

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Third session
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Agenda item 2

17 September 1991

ENGLISH ONLY

PREPARATION OF A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Set of informal papers
provided by delegations, related to the preparation
of a framework convention on climate change

Note by the secretariat

Addendum 14

This addendum contains material received from

A/AC.237/Misc.1/Add.14
NBO.91-261

List of informal papers

32. BRAZIL. Text based on compilation of proposals related to commitments; Differentiated responsibilities - differentiated obligations (submitted on 17/9/91)

PAPER NO 32 : BRAZIL

SUBMISSION BY BRAZIL

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 43/53 and 212;

Recognizing climate change due to greenhouse warming is a common concern of mankind;

Affirming their commitment to participate in the effort to realize the objectives of the Convention in proportion to their historical responsibilities and their capabilities;

Noting that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

Mindful, in this regard, that environmental considerations should not be used as an excuse for interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries, nor should these be used to introduce any forms of conditionality in aid or development financing, or to impose trade barriers affecting the export and development efforts of the developing countries;

Fully aware that the principles of sovereignty of States and of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries shall be adhered to in all international affairs, including those relating to the protection of global environment;

Noting that policies to counter climate change should recognize the "polluter pays" principle, the different circumstances of developing countries (and countries which will be abnormally affected);

Stressing that the cost of measures needed to rectify environmental damage should be reflected in the cost of goods and services which cause pollution in production and consumption;

Aware that, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries and to meet the needs of present and future generations, precautionary measures to meet the climate challenge must anticipate, prevent, attack, or minimize the causes and mitigate the adverse consequences on environmental degradation that might result from climate change;

Further aware that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage resulting from climate change, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures;

Considering that high priority must be given to solving the remaining major uncertainties regarding causes and effects of climate change;

Noting that actions by the Parties should be taken in a phased and flexible manner on the basis of short, medium and long term strategies and should be continually reevaluated in light of relevant scientific, technical and economic considerations;

Also noting that actions should take into account the progressive reduction of uncertainties regarding the contribution of each human activity to climate change;

Affirming that all obligations and commitments to be taken by developing countries are conditioned to and dependent upon the provision of new and financial resources and the transfer of technology on a non-commercial and preferential basis, and that the particular circumstances of countries with economies in transition should be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Convention;

Have agreed to:

ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS
ARTICLE 2 - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 2

- (i) Sustainable development is an imperative that constitutes the indispensable basis for the participation of developing countries in the framework convention.
- (ii) Countries have a common but differentiated responsibility in counter-acting anthropogenic interference in climate change.
- (iii) Lack of scientific certainty is no excuse for not developing precautionary measures that would contribute to counter-acting anthropogenic interference in climate change or to eliminating the adverse effects of global warming.
- (iv) Sources and sinks of greenhouse gases deserve attention in proportion to their effective net contribution to climate change.
- (v) New and additional financial resources as well as effective modalities for favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including on concessional and preferential terms are elements central to the obligations corresponding to developing countries in the framework convention.