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Twentieth session

Bonn, 16–25 June 2004

Agenda item 11

Continuing review of the functions and operations of the secretariat

**Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair
on agenda item 11**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation took note of the views expressed by Parties on this item. Parties reaffirmed their continuing confidence in the Executive Secretary and the secretariat and recognized their importance in the Convention process. Parties also underlined the continuing importance of transparency and objectivity in the secretariat's work, documentation and public statements, including care to distinguish between views of Parties on which there is consensus and those lacking consensus.
2. The secretariat underlined the high importance attached to Article 101.3 of the Charter of the United Nations which reads: "The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible." The SBI requested the secretariat to update, for its twenty-first session, the information on geographical distribution of the senior staff, and to provide information on the criteria for the appointment of such staff.
3. The SBI invited the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its tenth session to request its President to resume the consultations on the procedure for the appointment of an Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 127 of document FCCC/CP/2002/7, and to report to the tenth session of the COP thereon.
4. The SBI welcomed the Executive Secretary's reaffirmation of the secretariat's continuing commitment to attaining the highest standards of professionalism and objectivity. The Executive Secretary also stressed the secretariat's efforts to promote transparency overall. In this regard, the Executive Secretary expressed willingness to address specific circumstances and concerns of Parties regarding the operation of the secretariat brought to her attention.
5. The SBI agreed to continue consideration of this agenda item at its twenty-first session. In this context, the SBI requested the secretariat to provide information on the arrangements for UNFCCC workshops, including such issues as criteria, scheduling and managing with limited funds.
