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**ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONVENTION**

**Compilation and synthesis of views from Parties regarding possible ways to improve reporting on Article 6 activities in national communications**

**Note by the secretariat**

**Summary**

Information reported in national communications on activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention will serve, inter alia, the review of progress on implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 as adopted by the Conference of the Parties by its decision 11/CP.8.

In its first attempt to assess progress achieved in this area, the secretariat noted varied level and scope of reporting in the latest national communications, and suggested that the development of more detailed guidance on reporting could support Parties' efforts to report on their activities, and facilitate the review process. Parties were invited to provide their views on this issue, and their key recommendations are outlined in this synthesis.

This note should be considered in conjunction with FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.11, which contains views submitted by Parties.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its eighteenth session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat their views on possible ways to improve reporting in their national communications on activities relating to the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,<sup>1</sup> and requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis of these views for consideration by the SBI at its nineteenth session.<sup>2</sup>

### B. Background

2. The first attempt to review progress achieved on reporting in national communications showed that the level and scope of reporting on Article 6 issues varied widely between Parties, and that some gaps still remained,<sup>3</sup> making it difficult to undertake a comprehensive review. As a result, the secretariat suggested that more detailed guidance than that provided in the UNFCCC guidelines<sup>4</sup> for providing information on Article 6 programmes and initiatives could be developed.<sup>5</sup> Views on this matter were therefore sought from Parties, and form the basis for the synthesis contained in this document.

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

3. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) may wish to take note of the recommendations contained in this note and invite Parties to give particular attention to reporting on activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention in their national communications so as to facilitate, inter alia, the review of progress on implementation of the New Delhi work programme.

## II. VIEWS FROM PARTIES ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO IMPROVE REPORTING

### A. Overview

4. Argentina, Azerbaijan, China, Italy (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Japan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and the United States of America submitted views on possible ways to improve reporting on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. These submissions are contained in document FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.11.

5. The information contained in the submissions covers several main elements, including views on where to report, possible ways to improve reporting, and what to report.

### B. Where to report

6. Some Parties suggested that activities relating to the implementation of the New Delhi work programme should be reported in national communications in a separate chapter, recognizing that such a separate section can “facilitate the comparison of the activities being undertaken by different Parties” (European Community and its member States), ensuring “a greater coherence” and facilitating “the review process of the work programme on Article 6” (China).

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<sup>1</sup> The New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the convention was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision 11/CP.8 (FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1).

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBI/2003/8, paragraph 35 (h).

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2003/7/Add.4, paragraph 58.

<sup>4</sup> Decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8 (FCCC/CP/1999/6/Add.1 and FCCC/CP/2003/7/Add.1, respectively).

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBI/2003/7/Add.4, paragraph 59.

7. Two Parties (China, Sri Lanka) discuss the issue of frequency<sup>6</sup> and additional separate reporting. As Sri Lanka states, the need for such reporting might arise because developing countries do not submit national communications annually, and some developing countries have not yet submitted their first national communication. Sri Lanka suggests that Parties, pending submission of the national communications, could submit annual interim reports on Article 6 activities. China has no particular objection to voluntary additional reporting, but is of the strong view that such additional reporting “shall not become an obligation for all Parties”. China considers that the frequency of the review process of the implementation of the New Delhi work programme shall be coordinated with that of national communications.

### **C. Possible ways to improve reporting**

8. All Parties discussed, directly or indirectly, whether the current guidelines for reporting on Article 6 activities in national communications should be revised. Japan and Sri Lanka believe that more specific or detailed guidance for providing information is needed, but most Parties conclude that no such revisions are currently needed, and generally emphasize that the current guidelines should remain in force. In particular, the United States felt that “the characteristics of Article 6 activities make it challenging to report in uniform terms” following specific guidelines, and that “a fundamental element of Article 6 activities is that they are country driven, which necessitates individualized reporting approaches”.

9. The European Community and its member States and the United States further acknowledge that the current guidelines have only recently been agreed, and note that the quality of reporting by Parties in their latest national communications has improved. The European Community and its member States suggests that the reasons for this improvement is that Article 6 issues have gained a higher profile with the adoption of the New Delhi work programme which also “provides some advice on reporting”; the United States believes that the improvement is due to Parties having, over time, gained “additional experience” on reporting.

10. All Parties recognize the importance of reporting and suggest other ways to contribute to improving Parties’ reporting, such as taking note of the observations and suggestions set out in the documents that have and will be produced on Article 6 matters (the European Community and its member States), including the New Delhi work programme, which will assist Parties’ reporting on Article 6 (United States), and the present note (Japan). The European Community and its member States also recommends that Parties initiate a viable process of national consultation and coordination with the agencies as well as non-governmental organizations concerned with Article 6 activities to ensure full reporting of the activities being carried out. This latter idea was echoed by Japan which suggested that a combined list of activities by the business sector and NGOs concerning Article 6 be reported in national communications.

11. Finally, many Parties recognize that reporting serves the exchange of information on Article 6 activities. In this respect, it can be complemented by making use of information technology and in particular by feeding the Article 6 information network clearing house (Japan, Sudan).

### **D. What to report**

12. Parties agree that reporting should primarily be in line with the current guidelines, and that the framework provided by the New Delhi work programme can also be considered when reporting on Article 6 of the Convention. As an example, the European Community and its member States, and

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<sup>6</sup> See also FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.10, which contains views from Parties on the frequency of submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

China, noted that the work programme suggests that Parties should report on their accomplishments, lessons learned and experience gained, and on remaining gaps and barriers identified.

13. Most suggestions are very specific and cover, for example, reporting information on international cooperation on Article 6 activities (China, European Community and its member States), and reporting about the way the implementation of Article 6 activities is integrated into any national climate change action plan (European Community and its member States). One Party (Argentina) submitted the terms of reference of the public awareness component of its upcoming national communication as an example of information to be presented.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. The key recommendations reported by Parties in their submissions are that:

(a) A separate chapter of the national communications should be dedicated to reporting on activities relating to Article 6, including activities relating to the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6, where possible;

(b) Additional and/or separate interim reports on the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 shall remain a voluntary initiative by Parties;

(c) Parties be invited to make use of the current guidelines for reporting on Article 6 matters in national communications;

(d) Parties be invited to take note of other sources of guidance as provided by UNFCCC official documents on related Article 6 matters, and in particular as contained in the New Delhi work programme on Article 6.

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