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### Subsidiary Body for Implementation

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**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**

### **Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

**Note by the secretariat\***

#### *Summary*

The second meeting of the reconstituted Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) took place in Manila, Philippines, from 27 to 29 September 2010. The CGE analysed the results of the survey conducted to identify the technical problems and constraints affecting Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in the process of and preparation of their national communications. It also analysed the compilation of information relating to the concerns and difficulties highlighted by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications, gathered from recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties. This report summarizes the outcome of the discussions of the CGE with regard to the implementation of its mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications.

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\* This document has been submitted late in order to include the outcome of the discussions of the second meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in the Annex I to the Convention, held from 27 to 29 September 2010.

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 5/CP.15, reconstituted the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for three years from 2010 to 2012 to improve the process of and preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).
2. The CGE developed its work programme for 2010–2012<sup>1</sup> at its first meeting, held in Bonn, Germany, from 29 to 31 March 2010. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-second session, took note of and welcomed the work programme of the CGE.
3. In accordance with its work programme, the CGE conducted two surveys, one corresponding to paragraph 2 (a–b) and another corresponding to paragraph 2 (c) of the terms of reference of the CGE contained in the annex to decision 5/CP.15. During its second meeting, the CGE analysed the section of the first survey relating to paragraph 2 (a), with the aim of identifying the technical problems and constraints faced by non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of their national communications.

### **B. Scope of the note**

4. This report of the proceedings of the second meeting of the reconstituted CGE includes a summary of the discussions on the analysis of the results of the aforementioned survey and of the compilation of information contained in recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties to assess the capacity-building needs of those Parties in the process of preparing their national communications. It also includes a summary of the discussions related to the implementation of the work programme of the CGE, including the organization of its work for 2011.
5. The results of the analysis conducted by the CGE on the section of the first survey relating to paragraph 2 (a) of its work programme and on the compilation of information from recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties are contained in a technical report (FCCC/SBI/2010/21/Add.1). This technical report also contains recommendations provided by the CGE on ways to address the capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications. The survey questionnaire is included in the annex to document FCCC/SBI/2010/21/Add.1.

### **C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

6. The SBI, after having considered this report, may wish to provide further guidance to the CGE in the implementation of its mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications, including on the group's planned activities for 2011.
7. The SBI may also wish to invite Parties in a position to do so to provide financial assistance for the implementation of the work programme of the CGE, particularly for the training workshops scheduled for 2011, and invite multilateral and bilateral support

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.2.

programmes to collaborate with the CGE in the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications.

8. The SBI may wish to propose that the COP request the Global Environment Facility to continue to fund the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) beyond 2011 in order to ensure that continuous technical support is provided, particularly for non-Annex I Parties that are preparing their third national communications.

## **II. Proceedings of the meeting**

9. The second meeting of the reconstituted CGE was held back-to-back with the workshop on initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties organized by the NCSP in collaboration with the CGE.

10. The objectives of the second meeting of the CGE were to identify the capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications by analysing the results of the survey relating to paragraph 2 (a) of the work programme of the CGE and the compilation of information contained in recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties and to provide recommendations on ways to address these needs.

11. Seventeen members of the CGE (from Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkmenistan and the United Republic of Tanzania), including three experts representing UNDP, UNEP and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as an observer from Canada, attended the meeting. Seven members of the CGE sent their apologies for not being able to attend.

12. Mr. Eric Kamoga Mugurusi (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the CGE, opened the meeting by welcoming the CGE members. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Demetrio Ignacio, Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines, for taking the time to address the meeting. He thanked the Government of the Philippines, through the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR, for hosting the meeting and UNDP Manila for providing administrative support in the preparation of the meeting. On behalf of the CGE, he also thanked the Government of Brazil for the translation of the surveys into Portuguese and the UNDP for the translation of the surveys into Spanish and French. Likewise, he thanked the Government of Chile for the compilation of information contained in the second national communications which were submitted to the secretariat in Spanish, and the Government of the United States of America for the technical support provided in undertaking the aforementioned surveys.

13. The Chair informed the members of the following changes in the CGE membership since its first meeting: (a) Ms. Sangchan Limjirakan (Thailand) had replaced Mr. Vute Wangwacharakul (Thailand); (b) Mr. Matti Nummelin (Finland) had replaced Ms. Tara Shine (Ireland); and (c) Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada) had resigned and the CGE was awaiting confirmation of her replacement.

### **A. Election of the Rapporteur**

14. The Chair informed the members of the need to elect a new Rapporteur since Mr. Wangwacharakul, who had been elected as Rapporteur of the CGE at the first meeting of the group, was no longer a member of the CGE. The Rapporteur of the CGE is elected from

among the three regional groups of non-Annex I Parties on a rotational basis in accordance with decisions 5/CP.15 and 3/CP.8, annex, paragraph 6. The CGE members from non-Annex I Parties nominated Ms. Limjirakan, who was elected by the group as the new Rapporteur.

## **B. Organization of the work**

15. The Chair outlined the organization of the work of the CGE for the meeting. He informed the members that the goal of the group for the meeting was to produce a technical report on the problems and constraints faced by non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of their national communications for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-third session in Cancun, Mexico. He presented the content of the technical report and requested members' opinions on whether the scope of the report should contain the analysis of the results of the survey corresponding to paragraph 2 (a–b) of the terms of reference of the CGE or only to paragraph 2 (a). After some discussion, it was decided that the report would include only the analysis and recommendations pertaining to the section of the first survey corresponding to paragraph 2 (a), that is, the section of the survey conducted to identify the technical problems and constraints faced by non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of national communications and to assess their capacity-building needs.

16. The Chair proposed that members work in four thematic groups (greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessment, mitigation assessment and other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention), as agreed at the first meeting, to analyse the results of the survey and the compilation of information contained in recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties and to prepare recommendations.

17. The CGE noted the limited response rate to the surveys and recognized the benefit of soliciting additional responses from Parties to the surveys, particularly with regard to the second survey corresponding to paragraph 2 (c) of the terms of reference of the CGE. It also noted the need to avoid relying solely on the results of the surveys and emphasized the importance of drawing on information from additional sources such as recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties and the experience of experts and relevant international agencies in designing measures to improve the process of and preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. Some members also identified the need to include in the technical report information on the progress made in the process of preparing national communications from non-Annex I Parties through technical support provided by the CGE in the past.

## **III. Implementation of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts**

18. The CGE identified the following products in the implementation of its mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties (decision 5/CP.15, annex, paragraph 2 (a)):

(a) The preparation of a technical report on the problems and constraints affecting non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of their national communications and the assessment of their capacity-building needs;

(b) The implementation of technical assistance based on the recommendations contained in the technical report;

- (c) The provision of technical assistance to those non-Annex I Parties that have not completed their initial national communications;
- (d) The updating of the CGE training materials.

**1. Preparation of the technical report on the problems and constraints affecting non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of their national communications and the assessment of their capacity-building needs**

19. The members worked in thematic groups to analyse the results of the survey on paragraph 2 (a) of the terms of reference of the CGE and the compilation of information contained in recently submitted national communications from non-Annex I Parties. The thematic groups prepared a written report, including recommendations, based on the results of the analysis and reported their findings to the CGE for feedback. The group engaged in a constructive discussion on the key findings, addressing conflicting survey responses and the harmonization of the reports of the thematic groups, and key messages of the report.

20. The key findings identified by the discussion included the need for and importance of capacity-building for the preparation of national communications, not only at the individual expert level but also at the institutional level, in order to ensure the development and long-term sustainability of the national communications process. The CGE also observed that only a limited number of non-Annex I experts are involved in the process of preparing national communications ideally, permanent teams consisting of relevant experts would be involved in the preparation process. The group also pointed out that the overwhelming majority of non-Annex I Parties continues to encounter difficulties due to inadequate and unreliable data. The poor management of available information and the insufficient level of coordination among different stakeholders at the national level were also identified as constraints faced by a number of non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications.

21. Other key findings included the lack of climate scenarios for specific countries and regions and the lack of regional climate prediction models and downscaling models for assessing vulnerability in different sectors. The lack of well-developed methodologies and tools for V&A studies, particularly for the health and socio-economic sectors, were also identified as barriers to conducting robust V&A assessments, which are critical for ensuring adequate adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The absence of specific emission factors (EFs) on a national or subregional level was one of the constraints identified by a number of non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their GHG inventories. It was pointed out that the absence of specific EFs on a national or subregional level meant that a number of countries use the IPCC default EFs, leading to a high degree of uncertainty.

22. The thematic group members reported that some non-Annex I Parties had identified a number of challenges in ensuring the development and long-term sustainability of processes and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications on a continuous basis, including: the rapid turnover of experts; the institutional instability or, at times, the total lack of institutions dedicated to the preparation of national communications; the use of international consultants; the lack of data archiving; and the lack of institutional arrangements for data collection, quality assurance and quality control, and data sharing.

23. The outcome of the thematic groups' work has been compiled into a technical report contained in document FCCC/SBI/2010/21.Add.1.

## 2. **Technical assistance to those non-Annex I Parties that have not submitted their initial national communications**

24. The NCSP, with the collaboration of the CGE, organized a workshop for countries that are preparing their initial national communications from 29 September to 1 October 2010, in Manila, Philippines. The workshop was one of the key activities of the CGE in 2010; its overall objective was to provide general guidance to and facilitate the sharing of experiences among national teams on the key technical and policy issues related to the preparation of their initial national communications.

25. Sixteen participants from eight countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Myanmar, Serbia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Timor-Leste) attended the workshop. Participants included coordinators of the initial national communications projects, experts in different thematic areas and representatives of national governments and United Nations agencies. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Mugurusi, Chair of the CGE, and was facilitated by several CGE members, including representatives from the UNFCCC, the IPCC, UNEP and UNDP.

## IV. **Organization of the future work of the Consultative Group of Experts**

26. The secretariat provided a brief overview of the following CGE activities for 2011, as outlined in the work programme of the group:

(a) The analysis of the results of the first survey relating to paragraph 2 (b) of the work programme of the CGE;

(b) The analysis of the results of the second survey relating to paragraph 2 (c) of the work programme of the CGE;

(c) A workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention" (to take place in the first quarter of 2011);

(d) A training workshop to improve the process of preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties (to take place in the second quarter of 2011);

(e) A training workshop on ways to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications (to take place in early 2011);

(f) The preparation of technical papers for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session.

27. The Chair proposed that the fourth meeting of the CGE be convened in conjunction with the workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties in March 2011. The output of this workshop is expected to form part of the recommendations to be provided by the CGE to the SBI on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the process of and preparation of their most recent national communications.

28. The Chair also proposed that the CGE organize a training workshop to improve the preparation process of national communications from non-Annex I Parties in the second

quarter of 2011. He proposed that, during its next meeting, the CGE focus its discussions on the preparation of this training workshop, including its design and approach, as well as on the preparation of the workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties planned for March 2011. Lastly, the Chair proposed that a regional training workshop be held in early 2011 on ways to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the national communications preparation process and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications.

29. Ms. Ruleta Camacho, on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, expressed interest in hosting the fourth meeting of the CGE and the workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties scheduled for March 2011. Mr. Fernando Farias, on behalf of the Government of Chile, expressed interest in hosting one of the other training workshops planned for 2011. The CGE acknowledged and accepted the offers made by the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Chile to host the activities of the CGE in 2011.

### **Date and venue of the next meeting**

30. The Chair proposed that the next meeting of the group be held in Cancun, Mexico, on 24 and 25 November 2010 to review the relevance of the existing CGE training materials for the training workshops planned for 2011. It was agreed that a consultant would work with the secretariat to conduct a preliminary review of the existing training materials based on the recommendations outlined in document FCCC/SBI/2010/21/Add.1 and the outcome of this work will be reported to the CGE at its meeting in Cancun. At its next meeting, the CGE is also planning to review the materials, including a provisional agenda and a preliminary list of invitees, for the workshop on the exchanging of views on possible elements to be considered in the future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties scheduled for March 2011. To this end, the secretariat will make available a paper containing the outcome of the survey results corresponding to paragraph 2 (b) of its work programme, that is, to identify and assess the difficulties, challenges and problems encountered by non-Annex I Parties in using the UNFCCC guidelines in the preparation of their most recent national communications.

## **V. Any other business**

31. The CGE members discussed the side event of the group scheduled to be held on 3 December 2010 during the sixteenth session of the COP. The technical report of the group contained in document FCCC/SBI/2010/21/Add.1 will be presented during the side event. The members decided that one member from each thematic group would present the outcome of its analysis and recommendations at the side event.

32. The secretariat also provided an overview of the outcome of the side event held during the eleventh session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) in Bonn, Germany, in August 2010, where Argentina gave a presentation on its second national communication, and Timor-Leste and Bhutan informed the audience of their experiences in the preparation of their national communications.



33. The CGE members proposed that the secretariat circulate the provisional dates for the two workshops planned for the first half of 2011 prior to the next meeting of the group in Cancun in order to enable the members to organize their time effectively.

34. The NCSP briefly outlined the objectives and programme for its workshop on initial national communications, organized in collaboration with the CGE, which took place immediately after the conclusion of the CGE meeting, from 29 September to 1 October in Manila, Philippines and invited all members to attend. All members of the CGE were invited by the NCSP to attend the opening of the workshop, even though only some CGE members were acting as facilitators at the workshop.

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