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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Twenty-seventh session

Bali, 3–11 December 2007

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Article 6 of the Convention

Views on issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet)

Submissions from Parties

1. At its twenty-sixth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) requested the secretariat to continue its work on the information network clearing house (CC:iNet) and invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 17 August 2007, their views on issues relating to this work. The SBI further requested the secretariat to compile these views into a miscellaneous document (FCCC/SBI/2007/15, paras. 63 and 64).
2. The secretariat has received seven 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.

FCCC/SBI/2007/MISC.12

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* This submission is supported by Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

Submission of Bolivia to The Secretariat of The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Observaciones de las partes sobre los temas relacionados al trabajo de la red informativa en el grupo de depuración ambiental (CC:iNet)

Mandato

En respuesta al secretariado de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático decisión FCCC/SBI/2007/L. 11, Párrafo 4 “Artículo 6 de la Convención – Proyecto de Conclusiones por la Presidencia”

Posición de Bolivia sobre el Artículo 6 de la Convención – Proyecto de conclusiones propuesto por la Presidencia - “Observaciones sobre las cuestiones relacionadas con el trabajo de la red informativa en el grupo de depuración ambiental (CC:iNet)”

Bolivia considera importante el rol que juega el Órgano Subsidiario de Ejecución (OSE), respecto a su labor relativa a la red de intercambio de información sobre el cambio climático (CC:iNet) para abordar las carencias y necesidades determinadas por las Partes. Sin embargo, Bolivia considera que los siguientes aspectos deben ser considerados:

- a) En cuanto al impacto del instrumento de información CC:iNet de la Convención Bolivia considera que se trata de una herramienta pertinente y útil en la que se debe poner mayor esfuerzo por traducirla a otros idiomas de la CMNUCC, como el español, lo cual sería de una gran colaboración para una adecuada difusión de la temática.
- b) Sobre el contenido de la CC:inet, se debe destacar la importancia de sus lineamientos temáticos, referidos a educación, capacitación, concientización, participación pública, acceso a la información (difusión) y cooperación internacional. Sin embargo, los resultados presentados todavía no muestran logros que puedan ser replicados en por otras Partes.
- c) Por otra parte la información existente en el CC:iNet si bien es útil, lamentablemente es muy escasa e incompleta. Se sugiere que se desarrolle una permanente actualización y renovación de la información existente. Por ejemplo, la base de datos de las organizaciones cooperantes es muy débil y necesariamente deben ser añadidas otras páginas web que cuentan con valiosa información educativa referente a la temática de cambio climático.
- d) La estructura del instrumento de información CC:iNet muestra una distribución de enlaces ordenada, donde se interrelacionan las partes que confluyen en una agenda general y en una base de datos de consulta.
- e) No muestra facilidad en su acceso porque únicamente se difunde en un sólo idioma. Además de no contar con motores de búsqueda que promocionen su oferta de información, sus actividades y objetivos.
- f) La estructura de la CC:iNet es ágil y de fácil manejo, pese a existir una alta dependencia al árbol de menú. Por lo que se sugiere cambiar el diseño por uno más interactivo con el público que visita la página web.
- g) Finalmente, se considera que se deberían generar indicadores de avance y/o éxito del CC:iNet que determinen si viene cumpliendo exitosamente con los propósitos con los que fue creado.

China's Views on Issues Relating to Article 6 of the Convention

The 26th session of Subsidiary Body for Implementation invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat their views on the extended work programme and issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet) under Article 6 of the Convention. China welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on these issues.

China is of the view that an extended New Delhi Work Programme is important for the implementation of Article 6, and there should be no gaps between the New Delhi Work Programme and the extended work programme. China also realizes that education, training and public awareness on climate change are especially important for developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. China notes the progress made and recognizes that more efforts are needed to enhance capacity building in developing countries in implementing the new extended work programme relating to Article 6 of the Convention, with special emphasis on the following:

1. The new extended work programme should be based on the Framework of the New Delhi work programme. Regional workshop in the New Delhi work programme is an effective way to address regional and national needs under Article 6 and should be maintained, and more activities in developing countries, such as training courses, exchange of experts, establishment of information networks, are needed in the new extended work programme.

2. Promote the implementation of the New Delhi work programme. The implementation of the New Delhi work programme should be an important and integral part of the new extended work programme.

3. The emphasis of the new extended programme should be capacity building activities in developing countries. To facilitate progress on education, training and public awareness of climate change in developing countries, technical and financial support from developed countries, the Global Environmental Facility and other sources are important during the implementation of the new extended work programme.

For issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet), the training program on the CC:iNet is important and essential for developing countries, especially in rural areas vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

PAPER NO. 3: GAMBIA

Submission from Gambia

New Delhi work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention

Article 6 of the convention

In response to the questions raised at the last Subsidiary Bodies meeting in Bonn May 2007, for parties to submit views on a possible framework of an Article 6 work programme that may succeed the New Delhi work programme and views on issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet)

The Gambia thank the Secretariat for its tireless efforts and support on the implementation of the New Delhi work programme in addition to the CC:iNet. Progress has been made in the implementation of the work programme since its adoption in New Delhi in 2002. All the relevant regions have benefited from regional work shops which is crucial in the implementation of the activities of the work programme. UNEP in collaboration with other parties, are commended for making tremendous efforts, at all levels, in implementing some of the activities of the New Delhi work programme by parties .

The New Delhi work programme is an elaborate one and some of the elements of the work programme is an ongoing process e.g public awareness raising. It is recognized that as a starting point on the elaboration of an Article 6 implementation work programme that may succeed the New Delhi work programme, it would be very useful to take stock on the achievements of the New Delhi work programme. The gaps may be a basis for the starting point. One of the gaps discussed during the last SB is mentoring and exchange of materials. The attachment of personnel to other countries will be very useful. In addition to the CC:iNet sharing of information, a network of focal points would help in the sharing of useful information and/or ideas among themselves. This will assist those parties who are yet to implement some activities to learn from those who are ahead in the implementation of the work programme. The focal points would share experiences and communicate on all relevant article 6 activities, this may seem to be a duplication of the CC:iNet, the intention of the focal point network is beyond the general public accessing the clearing house, this will further enhance the discussions learning from eachother..

On advancing work of the prototype network clearing house, the African group has always expressed the importance of inclusion of the French language in the clearing house channel of communications because of the many African countries whose official language is French. This may be in the pipeline, but it is important to reemphasize the need for its inclusion.

Article 6 is one of the most important articles of the convention, because, to implement any of the articles, the public must be aware of what is expected of them. The public require information on climate change and this comes under Article 6. We are aware that awareness raising has financial implications and it is therefore utmost importance to commit financial resources to article 6 activities. The Secretariat should continue making efforts to have Annex 1 and Annex 2 parties to commit more resources to article 6 activities.

PAPER NO. 4: JAPAN

Submission by Japan to the UNFCCC

Information network clearing house under the Article 6 of the Convention

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet) in pursuance to paragraph 4 of FCCC/SBI/2007/L.11. Japan would like to commend continued efforts made by the Secretariat in maintaining the useful information vehicle of CC:iNet. In view of increasing its usefulness, we would like to submit following suggestions.

(a) Impact – the relevance and usefulness of such an information tool;

Though CC:iNet made a relatively slow start in attracting attentions of stakeholders, to date, Japan values the positive developments in terms of increasing the number of submitted and uploaded information, and the variety of such information contents. We expect further more information will be introduced not only by Parties, but also practitioners in the field.

(b) Content – relevance and usefulness of existing and possible additional information products;

As mentioned above, along with the increase of the number of uploaded information, the information contents also have become more extensive, and we believe the current contents structure successfully provide a sufficient framework for it. At this moment, a major part of the information contents seems to come from developed countries. Japan is of the view that it would be also useful if more information from developing countries is uploaded. As we understand that there are very many useful activities ongoing in developing countries, the Secretariat may further call upon practitioners from developing countries for sharing their useful information through CC:iNet.

(c) Process – relevance of existing information sources and/or the need for additional sources, including options to source and update information in a proactive manner;

In order to ensure voluntary nature of information submission, Japan believes the current procedure of submitting and updating information should be maintained, rather than introducing a new procedure. If the Secretariat may wish to keep valid information, it may send an automatic or manual reminder message to sources to update such information after a certain period.

(d) Structure – organization and presentation of information in the clearing house;

We see that there is no necessity in changing the structure. If there is any chance for adjustment, there could be a short explanation that information contents uploaded in CC:iNet may not necessarily fall within a single category as provided – some programmes have more than one scope of activities (such as education, public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation).

(e) Accessibility – ease of access and promotion of the clearing house;

We believe it is clear that the clearing house should be promoted further. In promoting website information, generally speaking, public attention is more attracted when such information is distributed in a conference, rather than website-only promotion. In this regard occasions of international meetings (such as COP or other UNFCCC workshops) should be fully utilized. Also, it may be useful if all programme registered at the information network may be allowed to use CC:iNet logo for the purpose of providing a window to it, and it is likely that there would be a rapid increase of access to CC:iNet through those registered programme websites.

(f) Aesthetic issues – such as navigation, appearance and name.

Japan is of the view that there is no urgent necessity to change the appearance or name. Compared to the other pages in the UNFCCC website, CC:iNet provides a better visual presentation by allowing information sources to upload pictures. Information Sources may be informed that they could submit pictures of their activities, if electronic logos or banners are not available.

PAPER NO. 5: PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

EU SUBMISSION ON VIEWS ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE INFORMATION NETWORK CLEARING HOUSE

Portugal, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States welcomes the improvements of the Information Network Clearinghouse and is convinced of its great potential as a tool to interchange resources and information on education, training, public participation and public access to information, as well as in promoting international cooperation.

However, in order to make CCI:Net a sustainable success story helping to achieve the objectives of Article 6, further insights on the actual demands on such a platform are needed. In this sense, the European Union would like to learn more about other Parties views.

User statistics, ongoing survey

The figures already presented by the Secretariat (e.g. number of hits) show an increasing impact of CC:iNet. However, the number of registered users (those who upload information to the clearinghouse) is still insufficient and some regions are very poorly covered. The activity of the registered users sending information to the clearinghouse also seems to vary greatly. The Secretariat should be more proactive in order to get an enhanced network of registered users (e.g. inviting parties and organizations to register or periodically urging Parties to upload and update information material).

In addition, the EU is looking forward the results of the survey conducted by the Secretariat, in order to be in a better position for evaluating the users' perspectives and demands.

Contents

The amount of information contained in CC:iNet is growing, but is still insufficient. In any case, the challenge is not only getting more information from the registered users, but also keep the information updated.

Challenges relating to contents also include finding ways to better balance on

- information on all six areas included in the scope of Article 6,
- languages in which the information is available

Additionally, it could be useful to develop specific information for special target groups, like teachers, journalists, etc.; and to include a search-function that allows finding sector-related policies and measures on Article 6.

CC:iNet can become a valuable tool to foster collaborations between parties. A forum or market section (offers and demands) could be developed to allow practical collaborations.

PAPER NO. 6: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Views Of The United States On Issues Relating To The Work Of The
Information Network Clearinghouse (CCi:Net)**

The United States believes there are numerous opportunities for improvement open to CCi:Net. Among these are improved functionality, multilingualism, and most importantly more content and up-to-date information.

The United States has, in previous submissions and interventions during prior UNFCCC sessions, proposed approaches to improvement of this website, including in our August 2006 submission (FCCC/SBI/2006/MISC.15) entitled *Views on Advancing Work on the Article 6 Clearinghouse and on Making it Fully Functional, Multilingual, and User-Friendly*. While progress in some areas has been made, many of the issues raised in that submission remain true today.

We note that CCi:Net remains now, as it was then, a work in progress and one whose *modus operandi* is undetermined. Timely updates, content, links to already existing information on the web, content submitted by Parties, even fundamental organizational issues of the website, are issues still to be addressed.

A non-exhaustive set of examples that point to some of these issues include these associated with the “Scope” menu item:

- In the sub-section on International Cooperation: neither the United States, nor any U.S. Government agency is listed in the drop down list of countries - a disappointing omission and oversight which leaves us concerned.
- In the sub-section links, the various pages are primarily organized by “date of posting.” This is not conducive to finding information easily.
- In the subsection on Education, the United States is listed three times under countries, but in different ways (U.S., USA and United States of America) which may lead to confusion and may not give a user all information possibly relating to the United States.

Other examples include:

- CCi:Net has not included links to websites such as EPA Kids Club and NASA television which were explicitly mentioned in our February 2007 submission.
- The database of organizations is limited to three countries (Hungary, France, and Switzerland) and three organizations.
- The calendar function does not list the Article 6 workshop in St Lucia (held in early July 2007).

All of these point to the many opportunities that CCi:Net has yet to embrace if it is to realize its potential as a useful tool for all Parties to the UNFCCC. If CCi:Net takes hold of these and moves forward it can play an important role in the diffusion of information on Article 6 activities, which would benefit all Parties.

PAPER NO. 7: UZBEKISTAN

View of the Republic of Uzbekistan on issues relating to the work of the information network clearing house

Republic of Uzbekistan supports the Secretariat activity on development and improvement of the information network clearing house (CC:iNet).

It should be mentioned urgency and usefulness of such an information network clearing house as a means to get additional information on education, training and public awareness on climate change issues. Being fully functional the main portal will provide an opportunity for user to increase knowledge in the key priorities of Article 6 of the Convention.

At the initial stage of the portal function it is entirely enough to provide only content of the key thematic areas. Intended options including many languages, information on experts, educational programmes, training courses and the what is the most important, on financial support will make clearing house not only approachable but the most understandable and applicable for wide audience.

As the educational process is continuous it is very important for it to be developed stepwise increasing a level of education, covering all population layers from children to high qualified experts as well as decision makers. Information should be renewed regularly; maximal number of sources should be used. It is necessary to envisage regular monitoring of references and documents functionality.

We would like the clearing house to present the best practices examples, which are shared by both lecturers and those who got and applied the knowledge obtained. We think that it is advisable to employ bilateral communication scheme that implies providing information by users and by the Secretariat.

From our viewpoint training of national experts on the main directions of activity when implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol is a very important problem. Specialized training is required for specialists who participate in realization of the Kyoto protocol mechanisms. As a great deal has already done in this direction through training, and working meetings we think it will be useful to include a new page within the site containing examples of good practice as well as guidance on and new documents relating to organization of working meetings and training of specialists.

For the countries with economy in transition increase in public awareness is still a great problem especially among decision makers. Examples of advanced experience and good practice could serve as good training aids for many countries.

In our view information on the existing information network clearing house should be presented on the portals of the national coordination-and –information centers as well as the most popular youth centers and all information portals related to ecology, environment, nature and also on the portals of hydrometeorological services.

At this phase of development design and navigation options of the information network clearing house web site is appealing and conform to the objective set.
