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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Twenty-sixth session  
Bonn, 7–18 May 2007

**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

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**Relationship of various provisions of the Mauritius Strategy to the work of  
the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

This document provides summarized information on the work of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and on provisions of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy) as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-fifth session. This information may be useful to Parties for their consideration of agenda items concerned with the provisions of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol that they deem relevant to the Mauritius Strategy.

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## I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), by its conclusions on any other matters at its twenty-fifth sessions, requested the secretariat to prepare an information paper for the twenty-sixth session of the subsidiary bodies on how the relevant provisions of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy)<sup>1</sup> are currently reflected in the work of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

## II. Relevant elements of the Mauritius Strategy

2. The Mauritius Declaration, adopted together with the Mauritius Strategy, reaffirms the commitment of governments to support the sustainable development strategies of the small island developing States (SIDS) through technical and financial cooperation, regional and inter-regional institutional assistance and an improved international enabling environment (para. 11). The Mauritius Declaration also expresses appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in helping to advance the sustainable development of SIDS, and invites them to strengthen their support to the Mauritius Strategy through enhanced coherence, coordination and appropriate monitoring (para. 22). The decisions and actions in the Mauritius Strategy are anchored in the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), 1994,<sup>2</sup> which specifically recognizes climate change and sea level rise as impediments to achieving sustainable development.

3. The Mauritius Strategy addresses the 14 priority areas of the BPoA, new and emerging issues and key means of implementation. It reinforces these principles and actions, and recognizes that the BPoA remains the blueprint for sustainable development of SIDS and takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects that are key elements of a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development.

4. Chapter 1 of the Mauritius Strategy is dedicated to climate change and sea level rise; paragraph 16 notes that climate change and sea level rise pose a significant risk for SIDS, and that adaptation remains a major priority for SIDS.

5. In the context of implementation and with the support of the international community, the Mauritius Strategy, paragraph 18, urges SIDS to:

- (a) Fully implement the Convention and promote international cooperation on climate change;
- (b) Continue to take, in accordance with the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol as applicable, steps to address climate change, including through adaptation and mitigation measures;
- (c) Promote increased energy efficiency and development and the use of renewable energy as a matter of priority, as well as advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;
- (d) Implement the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures (decision 1/CP.10), in particular those elements that are relevant to SIDS;
- (e) Work to facilitate and promote the development, transfer and dissemination to SIDS of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change;

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<sup>1</sup> <[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs\\_sids.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_sids.htm)>.

<sup>2</sup> <<http://www.sidsnet.org/docshare/other/BPOA.pdf>>.

- (f) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities in SIDS;
- (g) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere.

6. The Mauritius Strategy underscores the importance of adaptation for sustainable development of SIDS (para. 19) and of regional coordination and support (para. 20). The following paragraphs of the Mauritius Strategy may also be relevant to the ongoing and possible future work carried out under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol: 21–23, 30, 34–36, 39 (a), 41 (a), 44 (a), 47, 49, 51, 54 (h), 61 (a), 78 (a), 80 (a), 84, 87, 88, 89 (c), 90 and 101. The topics covered in these paragraphs include effective disaster management; waste management; management of coastal, marine, freshwater and land resources; energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; building and enhancing scientific and technological capabilities; sustainable agricultural productivity; developing databases; insurance schemes; support by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); disseminating information on resilience-building technologies in SIDS; meeting Millennium Development Goals on access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and regional and international capacity-building and cooperation.

### **III. Relevant Articles of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol**

7. The Convention recognizes that low-lying and other small island countries, countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Articles of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol which refer to adaptation and mitigation issues, and which may be relevant to the provisions of the Mauritius Strategy are as follows: Articles 2, 4.1(b), 4.1(e), 4.1(f), 4.4, 4.8, 4.9, 5, 6, and 12 of the Convention, and Articles 10 and 12.8 of the Kyoto Protocol.

### **IV. Relevant issues under consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

#### **A. Adaptation**

8. Article 4, paragraph 8 (Article 4.8) of the Convention mentions funding, insurance and technology transfer as areas of action to meet the needs of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change. SIDS see insurance as a vital mechanism to cushion the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change. The Alliance of Small Island States, during the negotiations of the Convention in 1991, proposed the establishment of an international insurance pool to address damage from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. In 2002 the United Nations Development Programme decided to explore, in cooperation with other agencies and institutions, the issue of insurance-related adaptation opportunities within the framework of common but differentiated responsibilities, which is a central principle of the Convention. A round table on climate change adaptation, risk management and insurance was subsequently held at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP). In 2003 the secretariat organized two workshops to consider the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties in the areas of risk assessment and insurance-related needs arising from the adverse effects of climate change and the implementation of response measures to climate change.

9. Article 4.9 of the Convention recognizes the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries (LDCs), of which 12 are SIDS. The COP, by its decision 5/CP.7, further acknowledged the specific circumstances of LDCs and their limitations in dealing with problems associated with adaptation to climate change, and established an LDC work programme which includes

the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The COP, by its decision 28/CP.7, adopted the guidelines for NAPAs, and by its decision 29/CP.7, established the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to provide guidance and advice on the preparation and implementation strategy for NAPAs.

10. By its decision 1/CP.10, the COP adopted the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures. The same decision requested the secretariat to organize, before COP 13, an expert meeting for SIDS, reflecting issues of priority for that group. This meeting was held in two parts in February 2007.

11. By its decision 2/CP.11, the COP adopted the five-year programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The objective of this programme of work is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound, scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability. It was decided at COP 12<sup>3</sup> to rename the five-year programme of work as the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change. It encompasses nine thematic areas: methods and tools; data and observations; climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; climate-related risks and extreme events; socio-economic information; adaptation planning and practices; research; technologies for adaptation; and economic diversification.

## **B. Financial mechanism**

12. The contribution of countries to climate change and their capacity to prevent and cope with its consequences vary considerably. The Convention and its Protocol foresaw the need for the provision of financial assistance from Parties with more resources to those with fewer. Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of the Convention call on developed country Parties to provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1. Further, developed country Parties and Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) were mandated to assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the costs of adaptation to those adverse effects.

13. The Convention established a financial mechanism to provide funds to developing country Parties. The Parties to the Convention assigned operation of this mechanism to the GEF on an ongoing basis, subject to review every four years. The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP, which decides on its climate change policies, programme priorities, and eligibility criteria for funding, based on advice from the SBI. Article 11 of the Kyoto Protocol recognizes the need for new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in advancing the implementation of existing commitments under 4.1(a) of the Convention.

14. The COP, at its seventh session, decided to establish three funds: the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) to finance activities, programmes and measures relating to climate change; the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to support a work programme to assist LDCs in carrying out, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of NAPAs; and the Adaptation Fund (AF) to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The SCCF and LDCF were to be established under the Convention, and the AF under the Kyoto Protocol.

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<sup>3</sup> FCCC/CP/2006/5, para. 80.

15. By its decision 5/CP.7 the COP agreed that the implementation of the following activities on adaptation shall be supported through the SCCF and AF, as well as from other bilateral and multilateral sources:

- (a) Starting to implement adaptation activities promptly where sufficient information is available to warrant such activities, inter alia, in the areas of water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management;
- (b) Improving the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change, and related forecasting and early-warning systems, and in this context improving disease control and prevention;
- (c) Supporting capacity-building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
- (d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and information networks for rapid response to extreme weather events, utilizing information technology as much as possible.

16. By its decision 1/CP.10, the COP requested the GEF to report to the COP, at its eleventh and subsequent sessions, on how activities, including those relating to vulnerability and adaptation, have been supported and the barriers, obstacles and opportunities presented, through: the strategic priority "Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation"; the small grants programme; efforts to address adaptation in the climate change focal area and to mainstream it into other focal areas of the GEF; the LDCF and efforts to finance the preparation of NAPAs; and the SCCF.

### **C. Education, training and public awareness**

17. Article 6 of the Convention calls on governments to promote the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes; promote public access to information and public participation; and promote training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel. The Kyoto Protocol builds on this in Article 10(e) and calls on Parties to cooperate in and promote, at the national and international levels, the development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national capacity-building, and to facilitate, at the national level, public awareness and public access to information.

18. By its decision 11/CP.8, the COP adopted the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention, which is a five-year country-driven work programme engaging all stakeholders and recommending a list of activities which could be undertaken at the national level to facilitate the implementation of Article 6. To develop and implement the New Delhi work programme, Parties requested the secretariat to organize regional workshops that could advance the work on assessing needs, identifying priorities, sharing experience and exchanging information on related activities; and develop an information clearing house that would include information on existing resources. To date, workshops have been organized in four regions (Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific).

19. The SBI, at its twenty-fifth session, made arrangements for the review process of the New Delhi work programme, which is planned for the end of 2007. The SBI also invited Parties to initiate work on

elaborating a possible new framework for action that could succeed the New Delhi work programme in 2008.

#### **D. Capacity-building**

20. The framework for capacity-building in developing countries, annexed to decision 2/CP.7, recognizes LDCs and SIDS as particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and extreme weather events, and with the least capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. The framework lists a number of needs and priorities, including developing and enhancing technical capacities and skills to carry out and effectively integrate vulnerability and adaptation assessments into sustainable development programmes and NAPAs.

21. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (decision 1/CP.8) expressed concern that LDCs and SIDS face an increased risk of the negative impacts of climate change, and called for capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. It further called for the full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakesh Accords.

22. All subsequent decisions of the COP relating to capacity-building, including review by the GEF on funding such activities, continue to call for the enhancement of opportunities to enable LDCs, SIDS and other vulnerable groups to deal with the adverse effects of climate change.

#### **E. Technology transfer**

23. Under Article 4.5 of the Convention, developed country Parties and Annex II Parties shall take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly to developing country Parties to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. This commitment is echoed in similar provisions under the Kyoto Protocol (e.g. Article 10(c)). Parties have taken decisions (e.g. 4/CP.7, 10/CP.8, 6/CP.10, 6/CP.11) to promote the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies at different sessions of the COP.

24. As part of the Marrakesh Accords, Parties agreed to work together on a set of technology transfer activities, grouped under a framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention. This framework, contained in the annex to decision 4/CP.7, has five themes: technology needs and needs assessments; technology information; enabling environments; capacity-building; and mechanisms for technology transfer.

#### **F. National communications**

25. Parties are expected to communicate to the COP information relating to the implementation of the Convention, in particular on a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of greenhouse gases; a description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention; and other information Parties consider relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. SIDS and other developing country Parties have been making periodic submissions through the process of national communications from Parties not included in Annex 1 to the Convention (decision 10/CP.2). By its decision 17/CP.8, the COP adopted revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications. Chapter IV of the the annex to the same decision provides detailed guidance on the reporting of activities, measures and programmes to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. This chapter also covers information on general descriptions of steps taken or envisaged for national and regional programmes on measures to mitigate climate change.

## V. Summary of related elements

26. There are important elements of the work of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol that reflect relevant provisions of the Mauritius Strategy, such as:

- (a) Collecting, compiling, synthesizing and disseminating information on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, including methodologies, technologies and activities reported in national communications and NAPAs;
- (b) Facilitating support for capacity-building and enabling activities;
- (c) Providing guidance to the GEF;
- (d) Developing mechanisms, facilitating dissemination of information and increasing public awareness, including through clearing houses, information systems and workshops;
- (e) Facilitating the exchange of information and sharing experiences and views among Parties on practical opportunities and solutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, particularly in relation to adaptation;
- (f) Liaising and cooperating with the United Nations and other international organizations on adaptation issues.

27. More specifically, the issue of financial support is critical under both the Convention process and the Mauritius Strategy. Chapter 1 of the Mauritius Strategy, on climate change and sea level rise and Chapter 20 on Implementation underscore this. Article 4.4 of the Convention urges Annex II Parties to also assist developing countries in meeting the cost of adaptation.

28. The issue of capacity is also central to the implementation of the Convention process and the Mauritius Strategy. The current agenda items provide for opportunities to build and sustain core expertise in countries and subregions, via training programmes and relevant constituted bodies such as the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, the LEG and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

29. Chapter 20 of the Mauritius Strategy underlines the synergies between several of the climate change issues and sustainable development, which is also underlined in the principles of the Convention (Article 3.4). It recognizes climate change adaptation and sea level rise as an integral component of SIDS national development strategies, and calls on SIDS to develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the Convention. This is to be effected through the facilitation of access to existing resources, and allocation of dedicated financial resources.

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