ICA will be revised by 2017.
- It is appropriate to review the work of the CGE in the middle of its term (e.g. at COP20 in 2014 or COP21 in 2015) and to consider the revision of the mandate if necessary.