
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fifth session
Bonn, 25 October - 5 November 1999
Agenda item 4 (b)

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AND
OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED
IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION**

Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

At its eleventh session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation decided to recommend the following draft decision for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session.

Draft decision -/CP.5

Other matters related to non-Annex I Party communications

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular its Articles 4.1, 4.3, 4.7, 10.2(a), 12.1 and 12.5,

Recalling also its decisions on communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), in particular decisions 10/CP.2, 11/CP.2, 2/CP.4 and 12/CP.4,

Reaffirming that the Global Environment Facility should provide funding for developing country Parties which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, for activities related to the assessment of vulnerability and adaptation options, in accordance with decisions 10/CP.2 and 2/CP.4,

Having considered the views of Parties on the provision of financial and technical support, on matters related to the consideration of communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and the timing of second national communications,¹

Drawing attention to paragraph 1 (d) of decision 11/CP.2, which provides guidance to the GEF that the preparation of national communications is a continuing process,

Noting the concern expressed by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that lack of support for post national communication activities has seriously disrupted the implementation of the Convention at the national level,

Encouraging Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention to complete and submit their initial national communications, keeping in mind the timetable set in Article 12.5,

Reiterating the importance of sharing national experience in the preparation of national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention,

Noting further the importance of providing a forum for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention to share national experience in the preparation of their national communications,

Reiterating the primary importance of providing financial and technical support for the preparation of such national communications,

1. *Decides*

(a) That the consideration of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision 12/CP.4;

(b) That the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2, together with the guidance provided to the operating entity of the financial mechanism given in decision 11/CP.2, shall continue to be valid for all initial national communications;

(c) To begin a process of reviewing the guidelines for the preparation of national communications with the aim of improving them by its seventh session, taking into account information on the use of the guidelines contained in the compilation and synthesis report of a representative and meaningful number of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;

¹ FCCC/SBI/1999/MISC.3, FCCC/SBI/1999/MISC.4 and Add.1.

(d) That all Parties that have submitted their initial national communication before the adoption of revised guidelines for national communications, and wishing to start the preparation of their second national communication before its seventh session can do so using the initial guidelines. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) shall provide funding for the preparation of the second national communication of such Parties, following the guidance to the GEF set out in decisions 11/CP.2 and 2/CP.4. Parties which start to prepare their second national communications after adoption of the revised guidelines will use the revised guidelines;

2. *Decides further* that the frequency of submission of national communications of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention shall be determined at its seventh session. For this purpose, adequate information from the operating entity of the financial mechanism on the effective availability of financial resources to non-Annex I Parties and the timing of disbursement of these resources to developing countries for the preparation of initial national communications will be necessary to determine the timing of each non-Annex I Party submission, in accordance with Article 4.3;

3. *Decides also* to establish a consultative group of experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention with the objective of improving their national communications as set out in the Annex to this decision;

4. *Decides* to reconsider at its seventh session the terms of reference of the consultative group on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;

5. *Requests* the UNFCCC secretariat to facilitate the work of the consultative group in accordance with Article 8.2(c) of the Convention and decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1 (a), by:

(a) Coordinating meetings of the consultative group and compiling reports on its regional workshops and meetings for consideration by the subsidiary bodies;

(b) Compiling a list of experts by expertise and region available for consideration of non-Annex I Party communications and making the information available on the UNFCCC web site roster of experts, indicating their role as non-Annex I Party experts;

(c) Exploring ways to enhance communication among experts, including through the development of an electronic bulletin board where appropriate;

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to include in the report on its activities to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session, specific references to the implementation of decisions 2/CP.4 and 10/CP.2.

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED
IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION**

1. The consultative group of experts on national communications from non-Annex I Parties shall have the objective of improving the process of preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.
2. The consultative group shall be composed of experts drawn from the roster of experts with expertise in greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, abatement issues and preparation of national communications.
3. The experts shall be appointed as follows: five experts from Africa, five experts from Asia, five experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and six experts from Annex I Parties. The experts representing each developing region shall be appointed by the Parties from that region to ensure geographical balance. The experts from Annex I Parties shall be appointed by the Annex I Parties. Additionally, up to three experts from organizations with relevant experience will be selected by the secretariat to participate. The Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies shall be notified of these appointments.
4. The consultative group shall meet twice in the year 2000, each time immediately prior to meetings of the subsidiary bodies.
5. The group shall be mandated to:
 - (a) Exchange experience and information on the preparation of national communications through meetings as outlined in this annex, including consideration of subregional experience, through an agenda to be decided by consultations among participants at each level of meetings;
 - (b) Consider the needs for and availability of financial resources and technical support, and the identification of barriers and gaps in this support;
 - (c) Consider in the context of guidelines for non-Annex I Party communications the four main categories of information: national greenhouse gas inventories, steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention, other information considered relevant by the Party and financial and technological needs and constraints, as required by Article 12.1 of the Convention;
 - (d) Review existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties with a view to identifying gaps

and making recommendations to better coordinate these activities and programmes to enhance the preparation of national communications;

(e) Identify the difficulties encountered by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in the use of the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2 and in the use of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies and other models, and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate;

(f) Identify the analytical and methodological issues, including technical problems in the preparation and reporting of greenhouse gas inventories, in particular with respect to the improvement of data collection, the development of local and regional emission factors and activity data, and the development of methodologies, where appropriate, with a view to enhancing the quality of future inventories;

(g) Examine national communications in particular greenhouse gas inventories, submitted by non-Annex I Parties with a view to arriving at a recommendation on innovations and difficulties in the use of the IPCC methodologies and the UNFCCC guidelines relating to the inventory contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2, and produce a report;

(h) Encourage the interaction among experts of all Parties.

6. Recommendations of the consultative group on these matters will be forwarded to the subsidiary bodies for their consideration.

7. Each year there will be one workshop in each of the regions referred to in paragraph 3 above, to consider both regional and subregional experience. The five non-Annex I Party experts from their respective regions will conduct these workshops. The agenda for the workshops will be developed by the experts, in consultation with the UNFCCC secretariat, and will ensure adequate coverage of the issues identified in paragraph 5 above. Experts/resource persons at these workshops will be drawn from the roster of experts, and limited to 15 experts from the region, and five Annex I Party experts.

8. The secretariat will coordinate these workshops and will facilitate the preparation of a report by the experts on each workshop, which will be made available to Parties.

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