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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
Second session
Geneva, 26 February - 1 March 1996

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANELS

Comments from Parties

Note by the secretariat

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its first session, requested the secretariat to compile submissions on the establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panels (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3). Accordingly, the Executive Secretary, in his communication of 18 September 1995 to the permanent missions, advised Parties that the deadline for submission was set for 30 October 1995 in order to enable the Chairman of the SBSTA to make use of these submissions for his informal consultations during the second session of the Ad Hoc Group of the Berlin Mandate, to be held from 30 October to 3 November 1995.

The secretariat has received submissions from Fiji, Nigeria and Spain (on behalf of the European Community). These submissions are attached and, in accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, are reproduced in the language(s) in which they were received and without formal editing. Any further submissions will be issued in an addendum to this note.

FCCC/SBSTA/1995/MISC.3

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PAPER NO. 1: FIJI

Fiji agrees that there be two panels on methodology and technology. The panels are to be intergovernmental but nominees are to be selected according to their expertise. The panels should be closed but free to invite advisors on an as needs basis.

The composition of the panel is to be based on equal geographic representation of the 5 United Nations Regions. For the Technical Advisory Panel on Methodology we suggest a panel of twenty. This is to ensure adequate representation of different sub-regions and of both Annex 1 and developing country parties within a region. The Technical Advisory Panel on technology does not have to be as big since basically evaluates innovative technologies so most of the input could be required from the private sector, IGOs and NGOs. We would suggest a panel of 10, one each for Annex 1 developing country parties for each region.

The terms of the panelists are to also be of two years, to be consistent with the chairman's term. Terms can be staggered so as to promote continuity. Members are to be eligible for reappointment.

The appointment of panelists are to be the prerogative of the regional parties. We appreciate the concern of the chairman about time constraints but believe that there are regional and sub-regional consultative fora available for the quick appointment of panelists.

Terms of Reference of Panels

TAP (M)

TAP (M) should not duplicate the work of the IPCC. They should not look into compiling guidelines for inventories but rather to critique the existing work of the IPCC and to identify deficiencies, gaps and recommend or instigate activities to rectify them.

It seems that the IPCC has done a lot of work on emissions inventories and mitigation. Vulnerability Assessments, inventoring of sinks and Adaptation guidelines are an area that needs further work. TAP(M) should consider this in great detail and may come up with a division of labour with IPCC.

TAP(M) should also examine ways to promote the integration of socio-economic and cultural issues into the guidelines provided by IPCC. This is of particular relevance to Fiji and other Pacific countries where the majority of resources is privately owned either by communal indigenous land owning groups or individuals.

For TAP(T) the first task should be to evaluate the register of events where the transfer of technology has taken place. This is currently being drawn up by the secretariat. It can then go on to identifying appropriate technologies and making recommendation on an information exchange mechanism.

The private sector must be the driving force behind this panel. The panel should also examine issues such as patents and intellectual property rights which are obstacles in the technology transfer process and recommend ways which they can be overcome.

PAPER NO. 2: NIGERIA

**UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
SUBMISSION OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANELS (TAPs)**

The establishment of Technical Advisory Panels on Methodology and Technology will no doubt accelerate the work of the AGBM. These panels which must be composed of experts must however be seen to reflect the views of all interest groups in the convention.

It should be noted that even within regional groups, economic interests may vary and countries in a regional grouping may also belong to different intergovernmental organisations. The objective of such organisations usually, incorporate the common economic interests of its members, while regional groups are mainly political associations. It is therefore necessary to involve the views of OECD, OPEC, AOSIS and the LDCs as distinct entities in the deliberations of the panels.

MEMBERSHIP OF PANELS

In this regard, and in consideration of the foregoing, we propose that each of the two panels be composed of the following:

- Two (2) members from each of the five regions: North America
- S. America and the Caribbean
- Africa
- Europe
- Asia and the Pacific Islands

- **One member each from the earlier mentioned following intergovernmental organisations, including.**
 - **AOSIS**
 - **OECD**
 - **OPEC**
 - **LDCs**

These are the main interest groups which are the driving economic forces behind most arguments at the meeting of SBSTA. The AOSIS for example represents Island States who are at the risk of rising sea levels. The OECD may be worried by the fact that the entire process is capable of reducing the economic growth of their members, while OPEC may see any attack on fossil fuels as an attempt to remove oil as the linchpin of energy sources, thus reducing their earnings. The LDCs, on their part, are more concerned with measures which will improve their presently dismal economic fortunes.

In addition to the above, party delegates to the meetings of SBSTA should include experts in relevant fields. This will enable discussions at the subsidiary meetings to be more focused on the issues of climate change. The present situation where parties are represented by just one participant at the AGBM and subsidiary meetings may not be helpful towards reaching conclusions.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

a) Technical Advisory Panel (Methodology)

Collate from other bodies, and provide advice on the development, improvement and refinement of comparable methodologies used for;

- (i) National inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;
 - (ii) Projections of national emissions and removals of greenhouse gases; and comparative analysis of the contribution of each greenhouse gas to climate change;
 - (iii) Evaluation of individual and combined effects of policies and measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the convention;
 - (iv) Conducting technical and economic impact assessment and sensitivity analysis;
 - (v) Assessing adaptation responses; and
 - (vi) Evaluating Mitigation options.
- (b) Provide methodological and technical advice that would be needed in the development of a protocol and other legal instruments to the convention.
- (c) Provide technical guidance on issues related to implementation of the convention, such as the allocation and control.
- (d) Advise on education, training and capacity building needs.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (TECHNOLOGY)

- (a) Develop proposals for the collection and dissemination of information on environmentally sound, economically viable, appropriate technologies for limiting emissions from sources, enhancing sinks of greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change, and on related international initiatives, cooperation and programmes, and the services they offer;
- (b) Provide advice on the latest, and future, technologies in the sectors mentioned above, their effects, their relative feasibility in different circumstances and their relevance to programme priorities of the financial mechanism, taking into account relevant advice to the COP from the SBI;

- (c) Provide advice on ideas on promoting international initiatives, programmes and cooperation in the areas of technology, development and transfer, as well as sharing of experience between Parties; and
- (d) Identify the gaps and evaluate ongoing efforts in the area of development of technologies, including training, to determine whether they fully meet the needs of the convention, and advise on possible improvements.

PAPER NO. 3: SPAIN
(On behalf of the European Community)



España
1995

European Union submission to the Secretariat
on the establishment of Intergovernmental Technical
Advisory Panels (TAPs) by SBSTA

Bearing in mind the key tasks to be undertaken by the subsidiary bodies under the UN FCCC, the European Union fully endorses Decision 6/CP.1, by which, amongst others, SBSTA is authorised, in accordance with rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure, to establish, subject to confirmation at the second session of the Conference of the Parties, two intergovernmental technical advisory panels to provide it with advice on technologies, including advice on related economic aspects, and on methodologies, as outlined in decision 6/CP.1.

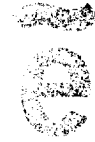
Therefore, the European Union regards the permanent establishment of these panels as crucial for the tasks to be undertaken by SBSTA in preparing COP-3, as they will provide the necessary inputs for the SBSTA to consider. Consequently, the EU hopes the establishment of these panels can take place as soon as possible.

Some progress was made during the consultations in the first session of the SBSTA. The EU attaches great importance to a balanced representation in these panels. In this context, the EU recalls its position on the composition of the panels. We fully support the emerging consensus on the idea of two cochair persons, one officer from an Annex-I Party and another from a non-Annex-I Party, as well as the fact that the panels should be selected from the list of nominees received taking into account the need for representation of different fields of competence, geographical balance and a balance between Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. In our view the members of these panels should be selected by the Bureau of SBSTA for their personal expertise in appropriate areas, in consultation with regional groups as appropriate. Panel members should be appointed for a period of two years. However, initially, half should be appointed for three

years to avoid a complete change of panelists at the same time. The EU considers that only representatives of Parties should attend sessions of the Panels as observers.

With reference to the number of members of the panels, the European Union believes that, due to the wide range of technical and scientific issues that the panels will have to cover, it would be most effective to restrict the number of permanent members acting as a Steering Group while inviting external experts on specific topics to the panels as required by the future work programme of the panels. The ad hoc consultation of external experts on specific scientific items would enable the best available expertise to be sought in each particular case. However, we also see some merit in considering a differentiated structure between the two panels, with the TAP-M being a larger, self-contained body, while the TAP-T should consist of a smaller core body or steering group, as described before.

(Unofficial translation)

España
1995

**Aportación de la Unión Europea al Secretariado del
Organo Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico
(SBSTA) sobre el establecimiento de Grupos
Intergubernamentales de Asesoramiento Técnico**

Teniendo en cuenta el importante trabajo a realizar por los Organos Subsidiarios de la Convención Marco de Cambio Climático de las Naciones Unidas, la Unión Europea apoya totalmente la Decisión 6/CP.1 por la cual, entre otras decisiones, se "autoriza al Organo Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico, de conformidad con el artículo 27 del reglamento, a establecer, sujeto ello a confirmación por la Conferencia de las Partes en su segundo período de sesiones, dos grupos intergubernamentales de asesoramiento técnico para que le brinden orientación sobre tecnologías, con inclusión de los aspectos económicos conexos, y sobre metodologías".

Por consiguiente, la Unión Europea considera que el establecimiento permanente de los grupos intergubernamentales es crucial para la realización del trabajo del SBSTA para la preparación de la Tercera Conferencia de las Partes, ya que estos grupos proveerán al SBSTA de las aportaciones necesarias para su realización. Consecuentemente, la UE espera que los grupos se establezcan lo antes posible.

En la primera sesión del SBSTA se realizó algún avance durante las consultas. La UE otorga gran importancia a que los paneles tengan una representación equilibrada. En este contexto, la UE recuerda su posición respecto a la composición de los grupos. Apoyamos totalmente el creciente consenso en la idea de dos copresidentes, un oficial de una Parte perteneciente al Anexo-I y otro oficial de una Parte no perteneciente al Anexo-I, así como el hecho de que los miembros de los grupos deberían ser elegidos de la lista de nominados recibidos, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de que estén representadas las distintas áreas de conocimiento, el equilibrio geográfico y un equilibrio entre las

Partes pertenecientes al Anexo I y las no pertenecientes al Anexo I. En nuestra opinión, los miembros de los grupos deberían ser elegidos por la Mesa del SBSTA según su experiencia personal en las áreas apropiadas, consultando a los grupos regionales cuando sea apropiado. El nombramiento de los miembros de los grupos debería ser para un período de dos años. Sin embargo, inicialmente la mitad debería ser nombrado para 3 años para evitar un cambio total de los miembros de los grupos al mismo tiempo. La Unión Europea considera que sólo deberían acudir a las sesiones de los grupos como observadores representantes de las Partes.

En referencia al número de miembros de los grupos, la Unión Europea cree que, dado al amplio rango de temas técnicos y científicos que los grupos deberán cubrir, sería más efectivo restringir el número de miembros permanentes actuando como Grupo de Dirección e invitar a expertos externos en temas específicos según lo requiera el futuro programa de trabajo. La consulta ad hoc de expertos externos en temas científicos específicos proporcionaría la mejor experiencia en cada caso particular. Sin embargo, también tenemos en cuenta el interés de considerar una estructura diferente en los grupos, con el panel en metodologías siendo un cuerpo más amplio, mientras el panel en tecnologías consistiría en un Grupo de Dirección como el descrito anteriormente.
