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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Twenty-seventh session**

**Bali, 3–11 December 2007**

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

**Views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

**Submissions from Parties**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-fifth session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 21 September 2007, their views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, para. 28).
2. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration at its twenty-seventh session, with a view to making recommendations, as appropriate (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, para. 29).
3. The secretariat has received ten such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced\* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

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\* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

**FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.25**

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\* This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

PAPER NO. 1: AUSTRALIA

**Submission by Australia to the UNFCCC**

**Views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation**

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share its views on the need for an experts group for the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (NWP), as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its twenty-fifth session.

Australia is open to discussing an experts group for the NWP, and acknowledges the valuable role that such groups have performed in other areas of the UNFCCC's work. In considering this proposal, however, we have identified some substantive issues which would need to be resolved for us to support such a group. These issues include:

- The size of the experts group. The NWP covers a diverse range of adaptation activities targeted at different regions and institutional levels. To effectively cover all of these issues, a large group of experts would seem to be necessary. This is unlikely to be feasible, however, in view of administrative and cost considerations which would necessitate a smaller and more manageable group.
- The focus of the experts group. Given the breadth of issues and expertise needed for successfully implementing the NWP, the mandate for the group would need to clearly identify and target those areas where it can add value. An unfocused mandate could result in the group adding an extra and unnecessary layer of review before the consideration of issues by SBSTA and the Conference of the Parties.
- The group's relationship with other expert bodies would need to be clarified. Some expert consideration of adaptation issues is already occurring through existing UNFCCC expert groups on topics within their purview. For example, the Expert Group on Technology Transfer can advise on the transfer of adaptation technology, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on the specific adaptation needs of Least Developed Countries.
- Whether alternative options which may be more efficient and effective. Expert advice on some adaptation matters could be provided, for example, through the existing expert groups mentioned above, and if additional guidance is required, this could be obtained as necessary through ad-hoc expert process on specific issues. Experts could also be drawn from organisations already identified as active in areas relevant to the NWP, according to their areas of expertise. This process would provide access to expert advice, without the costs associated with maintaining a large and permanent NWP experts group.

Until these issues are resolved, it is not clear that a NWP experts group would add value to the implementation of the work programme. We look forward to considering Parties' submissions on this important matter and to discussing this issue at COP 13.

**China's Views on the Need for a Group of Experts  
and its Role in the Implementation and Further Development of  
the Five-year Programme of Work**

China welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the need for a group of experts and the role that this group could have in the implementation and further development of the five-year programme of work, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/L.26. In accordance with this request, China submits the following views.

**I. The need for a group of experts**

Developing countries are the most vulnerable and expected to experience greater losses to climate change. Adaptation is one of the most serious and urgent challenges in developing countries. In order to strengthen the capacity on adaptation to climate change in developing countries, there is a need to establish a Group of Experts to promote the implementation of Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The purpose of the group of experts is to improve the process of implementation and further development of Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and adaptation work under UNFCCC by providing advice and support to Parties.

**II. The possible role of the group of expert**

1. The Group of Experts shall be mandated:

- (a) To identify and assess technological problems and constraints encountered by non-Annex I Parties that have affected the development and application of methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, and to make recommendations for their improvement;
- (b) To provide technical advice and support, by organizing and conducting workshops, including training workshops at the regional or subregional level, to enhance the

application and development of methodologies and tools for impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration into sustainable development plan;

- (c) To enhance the collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate variability and change, to enhance the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change;
- (d) To identify means to promote the understanding of impacts and vulnerability, and the implications for sustainable development;
- (e) To review existing practical adaptation actions and measures and provide advice and support on the development of a mechanism for promoting the development and diffusion of technologies, know-how, and practices for adaptation;
- (f) To provide advice to the SBSTA and SBI on matters relating to the implementation and further development of Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- (g) To provide advice to the SBSTA and SBI on matters relating to the work relevant to adaptation to climate change.

2. The Group of Experts shall encourage interaction on relevant technical issues among expert groups established under the Convention.

3. Recommendations of the Group of Experts shall be forwarded for considerations by the SBSTA and SBI.

PAPER NO. 3: JAMAICA

**SUBMISSION BY JAMAICA**

**Views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they would have in the implementation of the five-year programme of work**

**Introduction**

The Nairobi work programme on adaptation has invited view of Parties on the possible need for a group of expert for adaptation (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/L.26). Jamaica welcomes this opportunity to present its views.

The issue of adaptation has, since the entry into force of the Convention, taken a back seat to the issues relating to mitigation its more illustrious cousin. However, in recent times this dichotomy has waned and more recognition has been given to the realization of the relationship between mitigation and adaptation. As a result, there has been renewed and enhanced emphasis on adapting to climate change. There are several reasons for this historic situation with the most notable being that by reducing emissions to tolerable levels then there would be little or no need for adaptation to take place. Another notion was that the large emitters, both industrialized and developing countries, thought that their sheer size would not require them to have a large adaptative capacity as only small portion of their countries would be directly affected. However, changes in the frequency, magnitude and impacts of severe weather events have led to a paradigm shift in thinking as most countries have in recent years experienced at least one severe weather incident of humongous proportions. Adaptation has since become important not just for a few vulnerable small islands and low-lying coastal areas but for all Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

It is the view of Jamaica that a constituted body is required for the effective development and implementation of solutions for adapting to climate change not necessarily under the five-year programme of work but more importantly for the further development of future programmes.

The main reasons for this thinking are twofold. **(1)** Such a body (if formulated) would be able to maintain the focus that adapting to climate change would require under this and any future initiatives and **(2)** Experience has shown that in most cases a small dedicated group working for a common good towards a common goal stands a better chance of achieving success.

This body could have the follow characteristics:

1. Consists of a limited number of members about fifteen (15) members from **(a)** Parties to the Convention based on geographical representation with representations from AOSIS as practiced by the UNFCCC; **(b)** representatives of relevant international organizations and specialized UN agencies and **(c)** representatives of relevant civil and non-governmental organisations including Observer organizations.
2. Members served for two years and can be re-elected for a further two years;
3. Members would be responsible for the provision of advice to the SBSTA, SBI, COP and COP/MOP on matter relating to adaptation including appropriate methodologies, tools, scenarios, etc;
4. Be responsible for developing appropriate material for increasing the public awareness, public education and outreach with respect to adapting to climate change.
5. Be responsible with the assistance of consultants the develop of new and improved methodologies for developing adaptation measures;
6. Have a precise work-plan as to what would be address/achieved each year;
7. Life would be extended as required;
8. Group would establish task/working team with appropriate expertise as required;
9. Chairmanship would be rotated each year between Annex I and non-Annex I;
10. Would include a representative of the EGTT, CGE and LEG as ad-hoc members;
11. Meet bi-annually (first session at or before SBs and second session at or before COPs);
12. Would have an oversight function for the implementation of the programme of work as well as any other activities related to adaptation including making recommendations for the development and deployment of adaptation technologies and methodologies for preparing vulnerability and adaptation assessments for national communications or national adaptation plans of action(NAPAs);
13. Responsible for the maintenance of quality and standards in particular the avoidance of mal-adaptation;
14. Develop, evaluate and validate criteria for good practices in adaptation;
15. Develop an award process for rewarding good practices on a sector-by-sector basis;
16. Identify and document appropriate approaches and tool that are based on traditional knowledge with respect to adaptation;

This expert body if established will be able to, among other things, incorporate national, regional and international expertise and perspective into the decision making process of COP on adaptation. It would provide advice on funding issues as well as technical and scientific aspects of adaptation. The scope and mandate of the body will be wider than that of the NWP.

PAPER NO. 4: JAPAN

**JAPAN**

**Submission to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Responding to the invitation for the Parties from the SBSTA to submit to the Secretariat the views on possible need for a group of experts and the role that the group could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), the Government of Japan welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on those issues.

For this specific moment, the Government of Japan does not find any compelling reasons to create such a group of experts, particularly because:

1. Recognizable developments of the NWP implementation since its inception do not seem to provide us with sufficient and apparent necessity of establishing a group of experts as well as its task;
2. It is very likely that the tasks of such a group of experts would largely overlap with those of other existing groups of experts under the Convention (i.e. Consultative Group of Experts, Expert Group on Technology Transfer, Least developed country Expert Group); and
3. As extensive academic knowledge and practical experiences are required to formulate and implement adaptation measures in a well-coordinated and structured manner, a group of experts that consists of a limited number of experts has significant limitations to respond to wide-range of issues of and needs for adapting to climate change.

During the period for the implementation of the NWP, it is important to extend and reinforce the network related to adaptation works through exchanging knowledge and experiences with various experts, including the Parties, international organizations, research institutes and NGOs. In this regard, the workshops held in Cairo and Rome have provided us with a good example. In furthering the efforts under the NWP, it is crucial for the Secretariat to help reinforce the coordination among the works taken by such various group of stakeholders.

Therefore, Government of Japan proposes to reconsider this specific agenda on the need of such an expert group on adaptation when the NWP completes its current mandate at COP16 held in 2010.



**Submission by Mexico**

**Nairobi Program of Work on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to  
Climate Change –  
Expert Group**

**21 September 2007**

Mexico thanks the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work program.

The Nairobi Program of Work recognizes that addressing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is an immediate, as well as an ongoing, long-term challenge that is rapidly evolving, and sees that there is a need to ensure expert input into the implementation of the Program.

Mexico agrees with this assessment, and sees the value that constituted groups of experts have had, for instance for the items of national communications from non-annex I countries, least-developed countries, or the issue of technology transfer.

We consider that the inputs from an expert group for adaptation would help to achieve the evolution of the Nairobi work program from the current stock-taking stages towards an instrumental phase in which it becomes a tool for assisting Parties, and especially developing countries, to implement national adaptation strategies, actions and measures that effectively respond to climate change impacts.

We would expect that if this group is constituted, it will work under a very clear mandate to focus on addressing the actual implementation and up-scaling of adaptation strategies, actions and measures among the Parties, addressing relevant cross-cutting issues such as technology, capacity, and financing for adaptation.

PAPER NO. 6: NEW ZEALAND

**New Zealand submission under Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change: group of experts  
September 2007**

This submission responds to the invitation from SBSTA to provide views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 28 refers).

New Zealand notes that although COP11 in November 2005 adopted a decision on the SBSTA five year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in effect the activities under the Nairobi work programme which were agreed by SBSTA at its twenty-fifth session in November 2006 have only been underway for nine months. In this period of time Parties and other interested organisations have shared experiences and provided information through submissions into the process, one workshop has been held, and another is underway at the time that this submission is being prepared. We would also note the accessibility of information relevant to the Nairobi work programme, including from external organisations, available through the UNFCCC website's adaptation pages.

New Zealand would also note that in the organisation of the workshops under the Nairobi work programme, that so far the UNFCCC secretariat has made extensive use of experts at the country and sector level to ensure the workshops are productive and provide a real opportunity for exchanging experiences and views in order to be better able to respond to adaptation needs at the country and local level.

It is New Zealand's view that the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is only now gaining momentum, and it is too early in the programme to decide whether a group of experts is needed, and even more difficult to know what role such a group might have given that experts are already extensively involved in the work programme. This issue should be taken up at by SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session in conjunction with the need to identify further activities for the second half of the work programme. At this point we will have had more experience with the way the work programme is running and will be better placed to decide if a group of experts is needed.

PAPER NO. 7: PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES

## **SUBMISSION BY PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Croatia, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Ukraine and Serbia**

**Lisbon, 21<sup>st</sup> of September of 2007**

**Subject: Views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme**

Portugal, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and supported by Croatia, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Ukraine and Serbia, welcomes the opportunity to express its views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role it could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP).

The EU notes that the issue of a group of experts has been discussed at various occasions, the last times during the workshop in Cairo related to climate related risks and extreme events and in Rome related to adaptation planning and practices. The EU notes that while there is agreement on the need to ensure expert input into the implementation of the NWP, there is still no common view amongst experts and Parties whether this should be done through the establishment of a single specific expert group.

Building on this most recent debate, the issues raised by the EU in previous occasions still remain valid. Those issues relate to:

- Competences and expertise: The EU believes that given the wide scope of the NWP it would be difficult for one group to have the relevant comprehensive expertise needed for all areas of work;
- Added value: Experience showed that potential tasks to be performed by such an Expert Group are already being managed by the SBSTA, supported by the secretariat, in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Therefore any role of the group would most likely overlap with the tasks already mandated by SBSTA to the secretariat.

The EU is looking forward to continuing to share views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role it could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme, particularly regarding the issues raised above.

PAPER NO. 8: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**ПРЕДСТАВЛЕНИЕ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
ПО НАЙРОБИЙСКОЙ ПРОГРАММЕ РАБОТЫ  
В ОБЛАСТИ ВОЗДЕЙСТВИЙ,  
УЯЗВИМОСТИ И АДАПТАЦИИ К ИЗМЕНЕНИЮ КЛИМАТА**

**О необходимости создания группы экспертов и о той  
роли, которую она могла бы играть в деле осуществления и дальнейшего развития  
Найробийской программы**

Все страны мира испытывают возрастающее воздействие негативных проявлений климатической изменчивости. Предотвращение гибели людей и снижение экономических потерь выдвигается на первый план в качестве не только национальной политики всех государств, но и требует консолидации и совместных действий мирового сообщества.

Проблема адаптации к происходящим изменениям климата должна стать одним из главных приоритетов сотрудничества в рамках РКИК ООН, а реализация адаптационных мероприятий должна стать неотъемлемой частью национальных стратегий устойчивого развития государств.

Найробийская программа будет способствовать Сторонам в понимании и совершенствовании оценки воздействий, уязвимости и адаптации, а также в принятии обоснованных решений по практическим адаптационным действиям и мерам в ответ на изменение климата на прочной научной, технической и социально-экономической основе с учетом изменения изменчивости климата в настоящее время и в будущем. Важной компонентой Найробийской программы является ее вклад в укрепление сотрудничества между Сторонами, различными международными организациями, наукой, бизнесом и лицами, принимающими решения по вопросам адаптации.

По итогам реализации первого этапа Найробийской программы (до 2008 года), могут быть сформулированы проблемные вопросы, требующие более детального и углубленного рассмотрения и изучения. Эта работа может выполняться группой экспертов по адаптации, которая может быть создана в рамках РКИК ООН. Российская Федерация поддерживает создание такой группы и готова внести активный вклад в ее работу.

**SUBMISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
ON THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME  
ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY  
AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

**On the possible need for a group of experts on adaptation and the role they could have  
in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi Work Programme.**

All countries of the world experience the increasing impact of negative consequences of climate changeability. The prevention of life losses and minimization of damage to the economies are highlighted not only as the national policies of countries, but also require the consolidation and joint activities of the world community.

The issue of adaptation to the on-going climate changes must become one of the priorities in cooperation under the UNFCCC, and the implementation of adaptation activities must become an integral part of the national strategies on sustainable development of countries.

The Nairobi Work Programme will contribute to further understanding and improvement of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation assessment by the Parties. It will also assist in making valid decisions on practical adaptation measures and activities in response to climate change, based on well-grounded scientific, technical and socio-economic basis taking into consideration the changeability of climate in the future. One of the major components of the Nairobi Work Programme is its contribution to strengthening of cooperation between the Parties, various international organizations, science, business and adaptation policy-makers.

The key problematic questions may be formulated upon the results of implementation of the first stage of the Nairobi Work Programme (till 2008). They may require more detailed and profound examination and study. This work may be carried out by a group of experts on adaptation, which may be created under the UNFCCC. The Russian Federation supports the initiative of creation of such a group and is forward to contribute to its future work.

PAPER NO. 9: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Submission on behalf of the United States of America on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work programme  
September 2007**

The United States welcomes this opportunity to express our views on the possible need for a group of experts associated with the Nairobi work programme (NWP) on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and any role such a group might have in the further development and implementation of the NWP.

The United States is fully committed to promoting adaptation to climate variability and change. President Bush has highlighted the importance of adaptation, and has pledged that the United States will work with all nations that are parties to the UNFCCC to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In support of the NWP, we are working to make climate-sensitive sectors or areas such as agriculture, coastal zones, and water management more resilient. We hope and expect that these and other adaptation-related issues will be a prominent part of our discussions in Bali.

The UNFCCC has a track record of supporting experts groups or advisory bodies to help sustain COP-sanctioned activities over a multi-year time period. These groups are most likely to be successful when they are established with a clear and narrowly-focused mandate, a well-articulated work plan, agreed outputs, and for a specified amount of time. The Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) are examples of expert groups that meet these criteria and have contributed to the UNFCCC process.

Given the above, we question whether the Nairobi work programme is at a stage in its implementation where an expert group would represent the best course of action. In this regard, we make several observations:

1. Addressing a broad number of issues: The NWP is currently addressing a broad number of themes, ranging from observations to socio-economic information to adaptation and economic diversification. We are concerned that it would be very difficult to assemble one group of experts, of a manageable size, that could provide the broad range of scientific and technical expertise required to cover all of these topics. The Secretariat has been, in our estimation, quite successful in bringing together a diverse set of experts, as needed, for the workshops and experts meetings that have been undertaken. This seems to us the most appropriate approach at this stage of NWP implementation.
2. Mandate for the group: We question what a standing group could do that would add more value to the process than the targeted groups of experts the Secretariat has engaged, as needed, for the production of background documents and to provide advice at workshops and experts meetings. We do not see a need for coordination or scientific and technical advice beyond that provided through the agreed activities at this stage of NWP implementation.
3. Cost effectiveness: A standing expert group can be a costly endeavor, requiring limited resources to be diverted from NWP implementation activities, which engage a broad number of Parties, organizations, institutions, experts and communities, to cover the costs of expert meetings. Because we do not see a clear and compelling need for an expert group at this stage of NWP implementation, our inclination is that limited funds would be best spent on increasing the effectiveness of implementation.

PAPER NO. 10: UZBEKISTAN

**View of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
on the possible need for a group of experts  
and the role that they could have in the implementation and further  
development of the Nairobi work program on impacts,  
vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports the activities of the UNFCCC Secretariat in the implementation and further development of the Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Taking into account that the Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change covers different fields of the Convention activities and that consideration of issues on assistance to solution of problems of vulnerability and adaptation is a present-day task nowadays and shall be a priority one in the long-term perspective, we think that the establishment of a group of experts both in a whole on the Nairobi work program and the sub-groups on the main fields of activities is expedient.

On our opinion the establishment of a groups of experts will facilitate the further development of activities on the Nairobi work program as it enables not only to share the best practice but also to transfer the technologies, methodologies and work experience on realization of the adaptation plans. Group of experts should play an important role in the improving the efficiency of the implementation of the Nairobi work program.

It is necessary to consider the issue of the establishment of the network of regional working groups with the different responsibility on the types of activities. The representatives of the developed countries being the members of Annex 1 to Convention should head this group while the representatives of non-Annex 1 Parties should be the members. Regional working groups of experts should act on permanent basis that is why they have to be strengthened institutionally. Further they can become the regional specialized centres the scope of responsibilities of which should include the following:

- methodological and practical assistance in implementation of the Nairobi work program,
- different consultations,
- training of national experts via conduction of training courses and training with taking into account the local conditions,
- copying and distribution of practical study aids and scientific and popular literature, especially for decision makers.

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