

## **Decision 8/CP.5**

### **Other matters related to communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular its Articles 4.1, 4.3, 4.7, 10.2(a), 12.1 and 12.5,

*Recalling also* its decisions on communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), in particular decisions 10/CP.2, 11/CP.2, 2/CP.4 and 12/CP.4,

*Reaffirming* that the Global Environment Facility should provide funding for developing country Parties which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, for activities related to the assessment of vulnerability and adaptation options, in accordance with decisions 10/CP.2 and 2/CP.4,

*Having considered* the views of Parties on the provision of financial and technical support, on matters related to the consideration of communications from non-Annex I Parties and the timing of second national communications,<sup>1</sup>

*Drawing attention* to paragraph 1 (d) of decision 11/CP.2 on guidance to the Global Environment Facility, in which it is stated that the preparation of national communications is a continuing process,

*Noting* the concern expressed by non-Annex I Parties that lack of support for activities subsequent to the submission of national communications has seriously disrupted the implementation of the Convention at the national level,

*Encouraging* non-Annex I Parties to complete and submit their initial national communications, keeping in mind the timetable set in Article 12.5,

*Reiterating* the importance of sharing national experience in the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties,

---

<sup>1</sup> See FCCC/SBI/1999/MISC.3, FCCC/SBI/1999/MISC.4 and Add.1.

*Noting further* the importance of providing a forum for non-Annex I Parties to share national experience in the preparation of their national communications,

*Reiterating* the primary importance of providing financial and technical support for the preparation of such national communications,

1. *Decides:*

(a) That the consideration of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision 12/CP.4;

(b) That the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2, together with the guidance provided to the operating entity of the financial mechanism given in decision 11/CP.2, shall continue to be valid for all initial national communications;

(c) That a process of reviewing the guidelines for the preparation of national communications shall be initiated with the aim of improving them by the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account information on the use of the guidelines contained in the compilation and synthesis report comprising a representative and meaningful number of national communications from non-Annex I Parties;

(d) That all Parties that have submitted their initial national communications before the adoption of revised guidelines for national communications, and wish to start the preparation of their second national communications before the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, may do so using the initial guidelines; that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) shall provide funding for the preparation of the second national communications of such Parties, following the guidance to the GEF set out in decisions 11/CP.2 and 2/CP.4; and that Parties which start to prepare their second national communications after adoption of the revised guidelines shall use the revised guidelines;

2. *Decides further* that the frequency of submission of national communications by non-Annex I Parties shall be determined at its seventh session; for this purpose, adequate information from the operating entity of the financial mechanism on the effective availability of financial resources to non-Annex I Parties and the timing of disbursement of these resources to developing countries for the preparation of initial national communications will be necessary to determine the timetable for non-Annex I Party submissions, in accordance with Article 4.3 of the Convention;

3. *Decides also* to establish a consultative group of experts on national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention with the objective of improving national communications from non-Annex I Parties, in accordance with the annex to this decision;
4. *Decides* to reconsider the terms of reference of the consultative group of experts at its seventh session;
5. *Requests* the Convention secretariat to facilitate the work of the consultative group of experts in accordance with Article 8.2(c) of the Convention and decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1 (a), by:
  - (a) Coordinating meetings of the consultative group of experts and compiling reports on its regional workshops and meetings for consideration by the subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Making information on those experts, by expertise and region, available on the roster of experts on the UNFCCC web site, indicating their role as experts on non-Annex I Party communications;
  - (c) Exploring ways to enhance communication among those experts, including through the development of an electronic bulletin board where appropriate;
6. *Invites* the GEF to include in the report on its activities to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session specific references to the implementation of decisions 2/CP.4 and 10/CP.2.

*9th plenary meeting  
4 November 1999*

Annex

**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 (non-Annex I Parties) shall have the objective of improving the process of preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.
2. The consultative group shall be composed of experts drawn from the roster of experts with expertise in greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, abatement issues and preparation of national communications.
3. The experts shall be appointed as follows: five experts from Africa, five experts from Asia, five experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and six experts from Annex I Parties. The experts representing each developing region shall be appointed by the Parties from that region in order to ensure geographical balance. The experts from Annex I Parties shall be appointed by the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. In addition, up to three experts from organizations with relevant experience shall be selected by the secretariat to participate in the group. The Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies shall be notified of these appointments.
4. The consultative group shall meet twice in the year 2000, each time immediately prior to meetings of the subsidiary bodies.
5. The consultative group of experts shall be mandated to:
  - (a) Exchange experience and information on the preparation of national communications, including consideration of subregional experience, through the meetings referred to in paragraph 4 above and paragraph 7 below, on the basis of agendas to be decided by consultation among the participants at each level of meetings;
  - (b) Consider, as appropriate, the needs for and availability of financial resources and technical support, and the identification of barriers to and gaps in this support;
  - (c) Consider, as appropriate, information in national communications from non-Annex I Parties in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2;

(d) Review existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties with a view to identifying gaps and making recommendations to better coordinate these activities and programmes in order to enhance the preparation of national communications;

(e) Identify the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the use of the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2 and in the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies and other models, and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate;

(f) Identify the analytical and methodological issues, including technical problems in the preparation and reporting of greenhouse gas inventories, in particular with respect to the improvement of data collection, the development of local and regional emission factors and activity data, and the development of methodologies, where appropriate, with a view to enhancing the quality of future inventories;

(g) Examine national communications, in particular greenhouse gas inventories, submitted by non-Annex I Parties, with a view to arriving at recommendations on ways of overcoming difficulties in the use of the IPCC methodologies and the UNFCCC guidelines relating to inventories contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2, and on possible innovations, and produce reports thereon;

(h) Encourage interaction among experts from all Parties.

6. Recommendations of the consultative group on these matters shall be forwarded to the subsidiary bodies for their consideration.

7. Each year there will be one workshop in each of the regions referred to in paragraph 3 above to consider both regional and subregional experience. The five non-Annex I Party experts from their respective regions will conduct these workshops. The agendas for the workshops will be developed by the participating experts, in consultation with the UNFCCC secretariat, and will ensure adequate coverage of the issues identified in paragraph 5 above. Experts/resource persons at these workshops will be drawn from the roster of experts, and limited to an additional 15 experts from the region, and five Annex I Party experts.

8. The secretariat shall coordinate these workshops and facilitate the preparation of a report by the experts on each workshop, which will be made available to the Parties.