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Administrative and financial matters

Budget performance for the biennium 2004–2005

Information on the implementation of decision 16/CP.9, paragraph 22

Note by the Executive Secretary

Summary

The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 16/CP.9, paragraph 22, requested the Executive Secretary to specify how decisions of the COP relating to Article 4.8 of the Convention are reflected in the work programme for the biennium 2004–2005. This document provides information on the relevant COP decisions on activities performed during the biennium 2002–2003 and on the programme of work planned for 2004–2005.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 16/CP.9, paragraph 22, requested the Executive Secretary to specify how decisions of the COP relating to Article 4.8 of the Convention are reflected in the work programme of the secretariat for the biennium 2004–2005.

B. Background

2. Implementation of Article 4.8 of the Convention appeared on the agenda of the ninth session of the subsidiary bodies at COP 4 in order that work on this matter could begin as part of the preparation for the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. After a series of informal consultations and workshops, consideration of this item culminated in decision 5/CP.7. Since COP 7, the secretariat has been supporting the implementation of the provisions of this decision, and of those contained in conclusions by the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions on progress in the implementation of decision 5/CP.7.

II. Performance in 2002–2003

A. Main activities

3. During the biennium 2002–2003, work in support of the implementation of Article 4.8 focused on fulfilling the mandate given under decision 5/CP.7. To this end, the following workshops were conducted and reports were prepared for consideration by the subsidiary bodies:

- (a) Workshop on modelling, Bonn, Germany, 16–18 May 2002 (FCCC/SBI/2002/9)
- (b) Two workshops on insurance, Bonn, Germany, 12–15 May 2003 (FCCC/SBI/2003/11)
- (c) Workshop on possible synergy and joint action with the other multilateral environmental conventions and agreements, Espoo, Finland, 2–4 July 2003 (FCCC/SB/2003/1)
- (d) Workshop on economic diversification, Tehran, Iran, 18–19 October 2003 (FCCC/SBI/2003/18)
- (e) A regional workshop on adaptation, New Delhi, India, 12–13 November 2003 (FCCC/SB/2003/INF.2)

4. Also, the necessary substantive and logistical support was provided by the secretariat staff for the negotiations on this item during sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP, including support to the Chair of the SBI for various intersessional activities relating to the implementation of decision 5/CP.7.

5. The secretariat has been following up on the steps taken on the implementation of activities supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance with decision 6/CP.7) and other bilateral and multilateral sources. Given the diverse array of links with different socio-economic concerns (e.g. insurance, international trade) the secretariat is committed to establishing links with relevant external entities where collaboration can support the substantive work of the secretariat under Article 4.8. These include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Financial Initiatives, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the project on Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change, the Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group, the World Trade Organization, and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Further links will be explored in the future, as time and resources permit.

B. Resource mobilization

6. In spite of difficulties in meeting the timelines set by decision 5/CP.7 for conducting some intersessional activities, the secretariat managed to raise the funds required for organizing those intersessional events identified under "Further multilateral work" (paragraphs 32–37 of decision 5/CP.7).

7. For several of the workshops, background papers were commissioned, and experts and practitioners were identified and invited for specific subject areas, in order to broaden the understanding of participants on the subjects. These resource persons were selected from universities; international, regional and sub-regional development banks; the International Monetary Fund; the World Bank; the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries; other United Nations agencies (e.g. UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme); national climate change institutions; and the private sector (insurance companies).

III. Programme of work for 2004–2005

A. COP decisions

8. During the biennium 2004–2005, the secretariat anticipates continuing to support the negotiations on Article 4.8, and responding to associated mandates provided by the COP and the subsidiary bodies. Although the COP did not adopt a decision on Article 4.8 at its ninth session, the SBI invited submissions by Parties that the secretariat will compile for consideration at SBI 20. Following this consideration, the secretariat may be requested to fulfil further mandates under decision 5/CP.7, including follow-up on actions identified in the reports of the workshops referred to in paragraph 3 above.

B. Programme of work

9. Without prejudice to future decisions or requests mentioned in paragraph 8 above, a brief description of planned work in 2004–2005 relating to Article 4.8 was given under the Implementation and Sustainable Development programmes in document FCCC/SBI/2003/15/Add.1.

10. The immediate work on Article 4.8 will focus on compiling the above-mentioned submissions and preparing for, and supporting, the subsidiary body sessions in June 2004. The secretariat will also continue to liaise with other international entities to establish partnerships and cooperation on these issues. At the same time, support will be given to work on issues relating to the least developed countries, including supporting the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) over its new two-year term. Any relevant outcomes from the subsidiary body sessions in June 2004 will also serve to further shape the secretariat's work programme on the adverse effects of climate change and the impact of the implementation of response measures under Article 4.8 of the Convention.

C. Resource allocation and organization of work

11. Issues relating to Article 4.8 of the Convention are handled jointly by the Implementation and Sustainable Development programmes.

12. The Coordinator of the Implementation programme, and one professional staff member who performs the task of a review officer for Annex I communications, cover issues relating to the impact of implementation of response measures (including those under Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol). The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development programme, and one professional staff member who handles matters relating to the least developed countries (LDCs) (Article 4.9), cover issues relating to the adverse effects of climate change under Article 4.8.

13. The tasks of both professional staff members mentioned in paragraph 12 above include organizing workshops and other intersessional and pre-sessional events; preparing reports for the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP; and supporting the negotiations under this agenda item. Secretarial and logistical support for this work (and that on least developed countries) is not provided for in the core budget, and will have to be met from supplementary funds.

14. Should additional activities be mandated during the biennium 2004–2005, the secretariat will have to embark on new fund-raising efforts.
