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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Provision of financial and technical support

**Report on the workshop on the preparation of national communications from
Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

A workshop on the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) was attended by experts from Parties and representatives of the multilateral and bilateral agencies that facilitate and provide financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications. Participants identified several important needs and concerns which would require immediate action to facilitate and enhance the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

At the twentieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, Parties may wish to provide guidance on the activities, programmes and projects that would facilitate the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 17/CP.8, requested the secretariat to facilitate assistance to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in the preparation of their national communications, in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 2 (c), of the Convention, and to prepare reports thereon for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) (FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.2).
2. Accordingly, the secretariat, in close collaboration with the Government of the Philippines as host, organized a workshop on the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties in Manila, Philippines, from 26 to 30 April 2004. The objectives of the workshop were: to inform non-Annex I Parties on the use of the UNFCCC guidelines and user manual for the preparation of their national communications; to facilitate exchange of information on financial and technical support, including information on the procedures for accessing financial resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the support to be provided by its implementing agencies; to facilitate the development of project proposals for the preparation of national communications; and to identify other specific needs and concerns relating to the preparation of national communications and recommend ways to meet them.

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

3. The SBI may wish to take note of the report and recommendations contained therein, with a view to providing guidance on how to address the needs and concerns raised, and to facilitating the preparation of second national communications.
4. The SBI may also wish to provide further guidance on the facilitation and provision of financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.
5. The SBI may further wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat for its future work in facilitating the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

II. Proceedings

6. The workshop was attended by 99 experts representing 47 non-Annex I Parties, three Annex I Parties and 11 multilateral, bilateral and other organizations. The expertise of participants covered the main areas of a national communication, including national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, vulnerability and adaptation, and mitigation. The workshop was supported by funding from the Governments of Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America, the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and the Government of the Philippines.
7. The workshop was officially opened by Ms. Elisea Gozun, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Government of the Philippines. Also in attendance at the opening were representatives of the Government of the Philippines; the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in the Philippines and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Ms. Deborah Landey); and the Philippine Representative of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (Mr. Celso Diaz).
8. Ms. Gozun welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the workshop, which would facilitate the exchange of information on issues relating to climate change in developing countries. She stressed that climate change is a global challenge and that its effects are already being experienced in

the Philippines. She underscored the important steps that the Philippines had taken in developing and strengthening the institutions that are involved in the implementation of the Convention.

9. Mr. Julian Amador, Director of the Philippines Environmental Management Bureau, was elected as the Chair of the workshop. He was assisted by Ms. Joyceline Goco, Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, and Mr. José Villarín (Philippines Observatory). Mr. Philip Acquah (Ghana), Ms. Gwendoline Sissiou (Papua New Guinea), Mr. Jae-Kyu Lim (Republic of Korea), Ms. Julia Martínez (Mexico) and Mr. Rawlestone Moore (Barbados) were selected as rapporteurs for the sessions on GHG inventories, measures to facilitate adaptation, mitigation, other information, and financial and technical support, respectively.

10. In welcoming the participants, the Chair indicated that the objective of the workshop was to improve the process of preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, and to launch the second round of national communications from these Parties. He made particular note of the importance of several methods and tools that are now available for use by the Parties in preparing their national communications. He also acknowledged the excellent support provided by the host government and the UNFCCC secretariat.

11. The workshop agenda was organized following the main themes of national communications: national GHG inventories; steps taken or envisaged by Parties to implement the Convention (vulnerability and adaptation, mitigation); other information considered relevant for the achievement of the objective of the Convention (transfer of technologies, research and systematic observation, education, training and public awareness, capacity-building, information and networking); constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs; and the activities, programmes and projects that facilitate and provide financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications. The secretariat and invited experts/resource persons made presentations on each of these themes, covering both the methodological issues and reporting elements, and financial and technical issues.

12. The presentation sessions were followed by general discussions of the issues, needs and concerns raised, and of a set of recommendations made to address these needs and concerns. These recommendations are included in the following sections of the report.

13. Background information available to participants included a copy of the Mauritius workshop report (FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.2) and a copy of decision 17/CP.8 containing the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. The presentations and other documents were copied onto CD-ROMs and distributed to participants at the end of the workshop. The presentations, as well as the list of participants and other information, are available on the UNFCCC web site (<http://unfccc.int/sessions/workshops.html>).

III. Main themes of national communication and recommendations

A. Reporting

14. The secretariat gave an introductory presentation on the commitments of all Parties pertaining to the provision of information to the COP in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and informed participants that the new guidelines (decision 17/CP.8) reflect the reporting requirements of relevant decisions of the COP, and supercede the guidelines annexed to decision 10/CP.2. The secretariat also informed the participants that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) would include hands-on training in its work programme and that the decision on submission of national communications from non-Annex I Parties is yet to be determined by the COP.

15. Participants noted that information to be provided in the section on national circumstances should be linked to the various sections of the national communications and to the relevant conventions and protocols.

16. Mr. Luis Santos (Uruguay) talked about the experience in the preparation of Uruguay's second national communication using the new guidelines contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8.

17. The following sections summarize the issues and concerns raised in the presentations and the discussions, and outline the recommendations made by the participants.

B. National greenhouse gas inventories

18. The following presentations were made under this theme:

- Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines and emission factor database (Mr. Kyoto Tanabe, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC))
- IPCC good practice guidance and uncertainty management in national GHG inventories and IPCC good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry (Mr. Leandro Buendia, IPCC)
- Resources: sectors, data, information, financial and technical services and support (Mr. José Villarín, Philippines, and Mr. Samuel Adejuwon, Nigeria)

19. After the presentations participants discussed their needs and concerns in this area and made the following recommendations:

- (a) The secretariat should develop, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, subject to availability of resources, a central repository of information, tools and methods for GHG inventories for dissemination to non-Annex I Parties;
- (b) The secretariat is requested to promote actions to facilitate the preparation of GHG inventories including training and information sharing;
- (c) Reporting on gaps relating to GHG inventories is important in order to facilitate the identification of capacity-building needs as well as the related financial requirements;
- (d) Experts and institutions from non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to use the emission factors from the IPCC emission factor database (EFDB) and, where appropriate, provide information on their national emission factors to the EFDB.

C. Measures to facilitate adequate adaptation

20. The following presentations were made under this theme:

- Methodologies for, approaches to, and frameworks of, vulnerability and adaptation assessment (Ms. Isabelle Niang-Diop, Senegal)
- Modelling climate change impacts and response measures: policy issues, resources and technical requirements (Ms. Xianfu Lu, Tyndall Centre, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- National adaptation programmes of action: immediate needs and concerns, technical requirements and resource mobilization (Ms. Madeleine Diouf, Senegal)

- UNDP adaptation policy framework (APF): overview of materials and overview of adaptation policy framework training strategy (Bill Dougherty, Stockholm Environment Institute-Boston)
- Adaptation policy framework: perspectives in the context of second national communications – Central American project and other initiatives (Mr. Luis Paz, Cuba)
- Panel discussion on the experience of using the APF in building capacity for adaptation in Panama (Mr. Eduardo Reyes), Honduras (Ms. Mirza Castro), Nicaragua (Mr. Freddy Picado) and Cuba (Mr. Luis Paz)

21. After the presentations participants discussed their needs and concerns in this area and made the following recommendations:

- (a) Existing software, tools, methods and models for vulnerability and adaptation assessments (e.g. the PRECIS model from the Hadley Centre) should be made readily available to non-Annex I Parties by modelling centres and institutions. In order to facilitate the dissemination of the tools, methods and software, the workshop participants requested the secretariat to develop a central repository from which the tools and methods can be disseminated to non-Annex I Parties, subject to the availability of resources. Annex II Parties in a position to do so are invited to contribute financial resources to this important exercise;
- (b) The level of financial and technical resources made available for vulnerability and adaptation assessments should be commensurate with the specific needs and concerns identified by non-Annex I Parties;
- (c) To facilitate the efficient and effective use of the section on measures to facilitate adequate adaptation of the UNFCCC guidelines, the secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, should expand and further elaborate this section of the manual;
- (d) The development and use of models and tools in vulnerability and adaptation assessment should take into account the issues relating to intellectual property rights, particularly at the local community levels and those that include the use of traditional knowledge;
- (e) The project approval process for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action by least developed countries and the preparation of second national communications should be streamlined and acted upon as soon as possible by the respective implementing agencies of the GEF;
- (f) The agency responsible for development of the APF should provide, through guidelines and other means, further clarification on the expected outputs/products, its potential for synergy with other initiatives and practices, its utility in addressing other impacts identified in the IPCC Third Assessment Report and its potential for integrating traditional knowledge and practices;
- (g) Further work on the APF should include development of methods for assessing the impact of climate change on sustainable development, millennium development goals and poverty reduction strategies at national and regional levels;
- (h) The possibilities of replicating APF in other regions should be explored by UNDP and other collaborating organizations.

D. Measures to mitigate climate change

22. The following presentations were made under this theme:

- Resources: sectors, data, information, financial and technical services and support (Mr. Vute Wangwacharakul, Thailand)
- Efforts by Mexico to mitigate climate change (Ms. Julia Martínez, Mexico)

23. After the presentations participants discussed their needs and concerns in this area and made the following recommendations:

(a) Training on the use of models and tools for mitigation analyses and on the development of mitigation scenarios should be provided by bilateral and multilateral support programmes; the secretariat is requested to facilitate the provision of such training;

(b) Background information on the incorporation of private sector mitigation programmes or projects should be provided in national communications.

E. Other information relating to national communications

1. Research and systematic observation

24. Participants noted the information provided on the recent developments under the agenda of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in the area of research and systematic observation. Parties are encouraged to report on research and systematic observation in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines (FCCC/CP/1999/7).

2. Technology transfer

25. Some Parties have conducted and submitted to the secretariat technology needs assessments, even though they are not obliged to do so. They also expressed concern that the top-up funds made available under the enabling activities Phase II was not sufficient to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their technology needs.

26. Some participants indicated the importance of private sector involvement in technology development and assessment. Other participants described their experience in conducting technology needs assessment and indicated the voluntary private sector participation in their technology needs assessment.

3. Capacity-building

27. Participants noted that the initial scope of needs as contained in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries provides the basis for actions to be undertaken in order to implement the Convention and to prepare for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

4. Education, training and public awareness

28. Participants underscored the importance of climate change education, training and public awareness, and noted the progress made on the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. They also emphasized the importance of providing resources to facilitate the implementation of the work programme (and facilitate the dissemination of material already produced by non-Annex I Parties) at the national and regional levels.

5. Information and networking

29. Mr. Jack Fitzgerald, United States of America, gave a presentation on information and networking as stipulated in the UNFCCC guidelines.

30. After the presentation participants discussed their needs and concerns in this area and recommended that a template within the user manual prepared by the secretariat on the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties be developed and disseminated by the secretariat in order to facilitate the reporting of information on research and systematic observation, technology transfer, capacity-building, technology transfer, education, training and public awareness, and information and networking in their national communications.

F. Financial and technical support

31. The following presentations were made under this item:

- Development of project proposals for second national communications – lessons learned (Mr. Ravi Sharma, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP))
- GEF/UNDP/UNEP National Communications Programme for Climate Change (Ms. Rebecca Carman, UNDP)
- GEF operational procedures for funding the preparation of second national communication (Mr. Yamil Bonduki, UNDP)
- Regional projects for capacity-building for improving the quality of greenhouse gas inventories in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (Ms. Katarina Mareckova, UNDP)
- The Climate Adaptation Programme for the Pacific (CLIMAP) (Mr. Edy Brotoisworo, Asian Development Bank)
- WMO activities relating to climate change (Mr. Buruhani Nyenzi, World Meteorological Organization (WMO))
- Capacity-building for stage II adaptation to climate change in Central America, Mexico and Cuba (Mr. Emilio Sempris, Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC))
- SPREP's activities in assisting Pacific island countries (Mr. Andre Volentras, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP))
- APN's mission, structure and ongoing project activities (Mr. Samuel Peñafiel, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN))
- Climate change programmes and activities of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (Ms. Linda Stevenson)
- Canada Climate Change Development Fund (CCCDF) (Mr. Satender Singh, Canada)
- Bilateral support programme for small island developing States in the Caribbean region (Ms. Mervi Kultamaa, Finland)

32. Participants were informed that the GEF operational procedures for expedited funding of national communications would require the mandatory stocktaking exercise as well as the monitoring and evaluation. They also noted that the operational procedures, as presented, permit resources to be allocated based on country-specific needs and concerns. The National Communications Support Programme (NCSP), as a global project, would facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of national communications, and provide technical support to respond to needs and concerns of these Parties in preparing their national communications.

33. The GEF, which is directly responsible to the COP on matters relating to the implementation of the NCSP, was not available to address concerns raised on the implementation of the global project or the recourse available to Parties on problems that may arise on the use of expedited procedures for national communications.

34. The recommendations made by participants include the following:

(a) The GEF should make clear to non-Annex I Parties that two options (expedited procedures and full-size project) are available for funding the preparation of national communications, and that Parties have the freedom to decide on the most suitable option;

(b) A decision on the option for funding national communications (expedited procedures or full-size project) should be taken upon completion of the stocktaking exercise;

(c) In implementing the global project on national communications from non-Annex I parties, the NCSP should develop and, where necessary, strengthen its partnerships with regional climate change centres and centres of excellence in the delivery of technical support to non-Annex I Parties in order to facilitate the provision of technical support for the preparation of national communications.

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