

Decision 18/CP.8

Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular Articles 4, 10.2 and 12 thereof,

Further recalling its decisions 3/CP.1 on preparation and submission of national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, 4/CP.1 on methodological issues, 9/CP.2 on communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration, 11/CP.4 on national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, and 3/CP.5 on guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories,

Reaffirming that anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol should be reported in a transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate way,

Noting that the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories, adopted by decision 3/CP.5, need to be revised to improve the transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy of the reported national greenhouse gas inventories and other information,

Further noting the improvements Parties included in Annex I to the Convention have made in providing complete and timely annual greenhouse gas inventories,

Having considered the relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice,

1. *Adopts* the revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories, contained in the annex to this decision;¹
2. *Decides* that Parties included in Annex I to the Convention should use these UNFCCC guidelines on annual inventories in preparing their inventories due by 15 April each year, beginning in the year 2004;
3. *Decides* that Parties included in Annex I to the Convention should use the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories adopted by decision 3/CP.5 in preparing their inventories due by 15 April 2003;
4. *Requests* the secretariat, pending availability of resources, to develop, by October 2003, new software for reporting in the common reporting format included in the annex to these guidelines on annual inventories, in order to facilitate Parties' inventory submissions due by 15 April 2004;
5. *Requests* Parties included in Annex I to the Convention to publish on their national web sites their national inventory submissions consisting of the national inventory report and common reporting format, and to inform the secretariat of the exact address of these publications on the World Wide Web;

¹ To facilitate ease of use by Parties, the annex to this decision is contained in document FCCC/CP/2002/8.

6. *Requests* the secretariat to publish on its web site the officially submitted annual inventory submissions consisting of the national inventory report and common reporting format of all Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, and publish as well the address of Parties' web sites where these publications are located;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report assessing experience in the implementation of these guidelines, taking into account, inter alia, the experience gained by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in using the guidelines and by the secretariat in processing the information reported by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its first session in the year 2006.

*7th plenary meeting
1 November 2002*