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**NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Approach paper by the Group of 77 and China on recommendations on guidelines and format for preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties

Note by the secretariat

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its second session, took note of the paper presented by the Group of 77 and China on recommendations on guidelines and format for preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties. The attached document is circulated at the request of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China.

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## **POSITION PAPER OF GROUP 77 AND CHINA**

### **Recommendations on guidelines and format for preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties**

#### **Basis for Commitment**

1. Article 12.1, 12.5 and 12.7, read with relevant portions of Article 4.1, of the FCCC are the basis of the commitment for submission of initial communications by all Parties to the Convention. These Articles should guide the non-Annex I Parties for recommendations regarding guidelines and for developing a format for initial communications.
2. Article 4.1 clearly provides that commitments under that Article would be undertaken "taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances".

#### **General obligations**

Keeping Article 4.3 in mind, it is important that the in-depth reviews of the communications of the Annex I Parties clearly reflect the fulfilment of the commitments of the developed country Parties especially towards developing countries.

#### **Considerations for non-Annex I Parties**

(a) **Other obligations of developed country Parties**

Articles 4.7, 4.4 and 4.5 are relevant in this connection.

(b) **Specific national circumstances**

Articles 4.8 and 4.9 are relevant.

(c) **Vulnerability**

Article 4.10 and 4.4 are relevant. Keeping in view the various provisions in the Convention for developing country Parties and the clear recognition of the common but differentiated responsibilities and priorities, objectives and circumstance of each Party, there is a need to take into full consideration the circumstances and vulnerabilities of developing country Parties. Further, the Convention makes the implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties a precondition for the fulfilment of the obligations of developing country Parties/non-Annex I Parties.

(d) **Timing of submission of initial communication**

1. The timing for submission of initial communication for non-Annex I Parties is, in accordance with Article 12.5, to be submitted within three years of entry into force for

that Party or/of the availability of financial resources in accordance with Article 4.3. The timing of submission of initial communications should not, therefore, be fixed arbitrarily but follow the above provisions of the Convention.

**Scope**

**(a) Inventory**

1. Article 12.1 (a) provides that the initial communication could include information relating to a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent it capacities permit.
2. We should recognize that in order to prepare information relating to a national inventory, the capacity of developing countries vary widely in relation to their technical, financial as well as institutional capacities. In this connection, there is a clear need for adequate and additional financial resources, technical support and technology transfer to supplement the effort towards capacity building and preparation of a national inventory.
3. In view of above, the nature of methodology used should be flexible.
4. The base for inventories should be the year 1994. However, countries which have prepared the inventory for the year 1990 may present the data in their initial communication.

**(d) General description of steps**

The general description of steps set out within the context of sustainable development efforts of non-Annex Parties may include one or more of the following:

- Measures relating to adaption
- Information on emissions by sources and removal by sinks
- Financial resources and technical support given and required
- Capacity building and training needs
- Requirements for technology transfer

**(c) Any other information**

The non-Annex I Parties may include any other relevant information including projects for financing, material relevant for calculation of global emission trends, constraints and obstacles etc.

Format for initial communications from non Annex I Parties

A format for initial communications from non Annex I Parties has been developed by the experts of non Annex I Parties and is given in the annexure to this document. This would be the basis for further work on initial communications from non Annex I Parties.

Observations and policy guidance

While finalising the recommendation for guidelines and format for initial communications as well as the process for further consideration, the COP must take fully into account the views expressed in this position paper. Towards this end, it is a matter of disappointment that the Annex I Parties and other developed country Parties have not been able to fulfil their commitments regarding provision of financial resources and transfer of technology as stipulated under the Convention. This position paper should serve as policy guidance to the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism in meeting the agreed full costs incurred by the developing country Parties.

Future consideration

1. It is clearly recognised that the process of consideration of the information communicated by the non Annex I Parties under Article 10 (2) (a) is different from the process envisaged for Annex I Parties under Article 10 (2) (b). There should not be any individual country reviews for non Annex I Parties but only the overall aggregate effect should be assessed for all Parties to the Convention.
  
2. In accordance with Art. 12.7 and Art. 8.2(c), Group of 77 and China shall request the necessary assistance be provided to developing country Parties in the compilation and communication of information of non Annex I parties, including for the holding of any future workshops that may be found necessary. In this connection, Group of 77 and China express their intention to hold a workshop as a follow up to the present one in conjunction with the next meeting meetings of SBSTA and SBI.

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**Format for initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties**

1. This format is intended to provide a common set of guidelines for the presentation of the initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC, under its Article 12.1.
  
2. The Guidelines for the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations or the simplified default methodologies adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change may be used by non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate and to the extent possible, in the fulfillment of their commitments under the Convention.
  
3. The year 1994 should be the base year for inventories. However, countries which have prepared their inventory for the year 1990 may present this data in their initial communication, with a view to including the best available data.
  
4. It was recognized that the preparation of the initial communication will depend on the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology in accordance with Article 4.7.

5. National Circumstances5 (a). General Circumstances

Criteria	1994
Population	
Relevant areas (square kilometers)	
GDP (1994 US\$ )	
GDP per capita (1994 US\$ )	
Estimated share of the informal sector in the economy in GDP (percentage)	
Share of industry in GDP (percentage)	
Share of services in GDP (percentage)	
Share of agriculture in GDP (percentage)	
Land area used for agricultural purposes (square kilometers)	
Urban population as percent of total population	
Livestock population (disaggregate as appropriate)	
Forest area (square kilometers, define as appropriate)	
Population in absolute poverty	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	
Literacy rate	

Notes:

(1) In addition to the above information which can be conveniently presented in a table, non-Annex I Parties may present basic geographical and climatic information, as well as other factors relevant to climate change of any nature such as, for example, peculiarities of its economy which may affect its ability to deal with climate change.

(2) Non-Annex I Parties may provide a brief description of existing institutional arrangements which are relevant to the preparation of the inventory on a continuing basis, or a list of perceived deficiencies in this area.

5(b). Special Circumstances

Specific needs and concerns arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, specially on

- Small Island Countries;
- Countries with low-lying coastal area;
- Countries with arid and semi-arid areas, forested areas and areas liable to forest decay;
- Countries with areas prone to natural disasters;
- Countries with areas liable to drought and desertification;
- Countries with areas of high urban atmospheric pollution;
- Countries with fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems;
- Countries with economies highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products;
- Land-locked and transit countries; and
- Other special considerations foreseen in paragraph 4.9 (least developed countries) and 4.10 (fossil-fuel dependency), as appropriate.

**Note:** Wherever applicable non-Annex I Parties should present numerical indicators. For example they might use a classification in terms of percentage of the land area, percentage of the population affected, and/or percentage of GDP, etc.

6. Inventory

6.1 Non-Annex I Parties should strive to present the best available data, to the extent their capacity permits, and try to identify the areas where the data may be further improved in the future communications by national capacity building.

6.2 The methodology for the national inventories of emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases to be used is that developed by the IPCC. Special note is taken of the fact that such methodology will be reviewed during 1996, with three workshops scheduled in the March-April time frame, on land-use changes, rice methane and energy and industry with completion scheduled for September.

6 (a). Inventory of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sources and removals by sinks in 1994 (Gigagrams/year)

Energy Fuel Combustion Activities	Energy and Transformation	
	Industry	
	Transport	
	Commercial and institutional	
	Residential	
	Other	
Land Use Change and Forestry	Changes in Forest and other woody Biomass stock	
	Forest and Grassland Conversion	
	Abandonment of Managed Lands	
Others		
Total		

Note: For *conversion factors* for apparent consumption and the *carbon emission factors* state whether the default values of the IPCC have been used or locally available values were used.

6 (b). Inventory of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by sources in 1994 (Gigagrams/year)

Energy	Biomass burned for energy	
	Other	
Fugitive Fuel Emissions	Oil and natural gas systems	
	Coal mining	
Agriculture	Rice Cultivation <sup>1</sup>	
	Enteric Fermentation	
	Additional Burning of Savannas	
	Others	
Others		
Total		

<sup>1</sup> Including all emissions and removals, taking account of the underlying complex chemical processes



Notes:

- (1) Three-year average figures be given.
- (2) For *conversion factors* for apparent consumption and the *carbon emission factors* state whether the default values of the IPCC have been used or locally available values were used.

6(c). Inventory of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by sources in 1994 (Gigagrams/year)

Energy	
Industrial Processes	
Agriculture	
Total	

Notes:

- (1) Non-Annex I Parties which have difficulties in providing the above data may provide aggregate data.
- (2) For *conversion factors* for apparent consumption and the *carbon emission factors* state whether the default values of the IPCC have been used or locally available values were used.

6(d). Other greenhouse gases

Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to include in their national inventories the fully-fluorinated compounds, as appropriate. Other greenhouse gases included in the IPCC methodology may be included at the discretion of the Parties.

6(e). Summary

Summary of emissions by sources and removals by sinks for all gases may be provided, including additional information such as, for example, expression of the results in terms of socio-economic-geographical indicators deemed relevant by each country.

According to the IPCC methodology, emissions from bunker fuels (aviation and Marine) should be reported in addition to national emissions.

7. General Description of Steps

A general description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. This may include:

- (a) Programs related to sustainable development, research and systematic observation, education and public awareness, training, etc.
- (b) Policy options for adequate monitoring systems and response strategies for climate change impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems;
- (c) Policy frameworks for implementing adaptation measures and response strategies in the context of coastal zone management, disaster preparedness, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, with a view to integrating climate change impact information, as appropriate, into national strategic planning processes;
- (d) In the context of undertaking national communications, building of national, regional and/or subregional capacity, as appropriate, to integrate climate change concerns in medium- and long-term planning.

## **8. Financial and Technological Needs and Constraints**

- 8.1 Non-Annex I Parties may describe the financial and technological needs and constraints associated with the communication of information. In particular, and following the evolving recommendations of the Conference of the Parties through its Subsidiary Bodies, the description may cover the needs and constraints associated with the further improvement of national communications, including the reduction of the margin of uncertainty in emission and removal variables through appropriate institutional and capacity building.
- 8.2 According to national priorities, a description may include financial and technological needs associated with activities and measures envisaged under the Convention.
- 8.3 Information on measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change may be added, indicating national technological needs.
- 8.4 Assessment of national, regional and/or subregional vulnerability to climate change; may be added, including, where appropriate, reliance on related data-gathering systems to measure climate change effects in particularly vulnerable countries or regions and strengthening of such systems as necessary; and identification of a near-term research and development agenda to understand sensitivity to climate change, indicating relevant financial and technological needs.

## **9. Other Information**

- 9.1 Any other information which non-Annex I Parties may wish to provide including projects for financing, material relevant for calculation of global emission trends, constraints and obstacles etc.