



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Thirty-sixth session

Bonn, 14–25 May 2012

Agenda item 4(a)

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

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

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) welcomed the progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE).¹
2. The SBI also welcomed the following progress reports of the CGE regional hands-on training workshops for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), which were organized between September 2011 and March 2012:
 - (a) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment;²
 - (b) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories;³
 - (c) The progress report on the work of the CGE on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and Pacific region on mitigation assessment.⁴
3. The SBI expressed its gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governments of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Namibia for hosting the CGE events.
4. The SBI thanked those Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) and other Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties)⁵ and

¹ FCCC/SBI/2012/2.

² FCCC/SBI/2012/12.

³ FCCC/SBI/2012/13.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2012/14.

⁵ Canada, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

multilateral programmes and organizations⁶ that had made financial contributions towards the implementation of the work of the CGE.

5. The SBI welcomed the planned hands-on training activities⁷ to be organized in 2012 by the CGE as a part of its work programme and requested the CGE to make every effort to conduct the planned regional training workshops⁸ on mitigation and on vulnerability and adaptation in the second half of 2012.

6. The SBI welcomed the plan of the CGE in 2012 to develop and implement e-learning programmes, based on the revised training materials, and to establish a web-based network of experts in this regard.

7. The SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications, as provided by the secretariat, to implement the actions requested in paragraphs 5 and 6 above.

8. Further, the SBI urged Annex II Parties and other Annex I Parties in a position to do so to provide financial resources to enable the CGE to implement the activities planned in accordance with its work programme in a timely manner. It also encouraged bilateral, multilateral and international organizations to continue supporting the work of the CGE.

9. The SBI reiterated the invitation to the CGE, in implementing its work programme, to take into account the current and future needs of non-Annex I Parties and to take into consideration the provisions under the Convention and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).⁹

10. In accordance with decision 14/CP.17, paragraphs 2 and 3, the SBI initiated, but did not conclude, consideration on the term and mandate of the CGE and the need for the continuation of the group. The SBI decided to continue the consideration on this matter at its next session, on the basis of the draft decision annexed to these conclusions, with a view to recommending a draft decision for adoption by the COP at its eighteenth session.

11. The SBI requested that the actions of the secretariat and the CGE called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

⁶ The National Communications Support Programme, the Technical Support Unit for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2012/2, paragraph 24.

⁸ The hands-on training workshops for the Latin America and Caribbean region on vulnerability and adaptation, and mitigation assessments will be held in Antigua and Barbuda, instead of Uruguay, as indicated in FCCC/SBI/2012/2, paragraph 24(g).

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2010/27, paragraph 33.

[Annex

[English only]

Draft [elements for COP]decision -/CP.18

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and Article 12, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 7,

Also recalling decisions on 8/CP.5, 3/CP.8, 17/CP.8, 8/CP.11, 5/CP.15, 1/CP.15, 2/CP.17 and 14/CP.17,

Acknowledging that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention has made a substantial contribution to improving the process of preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) by providing technical advice and support and therefore enhancing the capacity of such Parties to prepare their national communications,

[*Recalling decision* 1/CP.16, paragraph 60, that decided to enhance the reporting in national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and emphasizing that the CGE could provide also technical advice and support for the preparation of biennial update reports,]

Having taken note of, as provided by the secretariat, the estimated budgetary implications of the actions requested of the secretariat in paragraph 10 below and other actions contained in the annex to this decision,

Also having taken note that the requirements for additional resources for the implementation of the relevant actions referred to in paragraph 10 below and in the annex to this decision cannot be met by the approved core budget of the secretariat for the biennium 2012–2013,

Emphasizing the importance of providing relevant technical advice and support for the process of preparation of national communications [or [and] biennial update reports], as well as the importance of providing a forum for non-Annex I Parties to share experiences of this process,

[*Recognizing further* that developing countries require further support in the process to enhanced reporting,]

Recognizing that the preparation of national communications [or [and] biennial update reports] is a continuing process,

1. Decides to continue the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention [for a period of [three years from 2013 to 2015][four years from 2013 to 2016] [five years from 2013 to 2017]][as a permanent expert group of the Convention];

2. Also decides that the Consultative Group of Experts, in fulfilling its mandate, shall function in accordance with the [revised] terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision;
3. Further decides that membership of the Consultative Group of Experts [should be increased from 24 to 28 with four additional members from Annex I Parties to the Convention (Annex I Parties)] [shall be the same as in decision 3/CP.8, annex, paragraphs 3–8] [should be expanded from 24 to 26 members in order to include one member from non-Annex I countries of Eastern European Group and an additional one member from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties)];
4. Decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of experts [drawn from the UNFCCC roster of experts] with expertise in at least one of the following chapters of national communications [or biennial update reports]: greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation [financing, MRV/NAMAs, technology] and other matters related to the process of preparation of national communications [and biennial reports];
5. Encourages regional groups, in nominating their experts to the Consultative Group of Experts, to make every effort to ensure balanced representation in the areas of expertise indicated in paragraph 4 above [as well as taking into account gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7];
6. Requests the secretariat to publish the list of the membership of the Consultative Group of Experts including their respective area of expertise and experience relating to national communications and/or biennial update reports, and notify the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of such appointments;
7. [Option 1: Also requests the Consultative Group of Experts, in the implementation of its mandate, to develop a [2]-year [rolling] work programme, including cost estimates, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;]
 [Option 2: Also requests the Consultative Group of Experts, in the implementation of its mandate, to follow the work programme for the first year developed by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its [thirty-sixth][thirty-seventh] session, as contained in annex II to this decision, and to further develop a [xx]-year rolling work programme, including cost estimates, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;]
 [Option 3: Also requested the CGE in early 2013 to develop a work programme for its revised term, to be re-evaluated by the CGE yearly, taking into account relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).]
8. Further requests the Consultative Group of Experts to report on the progress of its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation [at its second meeting of each year] [at the SBI meeting during the COP session];
9. [The CGE shall, in defining and implementing its work programme, take into account other relevant work by expert groups under the Convention and engage and coordinate with the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive Committee and the Durban Forum for In-depth discussion on Capacity Building, in order to avoid duplication of work.]
10. Decides to [initiate]review, at its [twenty-first] [twentieth] [twenty-fifth] session, [the term and mandate][mandate and terms of reference] of the Consultative Group of Experts [and the need for the continuation of the group], with a view to adopting a decision thereon [at the same session];

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11. Requests the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts by:
- (a) Organizing meetings and workshops of the Consultative Group of Experts and compiling reports of its meetings and workshops for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;
 - (b) Providing technical support to the Consultative Group of Experts as required, particularly in the areas of national greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation assessment, research and systematic observation, education, training and public awareness, technology transfer and capacity-building, [and also mitigation actions and assessments relating to institutional arrangements, assessment of gaps and needs, support received, domestic MRV, projections] as they relate to the process of and the preparation of national communications [or biennial update reports];
 - (c) Liaising with other relevant multilateral programmes and organizations to provide additional [financial and] technical support [,disseminating the information materials and technical reports prepared by the Consultative Group of Experts to Parties, relevant experts and organizations] to the Consultative Group of Experts as required related to the preparation of national communications [and] [or] biennial update reports;
 - (d) [Providing technical and logistical support, as required [by committees, panels or working groups established to serve as technical experts for its functions including ICA;], [to the Consultative Group of Experts in [serving as] [building capacity for] the team of technical experts for international consultation and analysis;]]
12. [Invites][Urges] Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in a position to do so to provide financial resources to enhance the support by the secretariat to the work of the Consultative Group of Experts and to support the full operation of the work of the Consultative Group of Experts.
13. [Decides that arrangements for funding of the meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts should be provided in the budget of the Secretariat.]
14. Requests that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources;

Appendix I

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

1. [The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) shall have the objective[s] of:

(a) Improving the [process of [and] preparation of] national communications and biennial update reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties [including those Parties that have not yet completed their national communications.];

(b) [Serving as] [Building capacity for] the team of technical experts for international consultation and analysis (ICA) [in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty, in accordance with paras 56-62 of Decision 2/CP. 17 and its Annex IV.] [by undertaking the technical analysis of biennial update reports [in accordance with the modalities and guidelines for ICA contained in annex IV to decision 2/CP.17]]].

[Alternate 1. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) shall have the objective[s] of improving the [process of [and] preparation of] national communications and biennial update reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), by providing technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties;]

2. The CGE, in fulfilling its mandate, shall [provide the following]:

(a) [Identify and provide technical assistance regarding problems and constraints that have affected the process of and the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties.]

(b) [Provide] Technical assistance and support [including capacity building] to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their national communications [and biennial update reports], with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in their national communications [and biennial update reports] [, particularly with respect to reporting on national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, mitigation, and cross-cutting issues (research and systematic observation, technology transfer, capacity-building, education, training and public awareness, information and networking and financial and technical support)];

(c) [Technical assistance and support [including capacity building] to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their biennial update reports with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in their biennial update reports;] [Facilitate technical reviews of national communications or elements of national communications and biennial update reports for interested non-Annex I Parties;]

[Alternate 2. b, c: [Provide] Technical assistance and support [including capacity building] to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their national communications [and biennial update reports], with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in their national communications [and biennial update reports] [, particularly with respect to reporting on national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, mitigation, and cross-cutting issues (research and systematic observation, technology transfer, capacity-building, education, training and public

awareness, information and networking and financial and technical support)]; [Technical assistance and support [including capacity building] to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their biennial update reports with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in their biennial update reports;] [Facilitate technical reviews of national communications or elements of national communications and biennial update reports for interested non-Annex I Parties;]]

(d) [Provide] Technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties in meeting their obligations arising from relevant decisions related to the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by identifying problems, constraints and difficulties encountered in the use of the guidelines and methodologies for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports;]

[Alternate 2d. Assist non-Annex I Parties, upon their request and as appropriate, in facing difficulties encountered in the use of the guidelines and methodologies for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports;]

[Alternate 2. b, c, d: Technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their national communications and biennial update reports, with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in these reports and by identifying problems, constraints and difficulties encountered in the use of guidelines and methodologies for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports.]

(e) [Provide] Technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of [the national communications preparation] processes, including the elaboration of appropriate institutional arrangements and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports, including greenhouse gas inventories, on a continuous basis;

(f) [Provide information on [financial] support available and technical advice to non-Annex I Parties, and extract lessons learned and best practices on addressing constraints and gaps and related financial, technical, and capacity building needs, in particular on adaptation from non-Annex I national communications and biennial update reports.]

(g) [Provide technical assistance and support for the preparation of proposals regarding the funding needed for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties.]

(h) [Upon request from any non-Annex I Party [provide] information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties.]

(i) [Continue its work in reviewing the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.]

(j) [Provide advice and assistance to Parties on request, in the development and communication of their NAMAs.]

(k) [Draft revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex 1 to the Convention, building upon the work previously done by the CGE in providing recommendations on elements to be included in such revised guidelines, and taking into account the experience of non-Annex 1 Parties in the preparation of their most recent national communications.]

(l) [make recommendations on the above sub-paragraphs, to be forwarded to the SBI for its consideration]

(m) [Provide technical advice and support, by organizing and conducting workshops, including hands-on training workshops at the regional or subregional level, on national greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation, vulnerability and adaptation, as well as training on the use of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties. Special attention shall be given to the training on the use of guidelines for the preparation of the first biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties;]

3. [The CGE, in fulfilling its mandate, [and with a view to adopting revised guidelines by the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties,] shall also provide recommendations, [as appropriate,]to the SBI on the following:

(a) [Elements to be considered in a future review and revision¹ of the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention” contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17;

(b) Elements to be considered in the future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account such recommendations made earlier by the CGE², as well as recent relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties including the relevant provisions under decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 60 and 66, and decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 39.]

[Alternate 3: The CGE, in in fulfilling its mandate, should draft revised guidelines for both national communications and biennial update reports, to be presented to the SBI for consideration, with a view to their adoption by the COP.]]

4. [In [serving as] [building capacity for] the team of technical experts for international consultation and analysis, referred to in [paragraph 1 of annex IV] [para 56-62 of Decision 2/CP. 17 and its Annex IV] to decision 2/CP.17, the CGE shall:

(a) Undertake the technical analysis of biennial update reports submitted by non-Annex I Parties [to be developed];

(b) Prepare a draft summary report and share it with the Party concerned for [comment][review and comments over the following [x] months;];

(c) Respond to and incorporate the comments referred to in paragraph 4(b) above from the Party concerned and finalize, in consultation with the Party concerned, the summary report to be presented to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).]

5. The CGE shall, in defining and implementing its work programme, take into account other relevant work by expert groups under the Convention [and should also engage, upon request, with the Adaptation Committee, Climate Technology Centre and Network, Technology Executive Committee, and the Durban Forum for In-Depth Discussion on Capacity-Building] in order to avoid duplication of work.

6. [The CGE may establish committees, panels or working groups, and/or request the secretariat to assist it in the performance of its functions. The CGE shall draw on the expertise necessary to perform its functions, including from the UNFCCC roster of experts.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, annex III, paragraph 20.

² The CGE provided a set of recommendations to the SBI on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”; these recommendations are contained in document FCCC/SBI/2011/5/Rev.1 and Add.1 submitted to the SBI at its thirty-fourth session.

In this context, it shall take fully into account the consideration of regional balance, in line with the composition of the CGE.]

7. [In the light of the new mandate, CGE shall include in its work plan up to the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, the following task: to develop and agree on its revised rules of procedure, in view of its new activities, and recommend them to the Conference of the Parties for adoption.]

8. The CGE shall forward recommendations on matters indicated in paragraph 3 above for consideration by the SBI as appropriate.

Appendix II

Work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts for [xx to xx]

[To be developed in terms of output/product, means, responsibility and time period.]

[The list of tasks will be amended in line with the revised draft conclusions and decisions.]

<i>Mandate paragraph of the annex to decision xx/CP.18</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Output/product</i>	<i>Means to achieve the Outputs/activities</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Time period/dates</i>	<i>Cost estimates</i>
2(a)	Technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their national communications, with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of information in their national communications					
2(b)	Technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the preparation of their biennial update reports with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of information in their biennial update reports					
2(c)	Technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties in meeting their obligations arising from relevant decisions related to the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by identifying problems, constraints and difficulties encountered in the use of the guidelines and methodologies for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports					
2(d)	Technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes, including the elaboration of appropriate institutional					

- arrangements and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports, including greenhouse gas inventories, on a continuous basis
- 2(e) Technical advice to non-Annex I Parties on the on the provision of support for available for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports
- 2(f) Upon request from any non-Annex I Parties information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties
- 3(a) Provide recommendations, as appropriate, to the SBI on elements to be considered in a future review and revision of the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention” contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17
- 3(b) Elements to be considered in the future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account such recommendations made earlier by the CGE, as well as recent relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties including the relevant provisions under decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 60 and 66, and decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 39
- 4 [Serve as the team of technical experts for international consultation and analysis referred to in decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, paragraph 1]
- 6 [The CGE may establish committees, panels or working groups, and/or request the secretariat to

assist it in the performance of its functions. The CGE shall draw on the expertise necessary to perform its functions, including from the UNFCCC roster of experts. In this context, it shall take fully into account the consideration of regional balance, in line with the composition of the CGE]

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