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Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Executive Secretary*

Addendum

**High-level segment: the 10th anniversary of the entry into force
of the Convention**

Summary

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation has recommended that panel discussions be the mode for exchanges among ministers and other heads of delegation during the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session. This document provides additional information on arrangements for the panel discussions. It also contains information on participation by heads of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the high-level segment.

* As this document reports the results of the Bureau meeting held on 15 October 2004, its submission was delayed.

I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twentieth session, considered arrangements for the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP)¹ and endorsed the dates of 15–17 December 2004 for the high-level segment. The SBI also recommended that panel discussions among ministers and other heads of delegation be the mode for exchanges during the high-level segment. The SBI recognized that two panels may need to be held in parallel and recommended that the panels have the following themes:

- The Convention after 10 years: accomplishments and future challenges
- Impacts of climate change, adaptation measures and sustainable development
- Technology and climate change
- Mitigation of climate change: policies and their impacts.

2. The SBI invited the Bureau of COP 9, in collaboration with the secretariat and the Government of Argentina, to give further consideration to the details and format of the high-level segment.

II. Arrangements for the high-level segment

3. At its meeting on 15 October 2004, the Bureau considered the character of COP 10 and the role of ministers in achieving a successful outcome. The Bureau also considered the details and format of the panel discussions among ministers and other heads of delegation. The following arrangements reflect the guidance received from the Bureau on these matters.

4. The panel discussion on **“The Convention after 10 years: accomplishments and future challenges”** will be held during the afternoon of Wednesday, 15 December.

5. The panel discussion on **“Impacts of climate change, adaptation measures and sustainable development”** will be held during the morning of Thursday, 16 December.

6. The panel discussions on **“Technology and climate change”** and on **“Mitigation of climate change: policies and their impacts”** will be held in parallel during the afternoon of Thursday, 16 December.

7. In accordance with the recommendations of the SBI, there will be a balanced representation among panel members, taking into account geographical representation and diversity of points of view. Before the session, the President-designate of COP 10 will invite six panel members, as well as a moderator, to lead the discussion for each panel. At the session, the moderator will open the discussion and introduce the panelists, who will be invited to make brief remarks on the topic. The discussion will then be opened for Parties to make their contributions.

8. There will be an emphasis on spontaneous contributions, to allow flexibility for Parties to join the discussion at any moment. There will be no list of speakers, but every effort will be made to ensure that each minister or head of delegation will be able to speak at the panel of his or her choice. All Parties may participate in all panel discussions, one seat per delegation at the table with the microphone, and one seat behind. The moderator will request the understanding of Parties on time limitations for interventions, which ideally should not exceed three minutes for each speaker.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2004/20, paragraphs 80–86.

9. The moderators will provide an “impressionistic wrap-up” at the end of each panel. The moderators will report to the COP plenary during the morning session on Friday, 17 December, and the President will issue, under his responsibility, a summary of all the panel discussions, for inclusion in the report of COP 10. The President’s summary will not be agreed text.

10. The SBI also recommended that the high-level segment provide an opportunity, on request, for statements in the opening ceremony while recognizing that Parties will be expected to contribute mainly through their participation in the panel discussions. In the light of the limited time available, the Bureau concluded that such statements would need to be brief and limited in number, with priority given to statements by groups of Parties.

11. A panel discussion among heads of international organizations will be held during the morning of Wednesday, 15 December, following the opening of the high-level segment. Panelists will make brief introductions and ministers and other heads of delegations will then have the opportunity to raise questions and hold an interactive dialogue. Some intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will speak in plenary during the high-level segment at a time to be announced.
