

Distr.  
LIMITED

A/AC.237/WG.I/L.13  
23 August 1993

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING  
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK  
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE

Eighth session  
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993  
Agenda item 2 (c)

MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

FIRST REVIEW OF THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATED BY EACH PARTY  
INCLUDED IN ANNEX I OF THE CONVENTION

Draft conclusions by the Co-Chairpersons of Working Group I

1. Working Group I held preliminary discussions on task A.3, "First review of the information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention", adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change at its sixth session (see A/AC.237/24, para. 44). Document A/AC.237/36 and Add.1, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject. The following conclusions on the item drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents are recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.
2. The Committee expressed its thanks for the presentation of the work undertaken by countries and organizations included in Annex I to the Convention in the preparation of their national communications of information under the Convention. The initiative was seen as a useful contribution to the preparatory work of the Committee. Therefore, it was felt that these countries and organizations should report on results achieved to the Committee at its ninth session.
3. It was recognized that, in light of the likely short time available until the first communications of Annex I Parties are due, draft guidelines for the preparation of their communications should be provided by the secretariat for consideration by Working Group I at the next session of the Committee. Such

guidelines would ensure consistency, transparency and comparability of information across communications. In this regard, the list of possible common elements to be addressed in communications by Annex I Parties, attached herewith, will be taken as a basis for determining the content of communications. It was suggested that the issue of confidentiality be left aside for the time being. Indications should be included on the minimum set of core information necessary, the type and level of detail of data, and methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of measures undertaken.

4. The Committee placed emphasis on the critical importance of the assessment of the effectiveness of measures. The secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on methodologies for such assessments, as already envisaged in the context of methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases.

5. Practical arrangements for distribution and transmission of communications were recognized as being equally important. Initial suggestions were made by the secretariat, which was requested to bring forward to the next session an efficient procedure for distributing communications, including a cost estimate.

6. The communications must be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties (COP). It was agreed that such reviews should be facilitative, non-confrontational, open and transparent. They should facilitate exchange of information and experiences on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention. The review process could include several steps outlined in the following paragraphs. In this regard, the diagram, contained in annex I to document A/AC.237/36, was discussed. It was agreed that it should be further elaborated upon, taking into account proposals by member States. The value of informal consultations among Parties on matters relating to communication and review of information was recognized.

7. The Committee agreed on the usefulness of a scientific and technical analysis of the national communications to, inter alia, verify methodologies used; compare national data with authoritative international sources; note the inclusion of themes or the absence of data; review emissions projections and effectiveness of claimed mitigation and adaptation measures; as well as evaluate stated impacts of climate change. Such a technical analysis could be carried out by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

8. The tasks of compiling and synthesizing information contained in national communications were considered as important, for the purpose of aggregation of information and data, assessment of how Parties are fulfilling their commitments and assessment of the overall effects of policies and measures. Seen as an essential element of the review process, this task could be carried out by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which would supply the COP with policy recommendations and suggestions for amending or modifying the Convention to meet its ultimate objective. In conformity with its mandate, the SBSTA may assist SBI to come up with proposals for adjustments and amendments on the basis of the assessment of the state of knowledge. In

carrying out its tasks, the SBI could interact, as appropriate, with the Parties concerned. Therefore, it may be useful to designate a national focal point with whom the bodies of the Convention could interact.

9. It was agreed that a compilation and a synthesis of information on the global situation would provide a basis for reviewing the adequacy of commitments undertaken under the Convention, and would also provide an appropriate background against which information submitted by individual Parties could be assessed. This task would be most appropriately done by the SBSTA, drawing upon, inter alia, work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In this context, it was mentioned that the sources of information available would have to be specified.

10. It was recognized that the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention and their relationship with other bodies, including IPCC, will need clarification in order to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts. Possible interim arrangements necessary for an effective first review of information communicated by Annex I Parties will also have to be addressed. The secretariat was therefore requested to prepare a paper on the full range of tasks to be allocated respectively to the two subsidiary bodies, their linkages with the IPCC and with other sources of information, to be discussed at the next session. The secretariat was also requested to provide considerations on the format and content of the report of the COP on implementation. The paper should further address the kind of support needed from the secretariat, including financial and human resource implications.

11. The secretariat was further requested to provide additional elements to facilitate the discussion on the first review of the adequacy of commitments and the process to amend the Convention, should the review determine that measures and policies are not adequate, for discussion at the next session of the Committee.

12. It was recalled that any decisions taken with regard to communications by Annex I Parties would also be relevant to the communications of developing country Parties due at a later stage. In this context, a proposal was made to set up separate administrative units in developing country Parties, supported by the financial mechanism, to serve as contact points to provide additional information on national communications by them.

Annex

LIST OF POSSIBLE COMMON ELEMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED  
IN COMMUNICATIONS BY ANNEX I PARTIES

Introduction

Basic Data/National Circumstances

Emission inventory

National Programme for mitigation:

    General description, obligation, methodology

    Description of measures

    Costs of measures/programmes (optional)

Effects of measures on emissions

Vulnerability and adaptation measures

Research, development, and monitoring programmes

International programmes

    Technology cooperation (Annex II Parties only)

    Joint implementation

    Financial assistance (Annex II Parties only)

Education, training, and public awareness

Other information

-----