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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**

Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Revised note by the secretariat*

Summary

The fourth meeting of the reconstituted Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) took place in St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda, on 24–26 March 2011. The CGE analysed the results of the survey conducted on problems related to the sustainability of the national communication process and the maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications, including greenhouse gas inventories, on a continuous basis. In addition, it considered the background paper containing the review of its existing training materials, with a view to providing guidance on their revision, and the report on the workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the difficulties encountered by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in the preparation of their most recent national communications, with a view to providing the Subsidiary Body for Implementation with recommendations, as appropriate. This report summarizes the outcome of the discussions of the CGE with regard to the implementation of its mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

* This document was submitted after the due date in order to include the outcome of the discussions that took place at the workshop held on 21–23 March 2011, and of those that took place at the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, held on 24–26 March 2011.

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I. Introduction

A. Background and mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 5/CP.15, reconstituted the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for three years from 2010 to 2012 to improve the process of and preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).

2. The CGE developed its work programme for 2010–2012¹ at its first meeting, held in Bonn, Germany, on 29–31 March 2010. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-second session, took note of and welcomed the work programme.²

3. In accordance with its work programme, the CGE organized a workshop to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties), taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications. The workshop was held in St. Mary’s, Antigua and Barbuda, on 21–23 March 2011. The report on the workshop,³ which is contained in an addendum to this document, was considered by the CGE; the group’s recommendations are outlined in the annex to this document.

4. In 2010, the CGE conducted two surveys corresponding to paragraph 2(a–c) of its terms of reference, contained in the annex to decision 5/CP.15. An analysis of the results of the first survey, in the form of a technical report,⁴ was submitted to the SBI, in December 2010, for its consideration. The second survey focused on paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE, and aimed at collecting information on problems related to the sustainability of the national communication process and the maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications, including greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, on a continuous basis, to assess the needs identified. The CGE analysed the results of that survey at its fourth meeting, and the results of that analysis are contained in an addendum⁵ to this document.

B. Scope of the note

5. This report on the proceedings of the fourth meeting of the reconstituted CGE includes a summary of the discussions on the revision of the existing CGE training materials, a report on the workshop referred to in paragraph 3 above, including the recommendations of the CGE, and an analysis of the results of the survey related to paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE. It also includes a summary of the discussions related to the organization of the work of the CGE in 2011.

¹ Contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.2.

² FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 21.

³ FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Add.1.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2010/21/Add.1.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Add.2.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI, having considered this report, may wish to provide further guidance to the CGE on the implementation of its mandate, especially concerning the activities identified for implementation in 2011, to address the needs of non-Annex I Parties relating to the preparation of their national communications.

7. The SBI may also wish to invite Parties in a position to do so to provide financial assistance for the implementation of the work programme of the CGE, particularly for the training workshops scheduled for 2011, and invite multilateral and bilateral support programmes to collaborate with the CGE in the provision of technical support to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

8. The SBI may further wish to consider the implications of the discontinuation of the National Communications Support Programme in 2012, and the fact that no provision for technical assistance of any kind has been made to support the preparation of the next (mostly third) national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

II. Proceedings of the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts

9. The fourth meeting of the reconstituted CGE was held back-to-back with the workshop referred to in paragraph 3 above in order to exchange views on possible elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications.

10. The objective of the meeting was to facilitate the revision of the existing CGE training materials, to provide to the SBI recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties and to analyse the results of the survey related to paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE, in order to identify common challenges and possible means of facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes for the preparation of national communications.

11. Nineteen members of the CGE (from Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Union, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand and United Republic of Tanzania) attended the meeting, including two experts representing the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

12. Ms. Sangchan Limjirakan (Thailand), the incoming Chair of the CGE, opened the meeting by welcoming the members, and expressed gratitude to Antigua and Barbuda for hosting the meeting. The Chair pointed out the significance of the meeting in contributing towards fulfilling the mandate of the CGE by building the foundation for capacity-building activities to be conducted in 2011 to assist non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications.

13. The Chair informed the members that Ms. Patience Dampety (Ghana) had replaced Ms. Madeleine Diouf (Senegal) from the African Group, and that two other members needed to be nominated, one from the Asian Group and one from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

A. Election of the Rapporteur

14. The secretariat informed the members that since Ms. Limjirakan, the outgoing Rapporteur, was now the new Chair, the CGE members needed to elect a new Rapporteur, in accordance with decision 3/CP.8, annex, paragraph 6, and decision 5/CP.15. The CGE members from non-Annex I Parties nominated Ms. Ruleta Camacho (Antigua and Barbuda), who was elected by the CGE as the new Rapporteur.

B. Organization of the work

15. The Chair outlined the organization of the work of the CGE for the meeting. She informed the members that technical reports would be prepared for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session. She also informed the members that the goal of the CGE for the meeting was threefold:

(a) To further review the provision of input into the existing training materials of the CGE with a view to updating them for the regional training workshops to take place in 2011 and 2012;

(b) To provide to the SBI recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications;

(c) To produce a technical report on the problems related to the sustainability of the national communication process and the maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis, in accordance with paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE.

16. The Chair proposed that the members worked in three thematic groups (national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and mitigation assessment) to review the training materials, in accordance with the prioritized training areas.

17. The CGE considered the draft report on the workshop referred to in paragraph 3 above. The CGE considered the report in five thematic groups (national GHG inventories; programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change; programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change; other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention; and constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs), in order to provide to the SBI, for its consideration, recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

18. In producing a technical report on the problems related to the sustainability of the national communication process and the maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis, the Chair proposed that the members worked in four thematic groups (institutional concerns; financial concerns; GHG inventory and data systems; and capacity-building and cross-cutting areas) to analyse the results of the survey relating to paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE and to prepare recommendations. The CGE noted the limited rate of response to the survey and recognized that the workshop referred to in paragraph 3 above provided additional input into the group's recommendations, as Parties shared constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the preparation of their national communications.

III. Implementation of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts

19. The CGE has identified the following actions to be carried out in the implementation of its current mandate relating to the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties:⁶

(a) The provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties based on the updated CGE training materials;

(b) The provision of recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications;

(c) The provision of technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis.

1. Technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties based on the updated training materials

20. The CGE discussed the revision of the training materials, emphasizing that there is a need to prioritize the planning of the updating of the materials, as they will provide an important input into the implementation of the group's activities during the regional training workshops planned in accordance with the work programme of the CGE. The members engaged in discussions on how the workshops would be distributed. It was decided that the Latin America and the Caribbean region would host the first training workshop on national GHG inventories, the Asian region would host the first training workshop on mitigation, and the African region would host the first training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, will draw up terms of reference for the consultants who will update the training materials to get them ready in time for the workshops, which are envisaged to take place in the second half of 2011.

21. The members worked in three thematic groups (national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and mitigation assessment), which prepared recommendations on elements to be considered in the updating of the respective training materials.

22. With regard to updating the training materials on national GHG inventories, the CGE decided that the new version should incorporate the lessons learned by Parties in their efforts to sustainably manage the national GHG inventory process. The updated training materials should address the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*. The members agreed that the CGE regional training workshop on national GHG inventories should provide hands-on training, including exercises on key category analysis, uncertainty assessment, and quality assurance and quality control. In addition, the members agreed that it would be useful to introduce various tools developed by other organizations or regional capacity-building programmes, such as the IPCC Emission Factor Database and the ALU (Agriculture and Land Use National Greenhouse Gas Inventory) software developed by

⁶ Decision 5/CP.15, annex, paragraph 2(a–c).

Colorado State University. It was also agreed that an introduction to the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* should be included as a possible source of the latest data and information on national GHG inventories.

23. The CGE decided that the training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment will be updated retaining the current structure. Additional training materials should include the documentation of best practices, data sets to assist in the use of climate change modelling, and additional templates to address cross-cutting issues in matters relating to adaptation.

24. The members decided that the training materials related to mitigation assessment will be updated, including the parts relating to activity data, the use of models and methodologies.

25. The CGE requested the secretariat to make the training materials available online in an interactive way and to allow workshop participants to submit their views on the content of the workshops referred to in paragraph 20 above.

26. The members discussed other cross-cutting areas, including capacity-building needs and the consideration of linking and integrating climate change into national development policies. To address those needs, the CGE will develop additional training materials addressing cross-cutting tools in the three thematic areas referred to in paragraph 21 above, including the provision of practical advice on the improvement of the organizational and managerial skills of national technical teams.

2. Recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”

27. The CGE considered the draft report on the workshop on the exchange of views on possible elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and provided recommendations on the matter for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session. These recommendations are contained in the annex to this document.

3. Technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including greenhouse gas inventories, on a continuous basis

28. The members worked in four thematic groups (institutional concerns; financial concerns; GHG inventory and data systems; and capacity-building and cross-cutting areas) to analyse the results of the survey related to paragraph 2(c) of the terms of reference of the CGE. The thematic groups prepared written reports, including recommendations, based on the results of the analysis, and reported their findings to the CGE for feedback. The members engaged in a constructive discussion on the key findings, addressing conflicting survey responses, and harmonized the reports prepared by the thematic groups, as well as the key messages, which are contained in the annex to this document.

29. The thematic groups analysed the problems related to the sustainability of the national communication process and the maintenance of national technical teams for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis, and identified key challenges faced by non-Annex I Parties. Information on such problems is contained in chapter IV of document FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Add.2, which provides a compilation of the recommendations resulting from that analysis, aimed at addressing common challenges, options and case studies/best practices available to countries and

possible means of facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes for the preparation of national communications.

IV. Organization of the future work of the Consultative Group of Experts

A. Organization of the work of the Consultative Group of Experts in 2011

30. The secretariat provided an overview of the following CGE activities scheduled to take place in 2011, as outlined in the work programme of the group:

(a) The preparation of technical papers for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-fourth session;

(b) Preparation for the CGE workshop on facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis;

(c) The update of the CGE training materials for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

31. The CGE agreed on the design and approach of a workshop aimed at facilitating the development and long-term sustainability of processes, and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, to be held back-to-back with the thirty-fourth session of the SBI, on 20–21 June 2011.

32. A representative of the Government of Chile expressed interest in hosting the regional training workshop on national GHG inventories for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, scheduled for 5–9 September 2011. The CGE acknowledged and accepted the offer made by the Government of Chile to host the workshop. The Chair proposed that the fifth meeting of the CGE be convened in conjunction with that regional training workshop, on 12–13 September 2011, at the same venue.

33. The CGE also accepted an offer made by UNEP to host the African regional training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The CGE agreed that the dates and venues of the training workshops for the African and Asian regions will be decided at a later date, pending the decision of the Bureau of the COP on the scheduling of possible sessions of the ad hoc working groups.

B. Date and venue of the next meeting

34. The Chair proposed that the next meeting of the group be held in Santiago, Chile, on 12–13 September 2011, to review the group's progress and outline its future work programme.

V. Any other business

35. The CGE members discussed the possible synergy of the group with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). The Chair of the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, will liaise with the Chair of the LEG to examine possible related activities in

the work programmes of the two groups, in order to avoid duplication and explore the possible combination of training activities, especially with regard to vulnerability and adaptation assessment. One member of the CGE is also a member of the LEG and will look into this issue.

36. The issue of decision 1/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreements with regard to how that decision might influence the future reporting of non-Annex I Parties' national communications was raised.

37. The CGE members proposed that the secretariat, depending on the availability of resources, translate the updated CGE training materials into other United Nations languages.

Annex

Recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications

1. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) at its fourth meeting, identified cross-cutting areas for consideration in relation to a future revision of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, which include:

- (a) Considering the usefulness and purpose of the various reporting elements and tailoring the guidelines accordingly, to avoid repetition of reporting elements;
- (b) Improving clarity within the chapters, and providing sufficient details to guide reporting, while keeping the elements simple, wherever possible;
- (c) Considering the use of tables and annexes;
- (d) Encouraging Parties to take a holistic approach to the preparation of their national communications rather than preparing each thematic component in isolation;
- (e) Identifying capacity-building needs and gaps to be addressed in critical areas, including the utilization of assistance from regional centres of excellence.

2. The following tables summarize the recommendations of the CGE on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 above.

Table 1

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on national greenhouse gas inventories</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
1	<p>Multiple-year reporting (milestones and time series including most recent years) for understanding of emission trends, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National capabilities and circumstances; • Comparability; • Need for recalculation of estimates for previous years. 	7
2	<p>Higher level of ambition to apply Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <i>Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i> (in particular the following) to ensure better quality of inventories regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key category analysis; 	11

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on national greenhouse gas inventories</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty assessment; • Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC). 	
3	Detailed description of institutional arrangements established to sustain the greenhouse gas inventory process (e.g. documentation, QA/QC, archiving system and inventory improvement plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of template or outline could be helpful. 	13
4	Improvement of data quality by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and use of country-specific emission factors for key categories identified through key category analysis, to the extent possible; • Improvement of collection and analysis of activity data; • Enhancement of the sharing of country-specific emission factors through the IPCC Emission Factor Database and among Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. 	21
5	Detailed description of methodologies, emission factors and activity data used in Parties' estimation of emissions/removals, as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of template or outline could be helpful. 	21
6	Enhancement of reporting tables in order to include more information.	22 and 23
7	Systematic use of enhanced reporting tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of reporting would be improved if enhanced reporting tables were systematically used by Parties. 	22 and 23
8	Systematic use of UNFCCC software.	22 and 23

Table 2

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
1	Implementation of the Convention, and use of policy frameworks, such as national adaptation programmes, plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to documented best practices and lessons learned in developing national strategies, plans and programmes for climate change adaptation, taking into account experience gained from the preparation 	28, 35 and 36

Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change	Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8
of previous national communications; ^a	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and prioritization of adaptation measures to assist Parties in prioritizing adaptation measures, including, as appropriate, the cost associated with prioritized adaptation strategies and measures.^b 	
2 Vulnerability assessments, including methodologies/tools for the evaluation of adaptation strategies and measures:	29, 30 and 31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of reference list reflecting the advancements made in the science of climate change; update of reference list to provide best practice examples of methodologies/tools, including data management systems recommended for use by Parties; • Flexibility to select methods/scenarios particularly suitable for specific sectors; • Use of tools/models suitable for assessment across sectors, such as integrated assessment models, addressing in particular cross-cutting impacts of climate change; • Development and use, as appropriate, of national climate vulnerability indices in vulnerability assessments, defined within the established definition of vulnerability in the Convention and to be used in particular to identify the most vulnerable areas, groups and sectors. Vulnerability indices can be useful in the prioritization of projects in country for resource mobilization and subsequent project implementation. 	
3 Use of climate scenarios and, as appropriate, socio-economic scenarios for assessment of impacts of climate change:	33 and 34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conducting the analysis of climate change impacts and vulnerability, the use, as appropriate, of historical and current climate data as well as projected climate scenarios, building on the experience gained during the preparation of previous national communications; • Provision for the benefit of Parties of a reference list of documents/websites on best practices and application of a range of scenarios, indicating those best suited for national and regional circumstances, including best practices as well as challenges encountered by Parties when using climate and/or socio-economic scenarios; • Provision of a list of regional centres of excellence and/or countries that develop, on a continuous basis, climate/socio-economic scenarios. 	

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
4	<p>Other matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on synergies among the Rio Conventions, taking into account a holistic approach to the preparation of national communications rather than preparing each thematic component in isolation; Report on the implementation of adaptation programmes and measures and, as appropriate, lessons learned since the last national communications. <p>^a The secretariat, in collaboration with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the National Communications Support Programme, is encouraged to provide such documentation on best practices and lessons learned.</p> <p>^b National adaptation programmes of action and other adaptation strategies may complement the national communications.</p>	

Table 3

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
1	<p>Methodological approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of methodologies for assessing socio-economic and environmental impacts of mitigation measures; The enhancement of the list of available tools/methodologies contained in the footnote to paragraph 39 of the annex to decision 17/CP.8 (e.g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change publications), probably to be included in the form of an annex to the guidelines. 	38 and 39 (including footnote)
2	<p>Reporting:</p> <p>General elements to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The further elaboration of the guidelines to allow flexibility for different national circumstances (not too prescriptive); The need for guidance on institutional arrangements; The need to provide basic information on a national mitigation framework. 	
3	<p>Elements to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to provide information on the objective and implementation of mitigation measures; 	

<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change</i>		<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding results, the need to provide more information on avoided emissions, the abatement of the rate of increase in greenhouse gas emissions, and the enhancement of removals by sinks; The need to include qualitative and/or quantitative indicators (e.g. improvement of emission factors); The usefulness of tables and graphs. 	40

Table 4

<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention</i>		<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
1	<p>Steps taken to integrate climate change considerations into policy development:</p> <p>Brief description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways in which climate change issues (adaptation, mitigation and national greenhouse gas inventories) are considered/intended to be considered in relevant planning frameworks at the national and sectoral levels; National climate change policies, strategies and programmes that have been enacted, including the institutional structures for their implementation. 	41
2	<p>Climate change research and systematic observation (RSO):</p> <p>Provision of information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of national and/or regional programmes for RSO, including any gaps identified and difficulties encountered; Level of international assistance required to address needs and priorities for RSO (meteorological, oceanographic and atmospheric). 	43
3	<p>Information on climate change research programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on climate change research programmes in the areas of mitigation and adaptation, and on the development of emission factors and activity data at the national and/or regional level, including opportunities for strengthening these programmes; Details of bilateral and multilateral support received for the implementation of projects and programmes in the above-mentioned areas; Brief description of specific needs and priorities 	44

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
	identified for strengthening research programmes.	
4	Information on education, training and public awareness: Brief description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities undertaken to implement Article 6 of the Convention, including the institutional and/or legal frameworks, and the means to monitor and assess their effectiveness; • Existing activities and plans to incorporate climate change issues into national (formal and non-formal) educational programmes; • Existing and/or planned public-awareness programmes and campaigns and level of involvement of relevant stakeholders; • Identified gaps, needs and priorities in relation to climate change education, training and public awareness, including international assistance needed; • Processes involved in vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), as appropriate, and the linkages of a country's NAPA with national efforts in relation to education, training and public awareness. 	45
5	Information and networking: Brief description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to facilitate information-sharing within countries, including existing channels, to ensure efficient flow of information to grass-roots level; • Efforts to facilitate information-sharing between developing countries and regions; • Level of participation in international information networking, including centres of excellence; • Constraints encountered in facilitating information sharing, dissemination and networking arrangements as described above. 	48

Table 5

	<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
1	The overall structure of chapter VI of the UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications	All, but specifically 49, 53 and 54

<i>Recommendations of the Consultative Group of Experts on constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs</i>	<i>Reference to paragraphs of annex to decision 17/CP.8</i>
<p>from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of repetition and increase of reporting guidance to enhance the provision of information focused on needs and assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For example, separation of reporting on constraints, gaps and needs associated with the implementation of activities and reporting on constraints and gaps associated with preparing and improving national communications; ○ For example, reporting on projects and measures in the relevant substantive chapter, such as in the chapter on adaptation or technology transfer; • Alternatively, integration of reporting on constraints, gaps, needs and assistance with regard to mitigation, adaptation and technology transfer in the main chapters dealing with those topics, thereby allowing the chapter concerned to be dedicated to needs, constraints and gaps relating to the preparation of national communications; • Reporting on institutional needs for the continuous preparation of national communications. 	50 and 51
<p>2 Reporting on financial resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the usefulness of tables for the provision of information on financial resources and the technical support received by source; • Provision of information outlining country contributions, in order to reflect the true costs of preparing the national communications (e.g. preparation, activity and data collection costs). 	50 and 51
<p>3 Reporting on projects proposed for financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the usefulness of including an annex and a template to enable the provision of more detailed information relating to the list of mitigation projects proposed for financing; • Provision of a similar list of adaptation projects proposed for financing, with an annex. 	52
<p>4 Capacity-building needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused reporting on capacity-building needs and assistance (rather than on other needs). 	55