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National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Views on the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the 11 submissions contained in document FCCC/SBI/2007/MISC.7, two further submissions have been received on 24 September and 2 October 2007.
2. 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.

* 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: CANADA

VIEWS ON THE MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

SUBMISSION BY CANADA

Canada welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its twenty-fifth session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11).

The current mandate of the CGE, as provided in decision 3/CP.8, expires this year at COP13. This submission addresses the issue of whether the mandate of the CGE should be renewed, and if so, what are the main activities it could undertake to not only continue to improve the process of the preparation of national communications as we move into the phase of completing the second, and where appropriate, subsequent round of national reporting, but also to help improve the quality and consistency of information on implementation of the Convention.

Canada views the preparation of national communications, as required under Articles 4.1 and 12 of the Convention, as an important obligation of all Parties. We recognise that the provision of high quality information from non-Annex I (NAI) Parties is dependent upon access to adequate financial resources and the building and retention of national capacity in this area.

Canada has supported the work of the CGE throughout its 2003-2007 work programme, and believes that the CGE has successfully assisted NAI Parties in the process of preparing their initial, and where appropriate second and subsequent, national communications. Notable achievements include providing timely technical advice to the SBI through the preparation of various reports and papers, providing advice and technical support to Parties through the organisation of hands-on training workshops, conducting examinations of the initial national communications, and facilitating cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention.

Despite the successes of the CGE over the past four years in implementing its work programme, the mandate of the CGE should only be renewed if it can continue to play a useful and meaningful role in assisting Parties improve their national reporting. To that end, the main role of the CGE should be to undertake, or facilitate, a technical assessment of the information presented in individual second, and where appropriate subsequent, NAI national communications with a view to making recommendations to the SBI for improving the quality and consistency of information on implementation of the Convention.

Other roles that the CGE could play, which are outlined in the stocktaking report of the CGE (FCCC/SBI/2207/10/Add.1), would be to: provide technical advice and support in a number of areas, including notably, for the regularisation and institutionalisation of systems for the production of national communications; identify and assess technical problems and constraints that adversely affect the preparation of the reports and make recommendations to address them; identify and assess difficulties encountered by Parties in the use of the guidelines and methodologies for preparing the reports and make recommendations for their improvement on a periodic basis; and, provide technical advice to the SBI on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention by NAI Parties as required. The CGE could also play a role in helping to inform reporting on adaptation to climate change based on relevant areas of the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Although Canada is of the opinion that the training workshops provided by the CGE to date have assisted NAI Parties in the preparation of their national communications, we do not believe that the CGE should continue to be involved in training activities. Other institutions or bodies with regularised funding processes for such projects are better suited to provide the bulk of any further training that may be required.

Ottawa, Canada

National communication from parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Saudi Arabian Submission on the National communication from parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Saudi Arabia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts on National communication from parties not included in Annex I to the Convention as been invited by the SBI at its twenty six session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, paragraph 28).

Saudi Arabia believes that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) should continue with the same mandate which is to improve the process of preparation of national communications by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties.
