

Distr.  
LIMITED

A/AC.237/L.16  
10 December 1992

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
Sixth session  
Geneva, 7-10 December 1992  
Agenda Item 4

DRAFT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK  
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WORK OF ITS SIXTH SESSION HELD AT GENEVA  
FROM 7 TO 10 DECEMBER 1992

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....		
II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS .....		
A. Opening of the session .....		
B. Adoption of the agenda .....		
C. Organization of work .....		
D. Attendance .....		
E. Documentation .....		
III. PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONVENTION: ELABORATION OF A WORK PLAN FOR THE COMMITTEE .....		
IV. REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS .....		
V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT .....		
<u>Annex(es)</u>		
I. List of documents before the Committee at its sixth session .....		

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Geneva from 7 to 10 December 1992. The meeting was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/169 of 19 December 1991 entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind". In pursuance of Committee resolution INC/1992/1 on interim arrangements, the main purpose of the sixth session was "to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties as specified in the Convention".

2. The Bureau of the Committee elected at the first session consisted of:

Chairman: Mr. Jean Ripert (France)  
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (India)  
Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif (Algeria)  
Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)  
Mr. Raul Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)

3. The Bureaux of Working Groups I and II elected at the second session consist of:

### Working Group I

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan)  
Mr. Edmundo de Alba-Alcaraz (Mexico)  
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. M. Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

### Working Group II

Co-Chairmen: Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Canada)  
Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu)  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. Opening of the session

4. The sixth session was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jean Ripert. In his opening statement, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee to this new phase of its work. Its last session had culminated in the adoption, by consensus, of a Framework Convention on Climate Change which had seen considerable support by member States at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 29 and 30 May 1992. That was very encouraging and

satisfying but the Convention was in fact only the start of a process. For that reason, the Committee, the Convention and the General Assembly at its current session provided for interim arrangements to maintain the momentum to implement the Convention and to prepare for the first Conference of the Parties. The current session of the Committee had been planned to provide a prompt start, benefiting at the same time from the views expressed on the Convention by the General Assembly.

5. The preparation of a programme of work leading up to the first session of the Conference of the Parties might necessitate the establishment of certain priority tasks and a timetable for action. It might also require the creation of working groups to consider special topics. The Committee would be guided by the tasks before it, presented in the documentation prepared by the secretariat as well as by the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

6. Mr. Ripert announced that for personal reasons he planned to relinquish his position as Chairman of the Committee. He was however ready to continue with the work of the Committee until its next session when a new Chairman could be elected. This would provide time for consultations among States on his replacement and on the anticipated replacement of other Bureau members. Mr. Dasgupta was unlikely to continue his work as Vice-Chairman in view of his appointment as Ambassador of his country to China, Mr. Draghici had taken up a staff appointment with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and hence relinquished his position as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. Further, he had just learned, with great pleasure, although with much regret for the work of the Committee, that Ms. Dowdeswell, Co-Chairperson of Working Group II, had been nominated by the Secretary-General as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). On behalf of the Committee, he warmly congratulated Ms. Dowdeswell on her nomination which augured well for strengthened cooperation between the Committee and UNEP.

7. Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of WMO warmly congratulated the Committee on its accomplishment in completing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change within the tight time schedule available prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. He noted in

particular the steady, deliberate and inspired guidance provided by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the Committee. He regretted, but fully appreciated the reasons for Mr. Ripert's decision to relinquish the position of Chairman. Mr. Ripert had been an inspiration to all in drawing up the Convention and his skill and experience would be sadly missed. He wished him every health, happiness and success in his future endeavours. Likewise, he congratulated Ms. Dowdeswell on her well merited nomination as Executive Director of UNEP and looked forward to continued and strengthened cooperation between WMO and UNEP.

8. He also agreed that the Convention was a significant first step in a long and difficult process and he was pleased to note that several States had already deposited their instruments of ratification. WMO endorsed a quick start to the Convention and pledged its continued support to the negotiation process and in particular to the operations of the INC secretariat. As regards the latter, he reiterated WMO's readiness to consider the hosting of the secretariat of the Convention. He also informed the Committee that, as part of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, WMO, in cooperation with other United Nations partners and non-governmental organizations, was planning an Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme from 14 to 16 April 1993. He explained that WMO had a particular interest in seeing efforts to strengthen the infrastructure of climate observations, research, information processing and public awareness. These activities formed a large part of WMO's work, especially within the World Climate Programme and were basic to the deliberations of the Committee, to the work of IPCC and indeed to the needs of individual national decision-makers around the world. The April meeting under the banner of "The Climate Agenda" will specifically address the commitments and stated intentions which call for more intensive cooperation and efforts to reduce the uncertainties about the global climate system and its impact on economies and social well-being. It would also provide an opportunity for States to re-commit themselves to long-standing activities and bring additional resources to bear in a number of new thrusts. He assured the Committee of WMO's commitment to the successful implementation of the Convention as it was also to the preparation of the forthcoming convention on desertification.

B. Adoption of the agenda

9. At its 1st meeting, on 7 December 1992, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work.
2. Preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties as specified in the Convention: elaboration of a work plan for the Committee.
3. Review of extrabudgetary funds.
4. Adoption of the report.

C. Organization of work

10. At its 1st meeting, on 7 December 1992, the Committee approved the organization of work as contained in document A/AC.237/21 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

D. Attendance

11. The sixth session was attended by representatives of the following States:

(to be included)

12. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented:

(to be included)

13. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented:

(to be included)

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

(to be included)

15. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

(to be included)

16. The following other non-governmental organizations were also represented:

(to be included)

D. Documentation

17. The documents before the Committee at its sixth session are listed in annex to the present report.

III. PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONVENTION: ELABORATION OF A WORK PLAN FOR THE COMMITTEE

18. At its 1st meeting, on 7 December 1992, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that 158 States and one regional economic integration organization had signed the Convention. So far, seven States had deposited their instruments of ratification of the Convention. Of these, one (Monaco) had announced its adherence to the specific commitments (art. 4, paras. 2 (a) and 2 (b)) although not listed in Annex I to the Convention. The instruments of ratification by three other States were expected shortly.

19. He referred to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/47/466). He also drew attention to the draft resolution currently before the Assembly. The mandate of INC in the draft resolution was effectively in three parts: to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties; to contribute to the effective functioning of the interim arrangements; and to promote a coherent and coordinated programme of action in support of the entry into force and implementation of the Convention, paying particular attention, in that context, to capacity building in developing and other countries.

20. He also drew attention to his note on the activities of United Nations bodies relevant to the entry into force and implementation of the Convention (A/AC.237/22) and provided some supplementary information and comments.

21. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that a communication had been received from one State delegation in accordance with paragraph 6 of its resolution INC/1992/1. Another State delegation submitted such a communication during the meeting.

22. He then drew attention to annex I of the provisional agenda (A/AC.237/21 and Corr.1), part 1 of which provided a list of the tasks in the Convention to be carried out by the Conference of the Parties at its first session. There were other tasks listed in part 2 of Annex I and the accompanying notes.

23. The Executive Secretary expressed his regret that the Chairman was relinquishing his position. He recalled the sentiments he had expressed at the last session of the Committee and reiterated the benefits he, the secretariat and the Committee had gained from the Chairman's vast experience and ability.

24. Also at the 1st meeting, the representative of UNEP added to the information on its activities contained in document A/AC.237/22. In particular she mentioned the role of UNEP in the World Climate Impact and Response Programme of the World Climate Programme, activities within the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) and the activities of the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC).

25. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme (WCP) being organized by WMO on behalf of the co-sponsors of the WCP provided additional information on the preparations for the session, emphasizing the focus on support of the WCP for the implementation of the Convention and the follow-up to Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

26. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 December 1992, the representative of the Commission of the European Communities reported on the programme of action on climate change under preparation by the Commission.

27. At the 4th meeting, on 9 December 1992, the representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) .....

(to be completed)

28. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 December 1992, the Chairman of the Participants Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) .....

(to be completed)

29. At the 4th meeting, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) .....

(to be completed)

30. Also at the 4th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of ... speaking on behalf of certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

(to be completed)

31. Statements were made by 32 delegations. A number informed the Committee that the process of ratification of the Convention was proceeding in their countries. Several also mentioned that the preparation of national plans on climate change were underway. Many delegations made suggestions as to how the

Committee might carry out its work during the session and they all expressed regret at the decision of the Chairman to relinquish his position and paid tribute to the immense contribution he had made in making the Convention a reality. Likewise warm congratulations were offered to Ms. Dowdeswell on her nomination as Executive Director of UNEP.

(section to be completed)

#### IV. REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

32. The Executive Secretary introduced his note on the review of extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.237/23). He thanked all donors, national and institutional, for their contributions to both of the funds set up in connection with the work of the Committee.

(to be completed)

#### V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

(to be completed)



Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its sixth session  
(to be included)

-----