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

**Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

**Report on the activities of the Consultative Group of Experts
on National Communications from Parties not included
in Annex I to the Convention**

**Note by the Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention***

Summary

This document contains the report on the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), particularly on the requests from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for the group to take stock of the implementation of its work programme for 2003–2007 and to provide technical advice on the availability and use of tools and methodologies for bottom-up approaches to vulnerability and adaptation assessments. The CGE also examined the initial national communications submitted from 2 April 2005 and discussed its cooperation with other expert groups and international organizations.

* This document has been submitted late in order to include the report of the eighth meeting of the CGE, held from 1 to 3 March 2007.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 3/CP.8, mandated the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) to provide technical advice to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).

B. Scope of the note

2. This note contains the report of the CGE on its eighth meeting, held in Belize City, Belize, from 1 to 3 March 2007. The outcomes of the stocktaking exercise of the work of the CGE for the period 2003–2007 and possible elements for a future role for the group in facilitating the improvement of national communications from non-Annex I Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBI/2007/10/Add.1.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

3. The SBI, after having considered the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the CGE, may wish to provide guidance on the future work of the group.

II. Implementation of the work plan for 2007 of the Consultative Group of Experts

4. Ms. Lilian Portillo chaired the eighth meeting of the CGE, which was attended by 16 members. The objectives were to prepare technical reports requested by the SBI at its twenty-fifth session and to examine the national communications submitted by non-Annex I Parties to the secretariat from 2 April 2005. The meeting was made possible through the financial support provided by the Government of Canada.

5. In response to the requests from the SBI for technical advice, the CGE has prepared the following reports for the twenty-sixth session of the SBI:

- (a) Template on cross-cutting themes in national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (FCCC/SBI/2007/3);
- (b) Cost-effective and comprehensive training strategy to support the preparation of national communications (FCCC/SBI/2007/6);
- (c) Ways to improve the reporting of projects identified in national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (FCCC/SBI/2007/7).

A. Stocktaking exercise of the work programme for 2003–2007

6. The SBI, at its twenty-fifth session, requested the CGE to take stock of the implementation of its work programme for 2003–2007 and to identify possible elements for a future role for the group in facilitating the improvement of national communications from non-Annex I Parties and to report to the SBI at its twenty-sixth session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, para. 28). In order to assist the group in its deliberations, a task group was formed within the CGE to prepare the draft document based on initial inputs from members.

7. The report on the outcomes of the stocktaking exercise for the period 2003–2007 contains an overview of the achievements of the CGE in implementing its work programme, for example the organization of hands-on training workshops on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessments and mitigation assessments. It also contains an overview of the technical advice that the group provided to the SBI and of its cooperation with other expert groups and the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

8. In taking stock of the implementation of its work programme and the additional mandates provided by the SBI, the CGE noted its accomplishments and the activities it has carried out to provide technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in improving the preparation of their national communications.

B. Examination of initial national communications

9. The SBI, at its twenty-fourth session, requested the CGE to examine the national communications submitted to the secretariat from 2 April 2005 and to report to the SBI at its twenty-seventh session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, para. 25). To date, the secretariat has received the initial national communications of the following non-Annex I Parties: Bahrain, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Tonga, the United Arab Emirates and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. A total of 134 non-Annex I Parties have submitted their initial national communications, three non-Annex I Parties have submitted second national communications (Republic of Korea, Mexico and Uruguay) and Mexico has submitted its third national communication.

10. The thematic groups of the CGE on GHG inventories, mitigation, V&A assessments and cross-cutting themes met to discuss the format for reporting the outcomes of the examination of initial national communications and the timetable for the preparation of the report. In examining the national communications, the thematic groups will analyse the needs, gaps and challenges encountered by non-Annex I Parties in using the tools and methodologies to prepare the national communications. The thematic groups will also provide their insights and recommendations to assist Parties to improve the preparation of future national communications.

III. Actions in response to requests from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

A. Role of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

11. The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which was concluded by Parties at the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice, included a provision for to the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report that includes relevant outputs from the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the CGE and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paras. 34 and 57). It also included a provision that these expert groups under the Convention be engaged in the implementation of the work programme. The secretariat will synthesize the following information relating to the work of the CGE:

- (a) Existing and emerging assessment methodologies and tools, and views on lessons learned from their application; opportunities, gaps, needs, constraints and barriers; possible ways to develop and better disseminate methods and tools; and training opportunities;

- (b) Adaptation approaches, strategies, practices and technologies for adaptation at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as experiences, needs and concerns.

12. The inputs to the synthesis report will be taken from the reports of the CGE on the outcomes of the examination of the initial national communications, feedback and recommendations made by the participants at the hands-on training workshops, the training materials and the technical reports of the group to the SBI. The CGE noted that the information contained in national communications and the reports of the CGE will be useful inputs to the Nairobi work programme and will assist Parties in improving their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and help them make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures in response to climate change.

13. The CGE, in identifying its future role in improving the preparation of national communications, determined that it can contribute to achieving the goals of the Nairobi work programme through technical advice to the SBI on methodologies, tools and processes relating to the conduct of vulnerability and adaptation assessments, as provided for in the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties (decision 17/CP.8).

B. Workshop on exchange of experiences and good practices among Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in preparing national communications and on cross-cutting issues

14. At its twenty-fifth session, the SBI endorsed the efforts of the CGE to implement its work programme for 2007 and noted the need to conduct a workshop on exchange of experiences and good practices among non-Annex I Parties in preparing national communications and on cross-cutting issues (FCCC/SBI/2006/28, para. 26). This workshop will involve project coordinators of national communications and experts working on the various sections of national communications, and will have the following objectives:

- (a) To exchange information among experts on good practices in preparing national communications in areas such as the establishment of management systems, promotion of regional cooperation, national communications in the context of national development planning, and capacity-building to ensure continuity of the work on national communications;
- (b) To provide guidance to experts from non-Annex I Parties on how to report information under the section "Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention" in the national communications by using the template prepared by the CGE.

15. The CGE will prepare country case studies highlighting good practices such as a sustainable process for the preparation of national communications, regional cooperation, and the establishment and updating of databases. The country case studies will focus on managing the systems, institutions and processes used in preparing national communications and will be presented at the workshop as a basis for discussions.

C. Provision of technical advice to Parties on the availability and use of tools and methodologies for bottom-up approaches to vulnerability and adaptation assessments

16. At COP 12, the Government of Australia offered to organize a workshop to assist the Pacific Island countries in developing projects, including those projects identified in the national communications and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), to ensure that assistance provided is sustainable and appropriately targeted. The CGE agreed to collaborate with the Government

of Australia by presenting at the workshop its technical report on ways to improve the reporting of projects identified in national communications from non-Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBI/2007/7).

17. The SBI, at its twenty-fifth session, requested the CGE through the secretariat, within its existing work programme, in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the NCSP and other international organizations, to continue to provide technical advice to Parties on the availability and use of tools and methodologies for bottom-up approaches on V&A assessments (FCCC/SBI/2006/28, para. 22). In response to this request, the CGE will explore the possibility of collaborating with the NCSP to organize a workshop in 2007 which will introduce tools and methodologies on bottom-up approaches in V&A assessments.

IV. Status of cooperation of the Consultative Group of Experts with other expert groups and the National Communications Support Programme

A. Cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention

18. The Chairs of the CGE and the LEG met during COP 12 to discuss the development of a template on cross-cutting themes that has been prepared by the CGE, a joint technical report on how to integrate information contained in NAPAs into the national communications, and general adaptation issues. The joint technical report will be presented to the SBI at its twenty-seventh session.

19. The CGE saw the need to collaborate with the EGTT in providing technical assistance to Parties on how to improve the reporting of projects identified in national communications. In particular, the CGE welcomed the publication of a guidebook by the EGTT on preparing technology transfer projects for financing, recognizing that this will be a useful tool for non-Annex I Parties as they develop projects identified in their national communications.

B. Cooperation with the National Communications Support Programme

20. The Chair of the CGE represented the group at the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the NCSP held in New York, United States of America, on 27 February 2007. At the meeting, the CGE and the NCSP presented their work programmes for 2007 and identified possible areas of collaboration in the implementation of activities, particularly in the organization of training workshops and the provision of technical advice to Parties. The Advisory Committee noted that the provision of financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications will have an impact on quality of national communications and the timing of their submissions. It was decided that the Advisory Committee would meet every six months in order to strengthen the collaboration between the CGE and the NCSP.

21. The NCSP presented the results of its activities for the last two years, for example the publication and dissemination of guidance materials and tools to assist experts as they prepare their GHG inventories and V&A assessments. The workshops of the NCSP to initiate the preparation of national communications and the workshops on adaptation and mitigation have provided experts from non-Annex I Parties with the tools and methodologies needed to prepare national communications. Additional training workshops are scheduled in 2007 in response to requests from other non-Annex I Parties that were unable to send experts to the previous training workshops. In addition to the publications and training workshops, the NCSP has provided technical support and developed knowledge networks to facilitate the sharing of experiences among experts and to respond to specific technical queries.

22. The NCSP reported that as of January 2007, 110 non-Annex I Parties have their projects for second national communications approved by the implementing agencies, while 20 non-Annex I Parties are currently undertaking self-assessment and developing the second national communications project document. Of the 110 approved projects, 39 are from the Africa region, 30 from the Latin America and

the Caribbean region, 27 from the Asia and the Pacific region and 14 from Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region.

23. The CGE acknowledged the role of the NCSP in providing technical support to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of national communications and in complementing the work of the CGE. The CGE sees the need to further strengthen its cooperation with the NCSP through regular exchanges of plans and activities.

V. Conclusions

24. The CGE has completed successfully its work programme for 2003–2007 which was based on the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision 3/CP.8. Technical advice was provided to the SBI through the reports of the group, and technical assistance was provided to Parties through the regional hands-on training workshops. It would not have been possible to achieve the tasks outlined in the CGE work programme without the financial and logistical support provided by Parties, particularly the Parties that hosted the training workshops. The technical support provided by the NCSP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UNDP, UNEP and other international organizations also contributed to the successful implementation of the CGE work programme.
