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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BERLIN MANDATE

Comments from Parties

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

In addition to the submissions already received (see FCCC/AGBM/1995/MISC.1, Add. 1, 2, 3 and 4, and FCCC/AGBM/1996/MISC.1, Add. 1 and 2) contributions have been received from Japan and Italy (on behalf of the European Community).

In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and is reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing. Any further submissions will be issued in an addendum.

FCCC/AGBM/1996/MISC.1/Add.3
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OUTLINE OF THE STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

AG/BM 3

MARCH 8 1996

In order to make use of the limited time available for the discussions ahead, the Japanese Government considers that;

1. Inputs From the Subsidiary Bodies

(1) The discussion should be based on scientific analyses, assessments, results of investigations, etc., especially those of the IPCC / Second Assessment Report.

(2) Results of in-depth reviews should have higher comparability among the Parties and transparency of information, and the review mechanism should be further strengthened and systematized.

2. Linkage between Policies and Measures and QELROS

(1) To achieve an international agreement, commitments should be sufficiently flexible through various combinations e.g. timeframes, while ensuring the credibility and effectiveness of a new legal instrument.

(2) It is desirable that "QELROS" should be set on the basis of "policies and measures."

(3) One realistic approach would be to establish a mechanism that would periodically review and strengthen the levels of "policies and measures" that would be sufficient for achieving "QELROS."

(4) It would be worthwhile for consideration, for the time being, to establish a commitment which does not necessarily have linkage between policies and

measures and QELROS.

3. Policies and Measures

(1) Basic concepts include credibility, equity among the Parties, and options that are allowed for each Party.

(2) Consideration is needed to integrate in the new legal instrument a concept of medium / long-term targets to improve CO2 emission efficiency (for example, medium / long-term targets of CO2 emission per GDP), as certain criteria or indexes that would reflect different national circumstances.

(3) We should make the best use of other useful studies that are currently underway, such as those mentioned below. The results of these studies could be reflected in a new legal instrument with flexibility to the application to each Party:

(i) the Common Action Project of OECD/IEA.

(ii) the studies in the document FCCC/AGBM/1995/6.

4. QELROS

(1) It is desirable to make every effort to set quantified objectives which would enable equitable and efficient distribution of future effort among the Annex I Parties.

(2) Among the possible options, it is desirable to establish differentiated QELROS, taking into account different national circumstances.

5. Continuing to Advance the Implementation of Commitments in Article 4.1
Development and submission of national communications from all Parties, particularly regarding "information" and "inventory" is a main issue within various items of the Berlin Mandate.

6. Other Items which should be Considered for Inclusion in a Protocol

- (1) A mechanism for development and transfer of technology.
- (2) Relationship between accumulation of AIJ experiences and a protocol.
- (3) A mechanism that periodically review the legal instrument itself in accordance with the progress in scientific findings and studies.

(Note) This paper aims at summarizing the statements made by the Government of Japan during AGBM3 in a simple, clear manner, and therefore detailed information (ex. preconditions, etc.) are not precisely described. Please refer to the statements of the Government of Japan for more precise and detailed information.

(On behalf of the European Community)

EU COMMON POSITION ON :

“CONTINUING TO ADVANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS IN ARTICLE 4.1”

1. The Berlin Mandate clearly states that developed country Parties should continue to take the lead in combating climate change. It also provides that the process “will not include any new commitments for Parties not included in Annex I, but reaffirm existing commitments in article 4.1 and continue to advance the implementation of these commitments in order to achieve sustainable development, taking into account article 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7”.
2. In furtherance of its commitments, the EU has proposed an outline of a possible protocol structure; has sought to advance the negotiations on policies and measures and quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives; and, in the context of article 4.1, has, inter alia, participated fully in the programme of in-depth reviews of existing national communications from Annex I Parties, in discussing means of improving the guidelines for second communications and in initiatives such as the climate technology initiative.
3. All Parties including the Parties not included in Annex I should advance in the implementation of their current commitments, so as to facilitate reaching the objective of the convention, bearing in mind the provision of the convention, particularly art. 4.1b, c and d. From this point of view the second assessment report of IPCC, as well as country studies which are or will soon be available, should be considered in this spirit as they could suggest some appropriate approaches; on the other hand, concrete proposals from non-Annex I Parties would also be an essential contribution to the process.
4. The communication by Parties of information related to implementation is an essential commitment of the FCCC applying to all Parties. COP-1 has appropriately launched the process of producing guidelines for non-Annex I national communications (decision 8/COP-1). Recognising the wide diversity of capacities amongst these Parties, this issue should be approached with flexibility; however the guidelines should be clear enough to enable comparability of reports and consistency with the provisions of the convention. The EU believes that the information provided in national communications is an essential first step to identify the perspective and processes necessary to advance the implementation of art. 4.1 and to further the involvement of all Parties in the global climate change mitigation effort
5. This means, that the methodology to be used for reporting on national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs should, in our opinion, be the IPCC methodology, which allows for sufficient flexibility for Parties in view of the varying degrees of availability of data. As far as the contents of the communications are concerned, article 12.1(b) specifies that a general description of the steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the convention should be included. It is the EU's view that article 4.1 (b) to (i) describes the aspects covered by the wording of art. 12.1.(b) and that national communications should therefore address all these aspects covered in art 4.1 (b) to (i). Flexibility for Parties exist in the degree

of detail used, according to national circumstances and availability of data. In particular, the EU assumes that all Parties will include in their national and/or regional programs and their communications so called no-regrets measures that provide GHG dividends without negative impacts on economic development.

6. The EU was therefore surprised and disappointed to hear non-Annex I Parties stating at AGBM 3 that the steps being taken to (produce guidelines to) advance the preparation of first national communications by those Parties were sufficient to advance the implementation of commitments in article 4.1 "in order to achieve sustainable development". Preparation of guidelines, and of national communications themselves, are an essential first step towards implementing the commitments in article 4.1, but the EU does not believe that this step alone constitutes sufficient advancement to deliver those commitments, for any Parties to the convention.

7. The EU considers that advancing the implementation of article 4.1 commitments is an essential requirement, for all Parties, if we are to achieve the ultimate objective of the convention. The EU is aware that there are many opportunities for addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs, while at the same time promoting economic development. In the light of the Berlin Mandate a major challenge is therefore to maximise the co-operative effort between all Parties to capture these opportunities. We see three main elements of such an effort:

- opportunities to promote and cooperation in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of environmentally sound technologies, practices and processes. In this context the climate technology initiative can be instrumental in making this operational. Issues like correcting marketing imperfections and access to information would have to be taken up.

- opportunities offered by development of activities implemented jointly. These could further strengthen the implementation, diffusion, including transfer, of modern sustainable technologies in developing countries, while also contributing to sustainable development

- opportunities to make programmes and investments from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the private sector consistent with the objectives of the FCCC, and the implementation of art. 4.1 in particular. This is particularly relevant in view of the magnitude of capital flows from MDBs and private sector compared to those covered by the financial mechanism of the FCCC.

- furthermore, to correct market imperfections and to accelerate sound economic and environmental measures, international co-operation is an essential opportunity.

8. Finally, the EU believes that issues under this item have to be included in the results of the Berlin Mandate process. The EU would like to remind Parties that in its proposal for the structure of a protocol submitted to AGBM 2 in October 1995 it indicated that provisions for continuing to advance the implementation of article 4.1 should be included.