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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-eighth session

Bonn, 4–13 June 2008

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change

Possible future work on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its twenty-seventh session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 March 2008, their views on possible future work on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/16, para. 111).
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.

* 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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* This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

China's Comments on Scientific, Technical and Socio-Economic Aspects of Mitigation of Climate Change

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at the twenty-seventh session in Bali, invited Parties to submit, by 15 March 2008, their views on possible future work under the agenda item: *scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change*. China welcomes the opportunity to share its views on this issue.

This agenda item is the result of the TAR of the IPCC. Under this agenda item, a series of workshops were held to date. These workshops were very helpful for the Parties to exchange information and share experiences and views on practical opportunities and solutions in various sectors.

The issue of mitigation is being addressed under other agenda items, such as the AWG under the Kyoto Protocol, the AR4 of the IPCC, the Bali Action Plan, etc. In view of the outcome and arrangement of the Bali conference on this issue, taking into account the heavy workload ahead, it is believed that this agenda item should be concluded now.

PAPER NO. 2: NEW ZEALAND

Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change

New Zealand views on possible future work on mitigation

General Remarks

1. The SBSTA agreed to continue consideration of issues on this subject at its next session and invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 March 2008, their views on possible future work under this agenda item (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/16 para 111 refers).
2. New Zealand would like to express its appreciation to all presenters for their contributions in the series of in-session workshops under this agenda item. The workshops held between May 2006 and December 2007 provided a useful initial exchange of information and sharing of experiences on a wide range of issues relating to the mitigation of greenhouse gases, including: agriculture, forestry and rural development; urban planning and development, including transportation; energy efficiency, including industry, and residential and commercial end-use; power generation, including clean fossil fuels and renewable energy; and non-carbon dioxide emissions, including methane recovery and utilisation.
3. New Zealand recognises that mitigation of climate change is fundamental to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. It is a core element of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments from Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol; and for all Parties under the Ad-hoc Group on Long term Cooperative Action under the Convention. In New Zealand's view, the continued informal exchange of information and views on mitigation will be an important complement to the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention that will assist all Parties in implementing policies and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. As New Zealand has already stated in its submissions to the AWG and AWG-LCA, work needs to go on in the subsidiary bodies (SBSTA and SBI) to support the formal negotiation processes in both the AWG and AWG-LCA.
4. The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), completed, in November 2007, also provides further information useful to our discussions, and in New Zealand's view, continuing with the mitigation agenda item under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice provides one avenue to ensure the rich body of information in the AR4 makes its way into mitigation discussions across the agendas of the subsidiary bodies and the ad hoc working groups.
5. The format of in-session workshops has worked well to date, providing a less formal opportunity for the sharing of information, similar to the Dialogue process under the Convention.

Views on future work on mitigation

6. In particular, New Zealand would like to continue to explore issues related to the mitigation of greenhouse gases in the agriculture sector. We propose a series of specific actions on this topic over the next 2 years.
7. There are many challenges facing the agriculture sector. Productivity and efficiency of production will have to improve to meet the needs of the future as global population, demand for food and greenhouse gas production increases. Land availability is decreasing due to competition from other land uses (e.g. biofuels) and due to the effects of climate change (e.g. drought).
8. Mitigation of greenhouse gases in the agriculture sector needs to take into account the sustainable development objectives of Parties and recognise that not all mitigation options are applicable in all countries - we need to differentiate agricultural systems and the mitigation potential of these systems.
9. We believe that economic mitigation potential and technical mitigation potential of the agriculture sector illustrate unique global challenges specific to this sector.
10. Specific work programme items relating to the agriculture sector that could be addressed under this agenda item include:
 - The nature of agriculture systems. This needs to be understood where there are multiple gases and complex interactions between temperature, moisture, soil chemistry, animal nutrition, feed utilisation, and management practices - many of these factors are also subject to the direct physical effects of climate change;
 - Research and development, deployment, diffusion and transfer of technology in the agriculture sector. This is critical as in many cases it is not a question of reaching an economic threshold for mitigation to occur, but the need to find technological solutions that do not exist at this point in time. Enhanced multilateral cooperation is of the utmost importance to find solutions that are sustainable, applicable, and economic. Addressing barriers that exist to implementation of policies and the transfer of technology is also required;
 - The implications of mitigation options for sustainable development and the interrelationship between adaptation and mitigation opportunities.
11. We propose a series of workshops focusing on aspects of the agriculture sector identified above. This focus would benefit short term reductions on agricultural emissions, where possible, and best position all Parties to meet long term greenhouse gas stabilisation objectives.

Saudi Arabia Submission on
Scientific, Technical and Socio-Economic Aspects of Mitigation of Climate
Change

Saudi Arabia would like to welcome the opportunity to submit its views on possible future work on mitigation under this agenda item as referenced in Paragraph 4 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/L.16 by March 15, 2008.

Saudi Arabia believes discussion on this agenda item should be discontinuing as it is already being discussed under AWG-LCA.

Parallel discussion of this issue is likely to lead to confusion.

PAPER NO. 4: SLOVENIA ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY SLOVENIA ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia

Ljubljana, 17 March 2008

**Subject: Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change
Views on possible future work on mitigation**

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the conclusions proposed by the Chair in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/L.16.

The SBSTA agenda item "Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change" has been dealt with through a series of five workshops, the last of which took place at COP 13.

The EU is grateful to the speakers at the workshops under this SBSTA agenda item, for their interesting and informative presentations. We also thank the secretariat for organising these events. These workshops have enhanced the exchange of practical experiences from a broad range of stakeholders. As already expressed at SBSTA 27, the EU believes that the mitigation workshops have provided a valuable setting for information sharing among all Parties.

The EU notes that many presented issues deserve an enhanced in-depth analysis to maximize the practical benefit of the information exchanged and to maximize the usefulness for addressing the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change. The EU is convinced that interaction and dialogue between Parties and practitioners on mitigation practises and policies is needed with a view to assist and facilitate the development and the implementation of mitigation option in the frame of the future agreement. The involvement of stakeholders from different practical backgrounds and from different sectors could be utilised in the identification of concrete practical and political options to achieve a maximum benefit of the information on Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation.

At the same time the EU recognises that the work and negotiations on a comprehensive post 2012 climate agreement under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention AWG-LCA) (Decision 1.CP/13) has priority and requires considerable resources of all Parties until COP 15 in 2009.

Therefore the EU proposes that the necessary work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change should be addressed under the AWG-LCA. With this proposal, the EU would like to avoid duplication of work and contribute to streamlining the agenda while not omitting important and useful aspects. Following this proposal, Parties can ensure that the sharing of experiences and information on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change will facilitate the implementation of the future post 2012 climate agreement.

PAPER NO. 5: SRI LANKA

**Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change
Views on possible future work on mitigation**

i. Sri Lanka is of the view that the currently used indices to gauge sustainable development, such as the Human Development Index are not appropriate as they do not have provisions for measuring the environmentally and ecologically sustainable development in countries. Hence we would like to reiterate the importance of identifying the possibilities for the establishment of a Sustainable Development Index where per capita CO₂ emissions are considered as a major criterion, together with other criteria such as protected forest cover and biodiversity value.

ii. With regard to funding for mitigation we are of the view that the Annex I countries hold the responsibility and moral commitment, jointly and separately for mitigation of the impacts of their historical emissions and for controlling their current high emissions. Therefore, we hope that scientific and technical studies will be undertaken to determine policies necessary impose financial consequences on Annex I countries that are unable to attain the targets, and to use these funds for improving the standard of living through mitigation measures, in developing countries.

iii. There is a large potential in the forest sector to limit emissions and to fix CO₂ in sinks. Most of the reduction potential for forestry is located in developing countries in the tropics, and involves not only reducing deforestation rates, but also restoring degraded forests, reforestation, afforestation and sustainable forest management. Sri Lanka feels that more prominence should be given for these issues, so that developing countries could reach their economic and social developmental objectives without destruction of these important C sinks.

PAPER NO. 6: URUGUAY

Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change

Views from Parties on possible future work on mitigation.

Submission from Uruguay

March 6, 2008

Following the invitation contained in the document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/L.16, paragraph 4, Uruguay would like to present its views regarding possible future work on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change.

Uruguay strongly believes that the exchange of information and sharing of experiences during the in-session workshops of mitigation of climate change provided an initial overview of the issue.

In particular, non-CO₂ emissions from livestock agriculture sector (methane from enteric fermentation of cattle and nitrous oxide from agriculture soils) are very important in Uruguay, being responsible for more than 80% of total national emissions.

There is a common understanding that the uncertainties of these emission factors are almost 50%. And worldwide, there are few cost-effective practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture sector.

Thus, Uruguay considers that there is a great deal of work to do within this sector.

Some initial actions could comprise:

- a) support and promotion of initiatives such as LEARN (Livestock Emissions & Abatement Research Network). This international research network was launched in December 2007 by the Government of New Zealand and the participation of more than 25 countries. Its objectives are to improve understanding and quantification of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture and to facilitate the development of cost effective and practical greenhouse gas mitigation solutions;
- b) thematic workshops (emission factors, mitigation options and barriers, etc.);
- c) facilitation of specific technical assistance among research institutions and governments;
- d) deepen knowledge on mitigation options that preserve the natural attributes of the agriculture products.

PAPER NO. 7: UZBEKISTAN

Views of the Republic of Uzbekistan on possible future work on mitigation

The Republic of Uzbekistan highly appreciates organization and conducting of five workshops on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change.

We consider it was very useful to learn a variety of mitigation options of different countries, as well as associated costs and co-benefits, eco-friendly policies and measures. The workshops have suggested effective ways to integrate mitigation options into sustainable development, however, it requires continuation.

In this regards, we would like to express our interest in workshops dedicated to the followings:

1. Methodologies on application of new technological solutions like carbon capture and storage.
2. Methods to assess costs and benefits of mitigation measures in the sectors of construction, power generation, agriculture and industry.
3. Implementation of low carbon technologies applicable to urban planning, transportation, industry and energy production.

We think that the exchange of experience on these issues would facilitate the further progress in technologies, mitigation and adaptation policies.
