

17 September 2003

ENGLISH, FRENCH AND  
SPANISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Nineteenth session

Milan, 1–9 December 2003

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN  
ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION**

**FREQUENCY OF SUBMISSION OF SECOND AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE,  
THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**Frequency of submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications  
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

**Submissions from Parties**

1. The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 17/CP.8, decided to determine the frequency of submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), at its ninth session.
2. To facilitate the consideration of this agenda item, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its eighteenth session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 August 2003, their views on the frequency of submission of second, and where appropriate, third national communications from non-Annex I Parties (FCC/SBI/2003/8, para. 19 (f)).
3. The secretariat has received eight such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced\* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

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\* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

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PAPER NO. 1: ARGENTINA

Submission of the Government of the Argentine Republic:

Financial matters relating to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention:  
provision of financial and technical support.

Views on the frequency of submission of second, and where appropriate, third national communications from non-Annex I Parties

August 13, 2003

Second and, where appropriate, third national communications from non-Annex I Parties should not have to be presented more frequently than national communications from Annex I Parties.

Our experience shows that the preparation process of national communications helps to keep active the scientific community working on climate change issues. This is very important in countries where official scientific policies are not always able to sufficiently support activities in this field.

On the other hand, since per capita emission volumes are not a relevant indicator for non-Annex I Parties, the frequency of the presentation of GHG inventories by relevant non-Annex I Parties could be a function of their total emission volumes.

## PAPER NO. 2: AUSTRALIA

### **Submission of Australia to the UNFCCC of National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBI/L.10)**

#### **Background**

New and expanded guidelines for the preparation of national communications for non-Annex I (NAI) Parties were adopted at COP8. To enable NAI Parties to finance the preparation of national communications under the new guidelines, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at the GEF Council Meeting in April 2003 was given the approval to provide expedited funding of NAI national communications under the new guidelines. Australia welcomes the GEF decision, following the approval of funding, NAI Parties have three years to prepare their initial national communication.

In April 2003, a UNFCCC workshop was organised to familiarise NAI Party Experts with the new guidelines for the preparation of national communications. Under the new guidelines, NAI national communications will be compiled and synthesised by the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) will undertake a technical assessment of the final product.

The Secretariat was requested at SB17 to undertake an assessment of the activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions reported in NAI national communications and in relevant GEF documents and subsequently report the results at SB19. Australia looks forward to the Secretariat's report.

At SB18 parties were requested to make submission on the frequency of submission of second and where appropriate, third national communications by NAI Parties to be determined at COP9 (taking into account the principles of differentiated timetables set by the Convention-Article 12.5).

#### **Comment on the Chairman's text**

##### ***Retaining NAI National Communications on UNFCCC SBI Agenda***

Australia acknowledges the progress made in developing the new guidelines for reporting NAI national communications at COP8. The continuing inclusion of NAI national communications as an item on the UNFCCC agenda is important as NAI national communications are a key element of information flow established under the Convention. Accordingly, Australia supports an ongoing sub item on NAI national communications.

##### ***Frequency of NAI National Communications***

The decision 17/CP.8 at COP 8 concerning the frequency of submission of the second and subsequent NAI national communications will be finalized at COP9. Australia believes that the frequency of NAI national communications should be closely linked to the timing of AI national communication submissions, and should be submitted approximately every four years. National Communications serve as a strategic planning tool for decision-making in addressing climate change and assist in building vital long term capacity - particularly with regards to the establishment and training of national focal points/institutions responsible for the preparation of national communications.

Australia recognises that preparing National Communications needs appropriate capacity such as information (scientific, inventory, adaptation) human resources and financial resources and the GEF plays a key role in providing developing countries with the financial support to develop national communications. To that end Australia has made a continuous contribution to the GEF and has recently increased its financial commitment to the Facility by almost 58% over the funding Australia provided in the 2nd replenishment period. Australia continues to look at ways in which it may assist in the capacity building needs of NAI parties in preparing their national communications – to date, this has included a number of “inventory information exchanges” between Australia and NAI parties.

***Frequency of NAI Inventories***

Australia is of the view that the frequency of submission of inventories of NAI Parties should also be reviewed. Regular reporting of greenhouse gas inventories by NAI Parties will enhance the national technical capacity in inventory development and emission projections, establish a database for climate change research, ensure accuracy and consistency of inventory data according to the IPCC Guidelines and highlight opportunities to reduce emissions. It will also allow compilation and calculation of information on global emission trends and regional emission trends. The submission of NAI inventories every two years would improve the quality of inventories through ongoing capacity building rather than an isolated effort around the time of national communications. This was also identified by the Secretariat in document SBI/2002/8 at para14, which encourages the preparation of inventories on a continuous basis as it incrementally improves the completeness, transparency and quality of data.

Regular inventory reporting is particularly important for those developing countries with high levels of emissions. It might be appropriate that emission inventories from least developing countries without significantly high level of emissions only be submitted in conjunction with national communications.

PAPER NO. 3: CHINA

**CHINA'S SUBMISSION ON THE FREQUENCY OF SUBMISSION OF SECOND AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM NON-ANNEX I PARTIES**

China welcomes the opportunity to offer its views on the frequency of submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications by non-Annex I Parties in response to the request of SBI 18 conclusion ( FCCC/SBI/2003/L.10).

China believes that the submission of high quality national communications is very important for parties to better understand climate change issues. Considering the difficulties non-Annex I Parties had in preparing their initial national communications and the needs for capacity building in using the new improved guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties as adopted at COP 8, it is necessary to allocate non-Annex I parties adequate time for preparing their national communications so that the high quality could be guaranteed.

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the developed country parties and other developed parties included in Annex II shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1. It is very clear that the submissions of National communications by non-Annex I parties are closely associated with the provision of financial resources.

Therefore, China believes that non-Annex I parties shall submit their second and, as appropriate, third national communications within three years of the availability of financial resources in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

PAPER NO. 4: ITALY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY ITALY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS  
MEMBER STATES**

**The submission is supported by the following Acceding States: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**

**ROME, 21 AUGUST 2003**

**Financial matters relating to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention:**

**Provision of financial and technical support**

**Views on the frequency of submission of second, and where appropriate, third national communications from non-Annex I Parties**

Italy, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit its views, as requested in paragraph 6 of the SBI Chair's Conclusions, FCCC/SBI/2003/L.10, on issue related to the frequency of submission of second, and where appropriate, third national communications from non-Annex I Parties

- The EU notes with appreciation that 104 non-Annex I parties, including 31 Least Developed Countries have submitted their initial national communication in line with their commitment. Urges those parties that have not yet submitted their first national communication to do so as soon as possible.
- The EU emphasizes the importance of a continuous process in the preparation of national communications. Notes with satisfaction that a number of non-Annex I countries have already started to prepare their second national communications.
- The EU takes note that the new guidelines for preparing non-Annex I national communications adopted by COP8 represent an improvement both in scope and in depth of analysis compared to the previous guidelines. Welcomes the plans by the GEF to take measures necessary for the provision of financial resources at an appropriate level to cover the requirements of the new guidelines. Notes with appreciation that GEF's operational guidelines for expedited financing of national communications, on the basis of the new guidelines, are expected to be effective before COP9.
- The EU encourages those countries that have not yet initiated their work to make full use of technical and financial support provided by GEF and its implementing agencies. The details of financial arrangements for funding the national communications should continue to be handled directly by the GEF. In order to support the continuity and efficiency of the preparation process, the funding for preparation of the second national communications should continue to be provided on the basis of a preparation period of three years. This acknowledges past experience suggesting that prolonged preparation periods may cause practical problems such as discontinuity in personnel, difficulties in monitoring the progress as well as inventory data and other information being out-dated before the submission.

- Submission frequency for the second national communication should be treated separately from the preparation period for which funding is made available. The EU is of the view that the second National communication from non-Annex I Parties should take place preferably three years after the submission of the 1st national communication, and in any case not later than three and half years after the GEF operational guidelines based on the new guidelines adopted in COP8 are available. This timescale acknowledges that not all information in the second national communications needs to be generated for the first time, but only to be updated from the first national communications.
- The LDCs should be allowed to continue to prepare their second national communications at their discretion. The EU notes with appreciation that many LDC Parties have submitted their first national communications within the same time frame as the non-LDCs.
- Synergies from other similar data gathering and analysing processes should also be used to full extent. The NAPA process, for example, involves multidisciplinary teams providing relevant information as well as skills and capacities that should be fully used when preparing the national communications. Likewise, the work under the other relevant UN environmental conventions should be effectively used.
- EU is looking forward that, in accordance with the request by the SBI 18, information provided by the Parties will be made available by the Secretariat on the status of preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties that have not yet submitted them, as well as details of the financial support provided to non-Annex I Parties by the GEF for the preparation of initial and subsequent national communications.



PAPER NO. 5: MOROCCO

**Soumission du Maroc relative à l'appui financier et technique fourni par le FEM, son expérience avec ce dernier et la fréquence des 2<sup>ème</sup> et 3<sup>ème</sup> Communications nationales des Parties Non-Annexe I**

**Introduction:**

Le SBI 17 a noté aussi que, conformément au paragraphe 1(f) de la décision 17/CP.8, la fréquence à laquelle les Parties non-visées à l'annexe I devront soumettre leurs deuxièmes et troisièmes communications nationales sera déterminée par la COP9.

**2-La Fréquence des 2<sup>ème</sup> et 3<sup>ème</sup> Communications nationales des Parties non Annexe I**

Concernant la deuxième question relative à la fréquence des 2<sup>ème</sup> et 3<sup>ème</sup> Communications Nationales des Parties non-Annexe I, le Maroc pense que cette question épineuse doit être traitée avec beaucoup d'attention. Les Parties à New Delhi ont adopté les directives améliorées, ces dernières sont compliquées (modèles de vulnérabilité adaptation, facteurs d'émission, système d'observation....etc) et nécessitent des équipes techniques performantes et des fonds adéquats pour établir des Communications Nationales conformes à ces directives. La majorité des Parties non-annexe I ne disposent ni de l'argent ni des capacités techniques pour l'application des nouvelles directives. Par conséquent, et avant de parler de fréquence, il faut maîtriser ces nouvelles directives dans une optique de renforcements de capacités des Parties Non Annexe I pour les aider à intégrer les préoccupations et les défis des changements climatiques dans leur planification future. Pour cela, nous faisons les propositions suivantes :

- ❑ Organisation d'ateliers régionaux pour expliquer aux Parties le contenu et les défis des nouvelles directives ;
- ❑ Elaboration de guides de vulgarisation des nouvelles directives ;
- ❑ Les ressources financières qui seront allouées par le FEM aux Parties non Annexe I doivent être plus conséquentes pour répondre aux exigences des nouvelles directives ;
- ❑ Les procédures du FEM doivent être souples et rapides pour ne pas interrompre le processus de renforcement des capacités déjà lancé.

PAPER NO. 6: SUDAN

**Sudan's Submission on the Issues Requested by the SBSTA and SBI  
(Submission of 15 August 2003)**

**Financial matters relating to parties not included in Annex 1 to the convention: provision on financial and technical support/ the frequency of submitting a second or third national communications:**

- The government found the assessment and condition of National Communication very helpful, but non-annex 1 and least developed country will not be in a position to discuss frequencies for future national communications in the absence of strong commitment for funding, so the Government of Sudan sees the discussion of decision to be taken at COP9 without the commitment for financial support will not be appropriate.

PAPER NO. 7: URUGUAY

Frecuencia de las CCNN Segunda y Tercera de los países no Anexo I:

Se estima conveniente que la presentación de la Segunda y de la Tercera CCNN se prevea dentro de los 4 (cuatro) años de haberse recibido la correspondiente asistencia financiera para la elaboración de cada una de ellas

PAPER NO. 8: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**U.S. Submission on Frequency of Non-Annex I National Communications Submissions**

Under Article 4.1 of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, all Parties are obliged to communicate information in accordance with the requirements of Article 12. These national communications are the primary source of information on implementation of the Convention by Parties and progress toward achievement of the Convention's ultimate objective. In the case of developing countries, Article 12.4 also provides, on a voluntary basis, for the communication of prioritized needs for capacity building, technology transfer and adaptation. Because of these vital roles, the improvement of national communications over time is critical to all Parties.

Bearing in mind the differentiated timetables contained in Article 12, the United States believes that national communications from non-Annex I Parties should be submitted no more than four years after their initial submissions. Parties that are least developed countries should submit their national communications every five years. To maintain this cycle of submissions it is important that non-Annex I Parties initiate their requests for funding from the Global Environmental Facility in a timely manner.

In our view, greenhouse gas inventories should be submitted every two years in order to ensure that global emissions trends can be calculated accurately and with frequent input. Greenhouse gas inventories submitted in years when National Communications are not due should consist of a smaller, considerably less resource-intensive document focusing exclusively on GHG inventory estimates and background information. Non-Annex I Parties have made substantial progress in preparing greenhouse gas inventories, and experts from non-Annex I Parties have made significant contributions to IPCC Good Practice and the UNFCCC inventory review process. Biennial submission of greenhouse gas inventories will ensure that this expertise is maintained and reflected in future non-Annex I submissions, thereby contributing to the overall needs of the UNFCCC for current data on global and regional emissions trends. It is also our view, however, that Parties that are least developed countries should be able to submit their emissions inventories on a five-year cycle in conjunction with their national communications.

We all recognize that resources are limited and practical measures to improve the efficient allocation of resources are always welcome. In this regard, we support the Subsidiary Body for Implementation's request that the Secretariat develop, in consultation with the CGE, a template to facilitate the use of the UNFCCC guidelines and a web page that will provide for the dissemination of information on assistance provided by bilateral and multilateral support programmes for the preparation of national communications.

The United States believes strongly in the importance of high quality communications from all Parties to the UNFCCC. Accurate and credible information, consistently produced, is essential to improve understanding of climate change and to implement the Convention effectively. We particularly welcomed the recommendations of the workshop held last April in Mauritius for enhancing the quality of countries' greenhouse gas inventories, the exchange of information on these inventories, and the strengthening of supporting technical processes. We were pleased to have made a significant financial commitment to that workshop. Furthermore, we believe that the Consultative Group of Experts can play an important role in facilitating these outcomes through providing technical feedback

We are also encouraged by the attention to developing better information in the areas of both adaptation and the area of mitigation. We recognize that adaptation is critical to non-Annex I Parties and the national communications process is an important vehicle for developing and conveying a better understanding of the situations these Parties may face.