



## **Framework Convention on Climate Change**

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### **Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Thirty-fourth session**

**Bonn, 6–16 June 2011**

Agenda item 17(a–e)

**Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings**

**Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties**

**Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

**Future sessional periods**

**Organization of the intergovernmental process**

**Observer organizations in the intergovernmental process**

### **Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings**

#### **Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair**

- A. Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties**
  
- B. Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) reiterated its gratitude to the Government of South Africa for its generous offer to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011. It took note with appreciation of the preparations being undertaken by the Government of South Africa and the secretariat to convene COP 17 and CMP 7 and to facilitate the success of those sessions.

2. The SBI recalled its conclusions from the thirty-second session, which requested that the secretariat take steps to ensure that any official logo, poster or other material that appears at UNFCCC climate conferences or on official websites refers to the COP and the CMP and gives them equal treatment.<sup>1</sup>

3. The SBI recommended that arrangements for the high-level segment of COP 17 and CMP 7 build upon the positive experiences of COP 16 and CMP 6 and other previous COP and CMP sessions as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 144.

4. The SBI agreed that arrangements should be made for the delivery of concise national statements by ministers and other heads of delegation, within a recommended time limit of three minutes, and that concise statements should be made by representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, within a recommended time limit of two minutes, in the joint meetings of the COP and the CMP during the high-level segment.

5. The SBI invited the Bureau of COP 16 and CMP 6 to finalize the details of the arrangements for COP 17 and CMP 7, including arrangements for the high-level segment, in consultation with the President Designate of COP 17 and CMP 7 and the secretariat. The SBI stressed the importance of the principles of transparency and inclusiveness in the lead up to and during COP 17 and CMP 7.

### **C. Future sessional periods**

6. The SBI noted the agreement of Parties on the necessity for an additional intersessional resumed meeting of the ad hoc working groups. The SBI noted the statement by the Executive Secretary on the critical and urgent need for financial contributions in order that the secretariat can make the necessary arrangements.

7. The SBI recalled decision 12/CP.16, which noted that in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups, the President of the eighteenth session would normally come from the Asian Group.<sup>2</sup>

8. The SBI noted the ongoing consultations with regard to hosting COP 18 and CMP 8, and looked forward to receiving the results of these consultations, in order that a decision be taken at COP 17 on this matter.

9. The SBI recalled that the President of the nineteenth session would come from the Eastern European Group. The SBI invited Parties to come forward with offers to host future sessions of the COP and the CMP.

10. The SBI recommended the following dates for future sessional periods for adoption by the COP at its seventeenth session:

- Wednesday, 4 June to Sunday, 15 June, and Wednesday, 3 December to Sunday, 14 December, for the sessional periods in 2014;
- Wednesday, 3 June to Sunday, 14 June, and Wednesday, 2 December, to Sunday, 13 December, for the sessional periods in 2015;
- Wednesday, 18 May to Sunday, 29 May, and Wednesday, 30 November to Sunday, 11 December, for the sessional periods in 2016.

### **D. Organization of the intergovernmental process**

11. The SBI also recommended that further consideration be given to planning future sessional periods in the context of new meetings of constituted bodies, technical meetings of experts and workshops. The SBI agreed to continue its deliberations on this matter in the light of further information on the modalities and scheduling of constituted bodies.

12. The SBI recalled the conclusions at its thirty-second session that recommended that the secretariat, in organizing future sessional periods, follow the practice of holding no more than two meetings of plenary and/or contact groups concurrently, with the total

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<sup>2</sup> FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.2.

number of meetings held concurrently, including informals, not exceeding six, to the extent possible.<sup>3</sup> The SBI noted the existing practices with regard to informals and, in order to enhance transparency, recommended that facilitators may propose that informals be open to observer organizations unless Parties object.

## **E. Observer organizations**

13. The SBI took note of the information provided by the secretariat on observer organizations in the UNFCCC process and on the good practices from other processes in the United Nations system,<sup>4</sup> and of the report of the in-session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC process.<sup>5</sup>

14. The SBI recalled the conclusions at its thirty-third session recognizing that the range and value of observer organization engagement is diverse, broad and rich, and that the role and contributions of observer organizations in the UNFCCC process should be enhanced.

15. The SBI recognized the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, be they government, including subnational and local government, private business or civil society, including youth and persons with disability, and that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.<sup>6</sup>

16. The SBI reaffirmed the fundamental value of effective participation by observers and the value of contributions from observer organizations to deliberations on substantive issues while recognizing the recent significant increase in the number of participants from observer organizations.

17. The SBI welcomed the current efforts by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the President of the COP and the CMP to hold in-session briefings and dialogue sessions. It invited the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the President of the COP and the CMP to increase these efforts, and encouraged observer organizations to take advantage of these opportunities as a platform for direct dialogue with the President of the COP and the CMP and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.

18. The SBI welcomed the efforts made by the Government of Mexico, before and during its Presidency of the COP and the CMP, in engaging stakeholders, including the local civil society, in the lead up to and during COP 16 and CMP 6, as well as its continued commitment to observer engagement in 2011.

19. The SBI also welcomed the commitments of the Government of South Africa to maintain open engagement with civil society in the lead up to and during COP 17 and CMP 7.

20. The SBI further welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to use technical means of participation, including the ongoing redesign of the UNFCCC website and the examination of virtual participation for intersessional informal consultations, in-session side events and press conferences. The SBI requested the secretariat to continue the development of technical means of participation, subject to the availability of resources.

21. The SBI agreed that existing means of engagement in workshops should be enhanced. Recalling its conclusions at its seventeenth session on attendance by observer

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<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 164.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2011/6, paragraphs 33–49.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBI/2011/INF.7.

<sup>6</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 7.

organizations in intersessional workshops,<sup>7</sup> the SBI encouraged the chairs of workshops and expert meetings to invite, time permitting, observer organizations to make presentations, while maintaining the balance of participation between Parties and observer organizations. In this context, the SBI welcomed the practices of the recent mitigation workshops, at which observers could make presentations when time allowed.

22. The SBI took note of the report of the in-session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC process. The SBI considered the range of proposals contained in the report and examined their implementation. The SBI welcomed the initiatives by the secretariat to improve the participation of observer organizations and requested the secretariat to continue its efforts in this regard.

23. The SBI agreed that the existing means of engagement of observer organizations could be further enhanced, in the spirit of fostering openness, transparency and inclusiveness through:

- (a) Inviting the presiding officers of various bodies, as relevant, subject to the availability of funding, time and space, to:
  - (i) Seek opportunities for observer organizations to make interventions;
  - (ii) Make greater use of observer inputs in workshops and technical meetings in accordance with the conclusions of the SBI at its seventeenth session in 2002;<sup>8</sup>
  - (iii) Increase opportunities for regular briefings and debriefings as a means for dialogue for observer organizations with presiding officers and Parties.
- (b) Encouraging the hosts of future sessions of the COP and the CMP to:
  - (i) Consider, in their planning, and organization, the size of the venue, the distance between buildings and the need to facilitate the participation of all Parties and admitted observer organizations, recalling the conclusions of the SBI at its thirty-second session;<sup>9</sup>
  - (ii) Engage stakeholders in the lead up to and during the COP and the CMP.
- (c) Encouraging all Parties to further engage stakeholders at the national level, including information dissemination and consultation.
- (d) Requesting the secretariat, where feasible and appropriate, to:
  - (i) Post submissions from observer organizations on the UNFCCC website in a way that makes them accessible to Parties;
  - (ii) Make use of observer inputs, including scientific and technical, for the preparation of background documentation.
- (e) Requesting the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and where appropriate, to:
  - (i) Enable the replacement of names of nominated representatives of admitted observer organizations in the online registration system before and during sessions in exceptional circumstances;
  - (ii) Increase the number of meetings that are webcast.

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<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBI/2002/17, paragraph 50(c). The SBI requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, workshop chairs and the secretariat to make additional efforts to promote transparency and observer participation, while safeguarding the effectiveness of workshops.

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/SBI/2002/17, paragraph 50.

<sup>9</sup> FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 166.

24. The SBI agreed to examine, at its thirty-fifth session, options for new channels for observer organizations to provide formal inputs into the COP and CMP high-level segment.

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