



Geneva, 3 November 2003

An invitation to all UNFCCC focal points in Africa

African Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNFCCC
Article 6 (Education, Training and Public Awareness)

Corinthia Atlantic Hotel, Banjul, The Gambia
28 – 30 January 2004

Dear "focal point",

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, I am pleased to invite you to nominate a representative of your country to participate in the African Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Article 6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This Article addresses education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information as well as international cooperation on these issues.

This three-day workshop will be hosted in Banjul by the Department of Water Resources of The Gambia. It is being organized by UNEP in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat and co-financed by UNEP and the United States; the Interministerial Task Force on Climate Change of France will arrange for simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

This workshop responds to a request by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its fifteenth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, para. 45 (f), which was reaffirmed at its sixteenth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/13, para. 52 (b)). The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, which is now responsible for the Article 6 item, also reaffirmed at its eighteenth session last June (FCCC/SBI/2003/8, Para. 35(c)).

The workshop will contribute to the further development and implementation of the New Delhi Work Programme on Article 6, which was adopted by COP 8 in November 2002. As called for by the Work Programme,

the workshop will also explore how to enhance cooperation amongst Parties at the regional level. A similar workshop was held last March for the European region, and Article 6 workshops are also foreseen for the Asian and Latin American regions.

The organizers are able to finance the travel and per diem of one participant per country. Recommended participants are people who have a special responsibility for and expertise in climate change education, training and/or public awareness and who are directly involved in implementing Article 6 at the national or sub-regional level. To ensure that all financial and practical arrangements can be completed on time, kindly submit the attached application form as soon as possible, or by 12 December 2003 at the very latest.

A draft agenda and an advance questionnaire are currently being prepared and will be sent to you or your nominee by mid-November. This agenda will include a number of 15-minute slots for national presentations. Those participants wishing to make such a presentation are requested to submit the title and short article of their proposed contribution on the attached form by 20 December 2003 to Ms. Danielle Dubois-Marie at danielle.dubois@unep.ch or by fax to +41-22-797-3464. Contributions will be selected and included in the final programme on the basis of these proposals in a way that ensures a balanced coverage of all issues and subregions. In addition, each and every participant will be invited to introduce his or her national situation in a presentation of several minutes.

Please note that all materials relevant to the workshop will be posted on a regular basis at www.unep.ch/Article6Workshop.

For further information about the programme of the meeting, please contact Michael Williams at michael.williams@unep.ch, +41-22-917-8242 or by fax +41-22-797-3464; or Fatou Gaye at fatndeye@yahoo.co.uk, +220-391423 or by fax at +220-225009. For details on travel, registration, and accommodation, please contact Ms. Dubois-Marie at danielle.dubois@unep.ch, +41-22-917-8196 or by fax to +41-22-797-3464.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Williams
Head, Information Unit for Conventions
United Nations Environment Programme