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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONVENTION

Possible ways to improve reporting on Article 6 activities in national communications

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its eighteenth session, noted that reporting, in national communications, on activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention should receive particular attention. It invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 August 2003, their views on possible ways to improve reporting in their national communications on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 (FCCC/SBI/2003/8, para. 35 (h)).
2. The secretariat has received eight 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.
3. This document can be read in conjunction with FCCC/SBI/2003/17, which contains a synthesis of these views.

* 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.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. ARGENTINA (Submission received 14 August 2003)	3
2. AZERBAIJAN (Submission received 13 August 2003)	5
3. CHINA (Submission received 22 August 2003)	6
4. ITALY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES (Submission received 12 August 2003)	7
5. JAPAN (Submission received 10 September 2003)	9
6. SRI LANKA (Submission received 15 August 2003)	11
7. SUDAN (Submission received 13 August 2003)	12
8. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Submission received 15 September 2003)	13

PAPER NO. 1: ARGENTINA

As a summary of our views on this issue, following are reproduced the Preliminary Terms of Reference of the Public Awareness component of the “Project for the elaboracion of the Second Communication of the Government of the Argentine Republic to the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC”:

PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS PRELIMINARY TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Objectives

- To develop climate change outreach and education programs and materials.
- To educate the general population on the impacts of climate change and on the existing feasible mitigation actions.
- To build institutional capacity on the issue of climate change.

B. Activities

1. Coordinate a local and national institutional framework for the implementation of the program.
2. Establish a coordinating group for an educational campaign. This group will have a core working on issues at the national level but will also have local representation.
3. Assess existing resources, i.e. facilities, human resources, institutional support, etc.
4. Review, evaluate and update current programs and educational initiatives on climate change-related issues.
5. Design an outreach campaign that incorporates the five pillars of environmentally responsible behavior, namely: a) awareness; b) knowledge; c) attitude; d) skills; and e) participation.
6. Maintain the campaign’s high profile within local and national government agencies.
7. Develop a cartoon character that symbolizes the campaign against the drivers of climate change, which can be used in the advertising of educational programs and mitigation initiatives. Include the cartoon character in all climate change-related advertisement and literature.
8. Locate professionals with background on the climate change issue to prepare educational material and conduct training programs.
9. Develop educational material for different age groups (i.e. primary, secondary and university level) consisting of manuals, brochures, booklets, etc.
10. Produce educational material aimed at professionals, which can be distributed to employees of all economic sectors.
11. Train teachers at the primary and elementary level on how to educate children about climate change and its impacts.
12. Organize educational seminars and working groups in Buenos Aires and around the country for government officials, major stakeholders and leaders of community groups.
13. Organize seminars for entrepreneurs, to which foreign investors will be invited. Seminars should stress issues related to: i) emissions; ii) mitigation and adaptation strategies; and iii) benefits of CDM and opportunities for private investment.
14. Contact authorities conducting environmental education in institutions at the local and national level to inform them of the program and to incorporate them in the implementation phase.
15. Contact media, research institutions, academia, NGOs, government agencies and others to raise awareness about the program.
16. Identify regional and national celebrities (i.e. political, sports, entertainment) willing to publicly endorse the climate change awareness program.
17. Upgrade the website of the Argentine Designated National Authority (Oficina Argentina para el Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio) to host the “National Climate Change website”.
18. Conduct periodic surveys to assess the effectiveness of the campaign, in relation to the extent of the population reached and on the quality of the information transmitted.

19. Develop a manual that compiles the methodology and the procedures involved in organizing and conducting a public awareness campaign.

C. Expected outputs

1. Development of educational material on climate change for all ages and all sectors of the economy.
2. Training of educators on how to teach climate change-related topics.
3. National education and advertisement campaign, backed by local and national authorities, on the relevance of climate change.
4. Increased institutional capacity and coordination, at the national and regional level, on issues related to climate change.
5. Raised level of awareness concerning climate change issues.
6. Improvements in the perception of the impact of individual actions on national mitigation efforts.

PAPER NO. 2: AZERBAIJAN

No additions and we agree with these work programs.

PAPER NO. 3: CHINA

China welcomes the opportunity to provide views on how the National Communications can be improved as a vehicle for reporting on the implementation of the activities that aimed at implementing the New Delhi Article 6 work programme in response to the requirement contained in document of SBI18 (FCCC/SBI/2003/L.5).

China recognizes the key role of education, training and public awareness in the implementation of the Convention, and regards the *New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention* (decision 11/CP.8) as a useful mechanism for the objectives of the Convention.

China believes that the activities related to implementation of *New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention* should only be reported in the National Communication. We would like to further emphasize that the frequency of the report shall be coordinated with that of National Communication.

China has no objection to any Parties to the Convention who wish to report their activities related to the implementation of the *New Delhi work programme* outside the national communication. But China insists that it shall not become an obligation for all parties.

As to report in the National Communication, activities related to Article 6 of the Convention and the *New Delhi work programme* should be reported as one separate chapter in order to ensure greater coherence and to facilitate the review process of the work programme on the Article 6. At the same time, the more specific instructions and content of the chapter should follow the relevant decisions on National Communication that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

All Parties are requested to report in their national communications on their accomplishments, lessons learned, experiences gained, and remaining gaps and barriers observed that are related to *New Delhi work programme*. We would further suggest that more information on international cooperation, in particular with regard to technical and financial support to developing countries related to Article 6 of the Convention should be provided in the report of Annex I countries.

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

Italy on behalf of the European Community and its Member States would like to express its appreciation to the Parties, the Secretariat and other participants of SBI for the work on Article 6 UNFCCC, which resulted in the conclusions FCCC/SBI/2003/L.5 of 11 June 2003 that invited the Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 15 August 2003, their views on possible ways to improve reporting in their national communications on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi Article 6 Work Programme.

Our views are set out below.

General Observations and Comments

- We thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for producing document FCCC/SBI/2003/7/Add.4 containing a compilation and synthesis of the information received from Annex I Parties in their third National Communications on their Article 6 activities. The document provides information, which will be useful to all Parties, on what is needed to improve reporting on Article 6, and we regard of particular interest the identification of gaps, barriers and examples of best practice.
- Several other documents to be produced in the near future, will also help to guide Parties in their reporting. SBI 19 will consider a compilation and synthesis paper from the Secretariat on the information received from non-Annex I Parties in their National Communications. SBI 19 will also consider a compilation and synthesis document from the Secretariat on Parties' views on possible ways to improve reporting on Article 6 activities in National Communications.
- The quality of reporting by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention on their Article 6 activities, in their third National Communications, was generally better than in previous National Communications, and is likely to improve further in future, given the higher profile of Article 6 following the agreement of the New Delhi Article 6 work programme, and the fact that National Communications will need to form the principal basis of the reviews of the work programme in 2004 and 2007. The work programme itself also provides some advice on reporting, stating that Parties should report on their accomplishments, lessons learned, experience gained, and on remaining gaps and barriers identified.
- Parties should note the observations and suggestions set out in the documents that have and will be produced and, where possible, should address and incorporate them in reporting on their Article 6 activities, in the future.
- SBI 17 concluded that no revisions of the guidelines for the preparation of National Communications by Annex I Parties were currently needed. In addition, the guidelines for the preparation of National Communications from non-Annex I Parties were only recently agreed at COP 8. We therefore believe that there is no need, at the present time, for revision of the guidelines of National Communications, with regard to the reporting of Article 6 activities. We invite Parties to make use of the existing guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties adopted by Decision 4/CP5 and those for non-Annex I Parties annexed in Decision 17/CP8.

Suggestions on Ways to Improve Reporting on Article 6 Activities

Parties should initiate a viable process of national consultation and co-ordination with the agencies as well as non-governmental organisations concerned with Article 6 activities, which would facilitate the full reporting of the activities being carried out.

A brief update on significant activities that have been reported previously would help to give some continuity to reporting.

We would urge Annex I Parties to produce a separate section on Article 6 activities in their National Communications, in line with the guidelines for the preparation of National Communications by Annex I Parties, since this practice can facilitate the comparison of the Article 6 activities being undertaken by different Parties.

Reporting on Article 6 should include information on activities carried out at the international, national, and regional level, and include:

- information on implementation by actions (such as education, training, public awareness, public participation), by activity sectors (e.g. transport, energy), by target groups (e.g. industry decision-makers, teachers, drivers, journalists), and by actors (e.g. government, local authorities, NGOs, private sector, press);
- information regarding public opinion polls or other recent surveys related to climate change;
- information about actions taken in the field of international cooperation on Article 6 issues and in particular information about bilateral projects;
- information on newly developed initiatives in the field of education, training and public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international co-operation, including the description of methodologies used to achieve citizens' participation in the decision-making process;
- any information on the criteria and methods used to assess the success in reaching Article 6 objectives;
- information regarding goals, obstacles and problems encountered during the implementation of Article 6;
- useful data for increasing access to relevant information in each of the initiatives described (e.g. websites, contact data for the person in charge);
- the contact data of any designated national focal point on Article 6.

It could be useful if Parties were to report about the way the implementation of Article 6 activities are integrated into any national climate change action plan.

It could be useful if Parties were to inform on any outreach they had done with their National Communications. This would help to identify groups with an interest and Parties could in turn ensure that the language used in reporting on Article 6 in National Communications is accessible to those audiences. For example, the meaning of acronyms used should always be provided.

Parties should consider and describe, where possible, synergies with other international Conventions and Protocols such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Forum on Forests and the Montreal Protocol or for the UN/ECE region, the Aarhus Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters.

PAPER NO. 5: JAPAN

The Government of Japan welcomes this opportunity to submit its view on possible ways to improve reporting in national communications (NCs) on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi Article 6 work programme, as invited by SBI at its eighteenth session. As pointed out by the document FCCC/SBI/2003/7/Add.4, the level and scope of reporting in the third NCs varies widely between Parties, and more specific guidance and a format for providing information is needed. We hope this comment will contribute to development of the guidance and format.

Japan believes that actions to mitigate global warming should be taken by all citizens, since carbon dioxide emissions, especially in the residential/ commercial and transport sectors are closely related to the lifestyles of citizens. To that end, opportunities to learn about global warming issues should be provided for homes, schools, and society at large. In this context, education, training and public awareness should be facilitated by all Parties under the work programme.

Japan further believes that guiding principles of the work programme, especially cost-effectiveness, synergies between conventions and an interdisciplinary approach, are key elements for implementing the activities under the work programme, and stresses that following points should be taken into consideration in implementing and reporting these activities.

1. Linkage with existing activities

The activities under the work programme can be implemented in cooperation with existing activities decided by the Conference of the Parties, such as capacity-building in developing countries (in particular 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7), development and transfer of technologies (4/CP.7), and implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9 (5/CP.7). Activities linked with existing activities should be reported in NCs.

Synergies between conventions and interdisciplinary approaches should be further strengthened, because climate change will affect various aspects of human activities such as environment, society and economy, and therefore wide knowledge of the consequence of climate change is desirable for education. In addition, opportunities provided by other UN activities (e.g., UNDP, UNITAR) can be utilized. Parties participating in these activities should consider implementing the work programme within the framework of those activities, and include them in their NCs. In this context, the outcome of "Workshop on synergies and cooperation with other conventions", held in Finland on 2-4 July 2003, should be taken into consideration.

2. Making use of information technology

From the viewpoint of cost-effectiveness, information technology will be a key factor in facilitating the work programme. The UNFCCC information network clearing house for Article 6, suggested by the secretariat at the SBI18 (FCCC/SBI/2003/4) is an excellent trial. From this clearing house, materials on global warming issues will be easily downloaded, and used for many countries including developing countries. Parties should actively provide their own electronic materials for the clearing house, and these activities should be reported in their NCs.

3. Public awareness

Opportunities to learn about global warming should be provided for at every level of education. In this context, governments should be raising public awareness at every opportunity. Japan also emphasizes that activities other than in the public sector, such as in the business sector and NGOs, are valuable for public awareness. We think it useful to make a combined list of activities by business sector and NGOs concerning Article 6. In order to facilitate reporting, only compiling the reports submitted from various entities might be of use.

PAPER NO. 6: SRI LANKA

The government of Sri Lanka gives high priority for the implementation of article 6 of the convention, which addresses Education, Training and Public awareness. Although the Convention of Climate Change was adopted ten years ago the awareness of the general public on the importance of addressing Climate Change issues is not adequate. We believe that more work need to be done at National, Regional and International level to implement the article 6 of the convention.

We welcome the New Delhi article 6 work program which considered possible ways to improve reporting in National Communications, on activities related to article 6. However, the problem is that developing countries do not submit National Communications annually.

Some developing countries have not even submitted their first National Communication.

The Government of Sri Lanka, propose the following to improve reporting in National Communications-

1. Request all parties to prepare a separate chapter on Education, Training, and Public Awareness.
2. Prepare a detailed guideline for the preparation of Education, Training and Public awareness chapter of the National Communication.
3. Consider requesting from parties to submit Interim Reports on article 6 activities of National Communications annually pending the National Communications is submitted. This will make sure that countries would develop separate programs on Education, Training and Public awareness.
4. Request parties to develop a long term program to implement article 6 of the convention and report in the National communication, the progress of the implementation of the plan.

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PAPER NO. 7: SUDAN

Information Network clearing House can be considered as a very useful tool for improving communication between developing and developed countries and bridging the information gaps. However, greater efforts should be taken in order to secure the financial support and provide sufficient funds for non-Annex1 countries to enable them take an active part in this important process.

PAPER NO. 8: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide its views on possible ways to improve reporting in national communications on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi Article 6 Work Program.

The United States supports the concept of continuously improving Parties' reporting under the Framework Convention, and strives to increase the level of quality in the United States national communication with each new submission. We believe that all Parties are steadily improving their reporting as they gain additional experience, and we have found the In Depth Review process to be of invaluable assistance in this effort.

The Annex I and Non-Annex I national communications groups have worked to improve reporting in national communications, and provide additional guidance for developing these important documents. These groups have recently completed work to revise the national communication guidelines. We believe that the two national communications groups are in the best position to determine how to improve reporting specific to Article 6. At the same time, the Article 6 group is in a position to provide helpful input to the national communication groups for their consideration.

It is in this context that we offer the following views. There are a number of challenges inherent to reporting on Article 6 activities in national communications. A fundamental element of Article 6 activities is that they are country driven, which necessitates individualized reporting approaches. In addition, the characteristics of Article 6 activities make it challenging to report such activities in uniform terms other than those related to their quantity – describing the quality and effectiveness of Article 6 activities is a very subjective matter and cannot readily be translated into the simple terms necessary for useful standardized reporting. Furthermore, many Annex II Parties have significant numbers of programs in this area, the breadth of which is too large to include in a brief reporting document, resulting in necessarily incomplete reporting of some Parties' efforts. Regardless, we do not believe that simply reporting the number of activities is a helpful metric of Parties' progress in this area. We anticipate that the New Delhi work program on Article 6 of the Convention will assist Parties' reporting on Article 6, and note that decision 11/CP.8 provides a framework that Parties may find helpful and may wish to consider when drafting the relevant portion of their national communications.

In the absence of clear and specific guidelines, it may be more complicated for the Secretariat to evaluate Parties' process in implementing Article 6 of the Framework Convention; however, we question whether simply collecting standardized data will be productive or instructive. We are confident that the Secretariat can collaborate with Parties to ensure that sufficient relevant information is made available to enable the Secretariat to fulfill the requests relating to Article 6 that are made by Parties.

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide its ideas on this important article of the Framework Convention.
