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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-sixth session

Bonn, 7–18 May 2007

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda
Methodological issues under the Convention
Greenhouse gas data interface

Views on the greenhouse gas emissions data interface, on possible improvements, including the extent of its scope and coverage, and on next steps in progressing work on the data interface

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the eight submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.9, one further submission has been received.
2. 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.

FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.9/Add.1

GE.07-60705

SUBMISSION FROM SAUDI ARABIA

**REVIEW OF METHODOLOGICAL WORK UNDER THE
CONVENTION AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**
Views on a possible data interface and other concerns

REFERENCE:

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 30 July 2004, their views on a possible data interface and other issues raised in document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/ INF.9. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to provide a synthesis of the view of Parties on options for development of a data interface, as contained in the above document.

The SBSTA decided to continue consideration of this issue at its twenty-first session.

INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia would like to thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for their valuable effort and welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on a possible data interface and other issues that have been addressed in the above-mentioned document. Since methodological work underlies the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, such data interfaces will contribute to pursuing the ultimate objective of the Convention if implemented with a comprehensive and strategic perspective. To this end, Saudi Arabia would like to submit its views on this matter.

GENERAL

We agree it is striking that after ten years of the Convention's entry into force, we still do not have the capacity to answer basic questions. We are, however, concerned that some of the basic question may still not be answered after the development of a data interface.

CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED

In order for the data interface to enable such questions to be answered efficiently, Saudi Arabia suggests that it should include the following basic building blocks:

The Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities must be considered in developing and contributing to this interface. This means that only Annex I parties would be requested to participate in this program, for the benefit of all.

Every effort must be made to ensure the transfer of technology to developing countries to enable them to benefit from this new tool.

Resources for improvement in the institutional capacity of developing countries with regard to data access and management. Resources must be targeted for greater efficiency, in close cooperation with the GEF.

This data interface will need to lead to greater transparency of the Convention process, making it open to scrutiny by individual parties and the COP.

This interface must lead to the development of Win-Win policies and measures that have long been requested by developing countries. National Communications submitted by Annex I parties should include win-win policies and measures that would meet both the need to reduce emission and the need to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country parties, especially those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Convention. Future work should be done in a way that Parties, relevant organizations and practitioners could submit their views to the secretariat for compilation to be considered by the Subsidiary Body for Science and Technological Advice for the development of these guidelines.

The interface should take into consideration, in a transparent and quantifiable manner, methodologies to assist developing countries to examine their vulnerability to terms of trade and socioeconomic impacts in order to improve the effectiveness of current activities for assessing the impact of implemented response measures in a portfolio of approaches. In addition, factors, such as market approaches (taxes, subsidies, and cap-and-trade), regulations and research and development also need to be included in the assessments in order to properly assess the effects of policies.

This data interface should include methodologies, to be developed in collaboration with Intergovernmental Organizations such as OPEC to assess the impacts on developing countries of policies already implemented by Annex I parties.

Emphasis should be given to the potential spillover effects due to response measures taken by Annex I Parties.

CONCLUSION:

It should be noted that the concept of a development of a data interface should not be viewed as a tool to be used by Annex I in lieu of the submission of national communications or any other obligations. Likewise, this data interface should not implicate the involvement of non-Annex I parties in its development or participation.
