

8 March 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-sixth session

Bonn, 7–18 May 2007

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

Methodological issues under the Convention

Greenhouse gas data interface

Views on the greenhouse gas emissions data interface, on possible improvements, including the extent of its scope and coverage, and on next steps in progressing work on the data interface

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-fourth session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, their views on the greenhouse gas data interface, on possible improvements, including the extent of its scope and coverage, and on next steps in progressing work on the data interface (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, para. 144). The SBSTA agreed to continue to consider the further development of the data interface at its twenty-sixth session, with a view to providing the secretariat with further guidance on this issue.
2. The secretariat has received eight 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.

* 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.

FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.9

GE.07-60656

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. AUSTRALIA (Submission received 23 February 2007).....	3
2. GERMANY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES* (Submission received 27 February 2007).....	4
3. INDIA (Submission received 6 February 2007).....	7
4. MALTA (Submission received 9 February 2007).....	8
5. NEW ZEALAND (Submission received 26 February 2007).....	9
6. OMAN (Submission received 6 February 2007).....	10
7. SWITZERLAND (Submission received 27 February 2007).....	11
8. UZBEKISTAN (Submission received 1 March 2007).....	12

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

PAPER NO. 1: AUSTRALIA

Submission by Australia to the UNFCCC

23 February 2007

Greenhouse gas data interface

At its twenty-fourth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), invited Parties to submit their views on the data interface, on possible improvements, including the extent of its scope and coverage, and on next steps in progressing work on the data interface (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paragraph 144). Australia is pleased to provide its views on this matter.

Australia regards reliable, comprehensive and relevant data as essential to informing the development and implementation of effective climate change policy. Australia's previous submission (in March 2006) emphasized the importance of an effective tool to interrogate greenhouse gas data. Subsequently Australia has provided sizeable funding to support the development of such a tool – the greenhouse gas data interface.

Australia would like to thank the secretariat for its work to provide and maintain links on the UNFCCC web site to other external data sources of emissions and socio-economic data (sources listed in document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/INF.9, as requested by the SBSTA in paragraph 57 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/13). Australia has found the links provided to be very useful both in locating data and in improving the ease of use and transparency of the data.

Much of this other information contained in external pages is also provided to the UNFCCC by Parties in their national communication. Australia thinks it would be useful to include this data on the data interface. Such information should include information on population, economic growth and trading patterns. The linking of emissions information with this additional data would be very useful in order to provide capacity for interlockers to gain a broader picture of emissions profiles and insight into the unique circumstances of Parties.

Australia also thanks the secretariat for its work and for making the data interface operational. However, Australia sees the current state of development of the data interface as only a preliminary step towards the realisation of a more useful and workable tool. Specifically, the current data interface lacks:

- Flexibility to undertake data searches (currently queries are pre-defined and information is presented in a series of spreadsheets);
- The ability to display and compare information for a single Party or subset of Parties, sectors or years;
- A search function; and
- The ability to accurately estimate total global emissions based on comparable data, and hence, Parties' share of global emissions (currently includes variable information based on Parties most recent national communications).

Australia believes a comparative component to the data interface is crucial. In this regard, the incorporation of additional information would greatly enhance the value of the data interface. Examples of such interactive and useful tools include International Energy Agency's (IEA) Information Centre, and the World Resources Institute (WRI) Earthtrends and Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT).

Australia looks forward to a constructive discussion of this item at SBSTA 26 and the completion of data interface.

PAPER NO. 2: GERMANY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Turkey

Berlin, 27 February 2007

**Subject: Greenhouse gas data interface:
Views on the data interface, on possible improvements, including the extent of its scope and coverage, and on next steps in progressing work on the data interface**

The European Union would like to thank the secretariat for preparing the presentation “Greenhouse Gas Interface: transition to a new design” which is sketching some design features of the new GHG (greenhouse gas) data interface.

The EU regards the availability and general accessibility for all Parties to a comprehensive, up to date, and reliable system of GHG data, as essential to supporting the policy process and the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. It considers equal access to relevant data from reliable international sources as important for providing a common information base for policy evaluation and development. The EU generally supports efforts of improving the availability and enhancing Parties’ wide access to information.

The presentation “Greenhouse Gas Interface: transition to a new design” requests views on a number of issues:

1. UNFCCC question: Is everything in the suggested new design acceptable to Parties? Need to delete something?

In the view of the EU, there is no need for any deletions. The suggested design describes a minimum of design features that allow the access to GHG inventory information submitted by Parties. The EU would be interested to know whether there are any key differences regarding the coverage of data and the query options between the flexible/customized queries proposed for the data interface and the Locator Tool developed by the UNFCCC secretariat for the purposes of the inventory review.

2. UNFCCC question: Is something missing? Need to add something?

The presentation “Greenhouse Gas Interface: transition to a new design” is limited to the submission of GHG inventory data under the UNFCCC. Under the Kyoto Protocol, supplementary reporting requirements and additional electronic reporting formats for the supplementary information were agreed. It is essential that the GHG data interface includes the key data that will be submitted under the Kyoto Protocol in electronic formats. This comprises of

- annual assigned amount and Kyoto Protocol Unit information as submitted annually in the “Standard Electronic Format for Reporting Kyoto Protocol Units”; and
- emissions and removals from LULUCF activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, and calculations of the amount to be added and subtracted from the assigned amount, submitted as supplementary information under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol.
- In addition links to other key databases under the Kyoto Protocol should be available from the data interface website or UNFCCC compilations, such as

- Base year data as fixed with after the review of the initial report;
- Links to public available information in national registries;
- Link to information in the secretariat's compilation and accounting database (CAD), the official repository of information related to each Party's accounting of emissions and assigned amount under the Kyoto Protocol.

The GHG data interface should be the key location for all types of quantitative data submitted in electronic format by Parties to the UNFCCC secretariat.

a. UNFCCC question: Should the interface provide access to any external (non-UNFCCC) data (population, GDP...)

The data interface should facilitate wider and more efficient use of relevant international data in the UNFCCC process. Useful external data would be population, GDP, carbon intensity as well as energy data, production data in relevant sectors, agricultural and forestry activity data. It is useful to combine present UNFCCC emissions data and other data sets in the data interface to give all parties equal access to a comprehensive up-to-date data interface.

The Non-UNFCCC data sources could be:

- Official UN data sources or other reputable and well-documented sources;
- Data sources used for the comparison of national inventories with international data in the Synthesis and Assessment Report (IEA etc.); or
- Sources where the data are comprehensive, containing global information, including all countries.

Clear references to the origin of the external data sources should be made. Definitions and principles (coverage of the activity, etc.) in collecting data used by the external data sources should be included in the data interface to allow for meaningful use and comparison of data.

b. UNFCCC question: Should the interface provide any GHG-related indicators, like GHG/GDP ratios?

The data interface should provide GHG-related indicators, like GHG/GDP or GHG/capita and could provide a function where the user can create indicators from the data presented in the database.

c. UNFCCC question: Should the interface display, in addition to GHG inventory data, also data on GHG emission projections (as presented in national communications)?

The EU is in favour of a wide coverage of information in the GHG data interface that includes all quantitative information submitted by Parties. The interface could display the information on projections as presented in the compilation and synthesis reports of national communications provided by the UNFCCC secretariat. However, from the perspective of the implementation of the GHG data interface it seems to be straightforward to include those data that are already submitted or will be submitted in electronic reporting templates that facilitate the entry into the GHG data interface. Information that is not yet submitted in electronic reporting formats may be more difficult to integrate in the database, as the reporting may not be fully consistent and comparable across all countries and the data entry from the reports seems to be resource demanding. For information on GHG emission projections as presented in national communications it may be useful to agree first on a common template for quantitative information to be used by Parties before adding this information to the GHG data interface. For internal purposes and for voluntary use by Member States, the EU

prepared recently such templates and would be pleased to support a process elaborating similar templates under the UNFCCC.

The presentation provided on the GHG data interface does not address some aspects that the EU already highlighted in previous submissions:

- The data interface should also be available as an offline tool (e.g. CD-ROM), thus making it possible to access the data for those without easy access to the internet (the CD-ROM may be limited to the data in the data interface and may not include the links to other databases as proposed above).
- It should be possible to easily export and download the data included in the GHG data interface in Excel and/or database formats.

The EU would be interested in some further clarification on the information provided in the presentation on the resource implications (last slide of the presentation). The presentation gives the impression that the GHG data interface is a separate initiative with related resource implications. However, the work described as part of the presentation is already undertaken by the UNFCCC secretariat for other regular reports to SBSTA and SBI and is also essential for a functioning review process of GHG inventories. The requirement from Parties was to make the UNFCCC GHG database that is already used for other purposes publicly available and accessible. To support this objective, the CRF reporter was introduced precisely with the aim of facilitating data management for the UNFCCC secretariat. This process involved considerable financial and other resources from Parties. The EU has already repeatedly stressed that the system should not duplicate, but rather combine existing efforts. For these reasons, further information is necessary on the additional resource implications presented. One Party already provided resources, but the work on the development of the data interface was postponed. Therefore the EU assumes that this budget is still available for this purpose.

The EU would also be interested in further clarification as to which data from which submissions will be accessible (most recent or also earlier versions, submitted or submitted and reviewed data).

The EU looks forward to test the operational version of the GHG data interface before the first sessional period in May 2007 and to further discuss the design features of the GHG data interface at SBSTA 26.

PAPER NO. 3: INDIA

GREENHOUSE GAS DATA INTERFACE

The Government of India welcomes the opportunity to furnish views on greenhouse gas data interface and appreciates the efforts of the UNFCCC Secretariat in devising the new UNFCCC GHG data interface which is a significant improvement over the existing GHG data web page both in terms of its content as well as its design layout.

The new design is good and there is no need to delete any extant item there from. However, it will be useful if information related to actual emission factors used for inventory development is also provided along with information about their nature of country specific or default values. It will be of great use if summary tables of progressions of emission factors used by parties for development of inventory estimates are also provided in the interface. Since many of the features of the proposed new data interface is designed keeping in view of the requirements of experts, the above suggested features will enhance significantly the value of proposed data interface.

The interface should also cover both the activity data as well as Implied Emission Factors along with actual emission factors as brought out above.

The utility of the interface would be enhanced, if it provides access to non UNFCCC data also. If due to some constraint data cannot be provided on the interface, it would be helpful to provide linkages to these data sets. Further more, it will also be valuable to provide GHG related indicators in addition to GHG inventory data like GHG/GDP ratios, and the data on GHG emission projection as provided in the National Communications of Parties. Evidently, the introduction of additional features would need financial resources which are suggested to be provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

PAPER NO. 4: MALTA

Kindly note that the proposed new GHG data interface on the UNFCCC web site allows for greater flexibility in searching and using available data, also allowing for a greater possibility for more graphical (charts, graphs, diagrams) presentation of data. This will give added value to this important resource and thus this revision of the interface is greatly welcomed.

PAPER NO. 5: NEW ZEALAND

Greenhouse gas data interface

New Zealand submission

This submission responds to the invitation in FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paragraph 144, to provide views on the data interface, including on possible improvements.

New Zealand would like to commend the progress being made by the secretariat on the data-interface. The interface has the potential to be a very useful tool which will, in our view, improve access to greenhouse gas emissions and removals data for all Parties.

We support having detailed information available to compare across countries (at the sub source category level) and having four levels from simple (aggregate) to more complex queries.

In response to the “questions and unresolved issues” posed by the secretariat, we believe that it would be useful for the interface to eventually include activity data and implied emissions factors, but this would be a lower priority to ensuring the emissions/removals data from both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties is accessible through the interface. We would also note that although the presentation from the secretariat refers only to GHG emissions, we assume that the intention is to include GHG removals as well. New Zealand certainly supports the inclusion of LULUCF data.

We would support the access through the interface to non-UNFCCC data e.g. population, GDP etc, although care would need to be taken on where this data is to be sourced from. It will be important to use the best available datasets and to the extent they are sourced through the UNFCCC site, countries should have confidence that this information comes from reliable and up-to-date sources. We would however, make this a lower priority inclusion for the interface. In relation to this we note that this type of information is readily available through the World Resources Institute’s climate analysis and information tool (CAIT), and to the extent possible, duplication of effort should be avoided.

New Zealand does not support interface displaying data on projections. While having access to this type of information would be useful, we note that only Annex I Parties report projections in their national communications, and thus to include projections in the interface would lead to an incomplete dataset. Secondly, if projections were to be included, sufficient supporting information would also need to be available through the interface on the models and parameters used to construct the projections. This would seem to be in excess of what the interface is designed to do.

PAPER NO. 6: OMAN

This Ministry appreciates the approach to develop well structured GHG data management tool (GHG Data Interface on UNFCCC web site) as it would facilitate the access to the global GHG inventory data.

Following review comments on this GHG Interface system are provided for your perusal for further improvement of this system.

- 1) It should also include the “activity: data and Implied Emission factors (IEF) in addition to the GHG emissions.
- 2) Data on GHG emissions projections (as required in the National Communications of Parties) is to be incorporated in this interface system.
- 3) “Search Function” provision is to be incorporated in the software of this interface system in order to make search criteria convenient to access specific information relating to GHG emission data.
- 4) CRF data for GHG emissions for non-Annex I Parties is to be incorporated in this interface system.

PAPER NO. 7: SWITZERLAND

Greenhouse Gas Data Interface

SBSTA 26

1. Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to express its views on the GHG Data Interface that the Secretariat has made available at the web site of the UNFCCC and on future developments of this Interface.
2. First of all we would like to commend the Secretariat for its efforts in making available the GHG information contained in the national communication from Parties. The GHG Data Interface is an essential contribution to responding to the needs of information and transparency of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
3. Switzerland recognizes the usefulness but also the limitations of the current state of the GHG Data Interface.
4. We thank the Secretariat for its effort to improve the current situation and we support the proposals made to improve the GHG Data Interface.
5. In our view, the first priority should be to make available very quickly the GHG inventory data.
6. Making available additional data (e.g. indicators; projections of emissions data; external data; etc.) should not delay realizing the first priority which remains for us the improved availability of GHG inventory data. In addition, non-UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol data made available at the Data Interface should always include a detailed reference to their source.

PAPER NO. 8: UZBEKISTAN

**The views of the Republic of Uzbekistan
on the greenhouse gas data interface**

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports to Secretariat activities related to the creation and development of the greenhouse gas data interface.

We think that presentation “GHG Data Interface: Transition to a new design” by M.Elhaddad and S.Kononov on UNFCCC web-site (http://unfccc.int/ghg_emissions_data/items/3800.php) demonstrates the work of Secretariat carried out for the creation of the data interface rather comprehensively and we are looking forward that in will be successfully completed in the nearest future.

The available access to the data base makes it possible to get the needed information both in tabular and graphic forms as well as regarding the main greenhouse gases and the sectors for the developed countries and Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. The information being planned but not used yet and related to the data detalization and easening the access to them will enable the user to get the data needed for the analysis and studies but it is difficult to discuss the ways of its upgrading unless it is put into operation.

The proposed new frame of the data interface demonstrates the user needs rather comprehensively, especially adaptable issues and possibility of the model use in future. To our mind, the structure of the new planned data frame shows almost all current user needs Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

We think that the questions and unresolved issues which were raised in Section 5 of presentation (“Questions and unresolved issues”) reveal our needs rather comprehensively, and that their most complete solution (to the full extent and with the most comprehensive data detalization) enables to meet our needs in this type of information as much as possible.

It is worth to mention the financial support from Australia which reduced to some extent the financial problems on creation of the greenhouse data interface.
