

New Zealand submission to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation:

Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

March 2012

1. In making this submission New Zealand is responding to the invitation to Parties to provide views on the term and mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and the need for continuation of the group (FCCC/SBI/2011/L.31/Add.1, paragraph 2 refers).
2. In Decision [-/CP.17] Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, Parties to the UNFCCC acknowledge that the CGE has made a substantial contribution to improving the process of, and preparation of, national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) by providing technical advice and support and therefore enhancing the capacity of such Parties to prepare their national communications. Further, the above decision emphasises the importance of providing relevant technical advice and support for the process of the preparation of national communications, as well as the importance of providing a forum for non-Annex I Parties to share experiences of this process.
3. In Decision [-/CP.17] Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention Parties adopted guidelines for the preparation of biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties as well as recognising that the CGE could play an important role in facilitating technical advice and support for the preparation and submission of the first biennial update reports. Noting the discretion granted to least developed country Parties and small island developing states, the first biennial update reports are to be submitted by December 2014.
4. Given the step-up in reporting that biennial update reports will require, in New Zealand's view we would like to see the mandate of the CGE extended beyond the end of 2012 with the express purpose of providing relevant technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties for the process of the preparation of their first biennial update reports. Such support could include (for use on a voluntary basis) the development of tabular formats to streamline reporting.
5. Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change will remain a priority for many developing countries, in particular least developed country Parties and small island developing states. Thus, it is likely the CGE will also need to continue to provide some technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties to provide information on their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, and on adaptation measures being taken. New Zealand also recognises the important role the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) plays with regards to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change for Least Developed Countries.
6. With the assistance of the secretariat the CGE could examine the synergies between its work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change with:
 - the work being undertaken by the Adaptation Committee
 - the Nairobi work programme under the SBSTA

- the adoption by COP17 of the initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans (with monitoring and follow-up by the SBI)
- the work of the LEG

7. The aim should be to maximise the application of relevant information and to minimise duplication of effort and to examine the level of involvement the CGE needs to continue to have in this area. As an example, New Zealand supports the secretariat incorporating advice provided by the CGE into the work that the secretariat has already been mandated to do, especially around the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in developing countries. This would continue to help disseminate the work of the CGE more widely.

8. New Zealand looks forward to engaging on these issues with other Parties.