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**METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES**

**GUIDELINES UNDER ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

**Report on intersessional consultations on registries**

**Note by the Chair of the consultations**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 19/CP.7, requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to develop technical standards for the purpose of ensuring the accurate, transparent and efficient exchange of data between national registries, the clean development mechanism (CDM) registry and the transaction log, with a view to recommending to the COP, at its eighth session, a decision on this matter, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its first session, to facilitate the early development and establishment of national registries, as well as of the CDM registry and transaction log.

2. By the same decision, the COP also requested the Chairman of the SBSTA, with the assistance of the secretariat, to convene intersessional consultations with Parties and experts for the purposes of:

(a) Preparing draft technical standards for consideration by the SBSTA at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions;

(b) Providing for the exchange of information and experience between Parties included in Annex I and Parties not included in Annex I, as well as the secretariat, in relation to the development and establishment of national registries, the CDM registry and the transaction log (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.2).

### B. Scope of the note

3. This report provides information on intersessional consultations on registries convened by the Chair of the SBSTA, who requested Mr. Murray Ward (New Zealand) to chair them on his behalf. This report identifies major issues discussed during consultations on registries held from 2 to 3 June 2002 in Bonn, Germany. These issues included modalities for continuing the work on technical standards for national registries, the CDM registry and the transaction log through the intersessional consultations.

4. The SBSTA may wish to consider the information in this report and give further guidance to the Chair in relation to modalities for continuing the work on this issue.

## II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSULTATIONS

5. The consultations on registries were attended by approximately 60 representatives of Parties and organizations. A technical paper on registries under the Kyoto Protocol was prepared by the secretariat as a background document for the consultations (FCCC/TP/2002/3). This paper, and all presentations made during the consultations, are available on the UNFCCC web site (see <http://unfccc.int/sessions/workshops.html>).

6. The consultations started out with an update on the state of development of national registries under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol. The participants considered the nature and scope of the technical standards to be developed and possible elements which such standards should address. Finally, consideration was given to how the technical standards might be developed, with a view to the COP adopting a decision on them at its eighth session.

### A. Update on the development of national registries

7. The results of a questionnaire, circulated by the secretariat to Annex I Parties with a commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, were presented and discussed at the consultations. Twenty-four Parties completed this questionnaire. These replies indicate that most Parties are in the early stages of developing their national registries and considering the required technical standards. Most Parties are

looking to complete the design of their national registries by 2004 and their construction by 2005. Further details may be found in section II of the technical paper.

8. Presentations were made by Bulgaria, the European Community, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the work they are conducting, or planning to conduct, in developing their national registries. France presented work on a model of a national registry and the United Kingdom presented the registry implemented for its domestic emissions trading scheme. The presentations elaborated on broader issues in relation to registries, including domestic policy choices, the usefulness of learning from registry systems in other areas, and legislative and institutional considerations.

9. During the discussions, a number of Parties expressed interest in cooperation between Parties on national registries, including through a model national registry being made available to other Parties or through opportunities to consolidate their national registries with those of other Parties.

#### **B. Possible elements of the technical standards**

10. The discussion of the nature and scope of the technical standards drew attention to the need for Parties to develop registries to suit their individual circumstances and policies. Many Parties noted that technical standards, as adopted by the COP, should focus on aspects relevant to the exchange of data between registries and between registries and the transaction log.

11. The consultations discussed a number of possible elements that could be addressed by the technical standards. These included, in particular, the formats of serial numbers, account numbers and transaction numbers; the sequence and content of messages to be exchanged; communication protocols; and security standards. Other possible elements were raised, including internal verification procedures; public accessibility; language interfaces; user interfaces; data storage; and standards for registry administrators. A number of Parties stated that technical standards are only required for number formats, messaging and security.

#### **C. Process for developing the technical standards**

12. Many Parties stressed the need for the COP to define the technical standards at its eighth session in order to provide sufficient clarity for the development of national registries, the CDM registry and the transaction log. Parties also felt that the technical standards to be adopted by the COP would be best defined as performance standards to be met. Some Parties recognized that such standards may require elaboration to allow their coordinated implementation in national registries. In this context, some Parties raised the need to specify information in relation to the technical standards that may be reported under Article 7, paragraph 1, and reviewed under Article 8.

13. Parties recognized the need to involve technical experts, in their own countries as well as through the secretariat, in the development of technical standards prior to the eighth session of the COP.

14. The participants at the consultations suggested that it would be desirable for Mr. Ward, in his role as Chair of the intersessional consultations on registries, to prepare an informal paper on possible technical standards by the end of the sixteenth session of the SBSTA as a basis for Parties to seek technical advice from their experts. Parties would provide comments on this informal paper to the secretariat which, with the assistance of technical experts, would prepare a working paper as a basis for discussion at further intersessional consultations prior to the seventeenth session of the SBSTA. Parties stressed the need for their own technical experts to be present at such consultations.

15. In the course of consultations, draft technical standards could be prepared for consideration by the SBSTA at its seventeenth session. Some Parties also felt that further consideration would need to be given to a process beyond the eighth session of the COP to further elaborate the technical standards.

16. Mr. Ward stressed the need for Parties to contribute resources to the UNFCCC Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities to allow the work on technical standards to advance. Such resources would be necessary for the secretariat to obtain the necessary technical assistance and to organize intersessional consultations prior to the seventeenth session of the SBSTA. The COP, by its decision 38/CP.7, invited Parties to make contributions to that Trust Fund in 2002 and 2003, including for the work on technical standards on registries and the development of the transaction log.

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