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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Eighteenth session

Bonn, 4–13 June 2003

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

**FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATING TO PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I
TO THE CONVENTION**

PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**Views of Parties on experience with the Global Environment Facility or its implementing agencies
in relation to the preparation of national communications**

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its seventeenth session, took note of the information contained in the report by the secretariat on its activities to facilitate the provision of financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) (FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.11) and in the report provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, on its activities in support of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBI/2002/INF.12). It invited Parties to submit views to the secretariat on their experiences with the GEF or its implementing agencies in relation to the preparation of their national communications, and requested the secretariat to compile the information received and make it available to the SBI (FCCC/SBI/2002/17, para. 21 (f)–(g)).
2. The secretariat has received one submission. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

BOLIVIA: SUBMISSION ON NON-ANNEX I NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In accordance with the conclusion of the SBI 17 in relation to the Provision of Financial and Technical Support (FCCC/SBI/2002/17, paragraph 21 (f)), Bolivia is pleased to submit the following views on their experiences with the GEF:

Bolivia wishes to express its appreciation for the technical and financial support that was provided by the GEF, between 1998 and 2000, for the preparation of its initial national communications and the top-up activities. This support enabled Bolivia to develop some of the national capacities required for the implementation of the UNFCCC.

Unfortunately, with regard to the preparation of the second national communication, the GEF has not provided Bolivia with the required financial support as approved by COP 7 in relation to national communications.

COP decision 32/CP.7, paragraph 4, stipulates that “non-Annex I Parties wishing to start the preparation of their subsequent national communications may do so using the initial guidelines as set out in the decisions 10/CP.2 and 2/CP.4”. This decision implied that those Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that had presented their initial national communications could, after Marrakesh, begin the preparation of their second national communication (SNC) using the existing guidelines (Annex to decision 10/CP.2). In line with this, Bolivia presented its proposal for the preparation of the second national communication to the GEF during 2002 following the existing guidelines and through the proper channels. The GEF regional office and the GEF secretariat reviewed and revised the proposal for more than six months. During this time a number of corrections required by the GEF, involving time and human and financial resources, were made to the proposal.

After spending all this time and using other resources on this project in order to complete all of the GEF requirements, Bolivia was informed that it had to wait for the improved guidelines that would be adopted at COP8. Therefore, Bolivia's request for funding was not approved.

Decision 17/CP.8 paragraph 1 (a) is flexible with non-Annex I Parties that “have initiated the process of preparing their second national communications and received funding under the expedited procedure or on an agreed full cost basis prior to the approval of the improved guideline, to use the initial guidelines”. It would appear that the GEF has continued to ignore this decision in the case of Bolivia.

Since decision 2/CP.7 on capacity building in non-Annex I Parties stipulates that the preparation of national communications should build capacity in these Parties, it is crucial that the GEF provide immediate support for the preparation of the second national communications; especially to those Parties that have already presented their proposals. This support is necessary for the sustainability of the processes initiated by the Climate Change Offices in those countries.

Bolivia calls upon the GEF and its implementing agencies to be more vigilant in allowing developing country Parties access to the financial resources urgently needed for the preparation of the second national communications and to prioritize actions in the shortest time possible to fund those non-Annex I countries that have already submitted their proposals to the GEF.

Bolivia, March 31, 2003
