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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Eighth session
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF ITS EIGHTH SESSION HELD AT GENEVA

Draft Report

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Geneva from 16 to 27 August 1993. The session was convened in accordance with the decisions in paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992 and confirmed by the Committee at its seventh session (see A/AC.237/31, para. 46).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raul Estrada-Oyuela. He welcomed all participants and particularly Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr. Bert Bolin, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Chairman of the Participants' Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Ambassador Lionel Hurst, Vice-chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) who had agreed to address the session at its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August 1993. He noted that the present session would in fact be the first full session of the Committee since the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. Both Working Groups I and II would be taking up items of their work programme agreed upon by the Committee at its sixth session. The workload was both heavy and urgent, particularly since 31 countries had already ratified the Convention which might enter into force sooner than originally expected. He congratulated the secretariat for its substantive documentation, which he felt would greatly assist the Committee in its work.

3. The Executive Secretary, in presenting the documentation for the session, stated that the intention was to focus on how to make the Convention work. The documents had been designed to stimulate discussion. Background information was provided, questions - some mildly provocative - were raised and, where appropriate, possible courses of action were suggested. He also stressed the need to keep pace with other ongoing processes, particularly those of IPCC and GEF.

4. The Executive Director of UNEP addressed the Committee at its 1st plenary meeting on 16 August 1993. She outlined specific activities where she felt UNEP assistance would be meaningful. These included research and data needs and corresponding inputs from the developing countries, the development of methodologies for the measurement and analysis of greenhouse gases, the development of guidelines for climate change impacts and adaptation assessment, and information exchange. A proposal in the latter area, developed in cooperation with the interim secretariat, was before the Committee at its present session. She pledged UNEP's full support to the Convention process.

5. The Secretary-General of WMO, speaking also at the 1st plenary meeting, congratulated the Committee on its work and the progress it had achieved. He referred to a number of recent severe weather anomalies and stressed the need for an improved global observing system of the atmosphere and the hydrosphere including the oceans. Indeed the past few years had shown a decrease in observations; and specific areas of Africa and Latin America were seriously deficient of observations. He described developments in the implementation of the WMO World Climate Programme and called upon all nations to join in the effort to move forward in the science and services of climate forecasting for sustainable development. He pledged continuation of WMO support to the implementation of the Convention.

6. The Chairman of the IPCC presented his progress report on the work of the IPCC at the 1st plenary meeting of the Committee. He explained the stepwise working procedure of IPCC, particularly as regards the exchange of letters between himself and the Chairman of the Committee. The IPCC would produce a special report by November 1994 which would address those issues which it felt would be of importance to the agenda of the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention. The second IPCC assessment report would be completed in late 1995. IPCC was ready to provide every possible assistance to the Committee.

7. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, the Chairman of the Participants' Meeting of GEF briefed the Committee on the latest developments regarding the restructuring and replenishment of GEF. He outlined the plans of GEF to adapt to the needs of the Climate Convention, pointing out, at the same time, that GEF would not necessarily be the sole source of funding for the implementation of the Convention. GEF was committed to supporting the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. He hoped this could be done in a pragmatic and flexible manner.

8. The Vice-chairman of CSD, speaking at the same meeting, informed participants of the decisions taken by the first substantive session of CSD, held in New York in June 1993. He emphasized the interest of CSD in promoting the harmonization of the activities of other relevant agencies and forums including the Climate Convention process. He looked forward to close cooperation with the Committee in the future.

II ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers

9. The Officers of the Committee and of its two Working Groups are as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Ahmed Djoghla (Algeria)
Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)
Mr. T.P. Sreenivasan (India)
Ms. Penelope Wensley (Australia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

Working Group I

Co-Chairman: Mr. Mohamed M. Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)
Ms. Cornelia Quennet (Germany)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico)
(in charge of consultations)

Working Group II

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Nobutoshi Akao (Japan)
Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary)

B. Adoption of the agenda

10. At its 1st plenary meeting on 16 August 1993, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational Matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
2. Matters relating to commitments (Working Group I):
 - (a) Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;
 - (b) Criteria for joint implementation;
 - (c) First review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention.
3. Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties (Working Group II):
 - (a) Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paragraphs 1-4;
 - (b) Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support.
4. Procedural, institutional and legal matters (Working Group II):
 - (a) Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Activities of the United Nations system related to the Convention.
6. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.
7. Future sessions of the Committee: calendar and priorities.

8. Review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including review of extrabudgetary funds.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee at its eighth session.

C. Organization of work

11. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August 1993, the Committee approved the organization of its work as contained in document A/AC.237/32. It was agreed that the two Working Groups would further refine their respective work programmes to ensure the timely preparation of the conclusions of the Committee (see A/AC.237/32, annex II).

12. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the Committee, on 23 August 1993, the co-chairpersons of Working Groups I and II reported on progress of consideration of agenda items under their respective responsibilities.

D. Attendance

13. The eighth session was attended by representatives of the following ___ States:

(list of States to be included)

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

(to be completed)

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

(to be completed)

16. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

(to be completed)

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

(to be completed)

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

(to be completed)

19. The following organizations were represented by an observer:

(to be completed)

E. Documentation

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

III NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS

A. National communications

21. At the 1st plenary meeting of the Committee, on 16 August 1993, the representatives of Ireland, Japan, Germany, New Zealand, and Norway made brief presentations of their respective national communications submitted to the secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4. Each summarized the purposes, contents and limitations of the communications which were made available to all delegations.

22. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the Committee on 23 August 1993, the representatives of the Czech Republic and Italy summarized their respective national communications submitted to the secretariat and made available to the Committee.

23. National communications submitted to the secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4 are listed in documents A/AC.237/INF. 12 and A/AC.237/INF. 12/Add.1.

B. Other statements

24. At the 1st plenary meeting of the Committee, the representatives of Canada, Senegal, Switzerland and the United States of America made statements outlining activities in their countries related to the coming into force and implementation of the Convention, including the preparation of national communications.

25. At the 3rd plenary meeting of the Committee, the representative of France provided information concerning activities being conducted in his country to meet the objective of the Convention.

26. Also, at the 1st plenary meeting of the Committee, representative of Nauru conveyed the views on climate change and sea level rise of the Heads of State of 16 Pacific Island Countries attending the 4th session of the South Pacific Forum held in Nauru from 4 - 13 August 1993 as contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Communique issued by the Forum.

27. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the Committee on 23 August the observer of the Commission of the European Economic Community made a statement.

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

___. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August 1993, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with the decision at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45), allocated agenda item 2 (Matters relating to commitments) to Working Group I.

___. At its 1st meeting, on 16 August, Working Group I, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at its second session (A/AC.237/9, para 36) that its meeting should be open unless it decided otherwise. Working Group I held --- open meetings, as well as a number of informal consultations.

A. Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases

___. Working Group I considered item 2 (Matters relating to commitments) and sub-item 2(a) (Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases) at its 2nd to 5th, 7th and -- meetings on 17 to 19 and -- August 1993. It had before it the following documentation:

(a) Note by the Executive Secretary transmitting a letter dated 1 March 1993 from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change addressed to the Chairman of the Committee (A/AC.237/29);

(b) A letter dated 18 March 1993 from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to the Chairman of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (A/AC.237/30);

(c) Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of its seventh session held at New York from 15 to 20 March 1993 (A/AC.237/31);

(d) Note by the secretariat on review of information by the Conference of the Parties: the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention (A/AC.237/33);

(e) Note by the secretariat on methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases (A/AC.237/34);

___ . Statements under this sub-item were made by [38]--- delegations, including one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States and one on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as by the observer for a non-governmental organization.

___ . At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 17 August, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change responded to questions raised by the Working Group.

--- . At the --- meeting, on -- August 1993, the Working Group agreed to recommend the draft conclusions contained in documents A/AC.237/WG.I/L.11 (item 2(a)) and A/AC.237/WG.I/L.12 (item 2) for adoption to the Committee.

B. Conclusions

On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee at its --- plenary meeting on -- August, agreed upon the following conclusions.

(see A/AC.237/L.19/Add.1)

C. Criteria for joint implementation

___ . Working Group I considered sub-item 2(b) (Criteria for joint implementation) at its 5th to 7th and -- meetings, on 18, 19 and -- August 1993.

___ . For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the secretariat on criteria for joint implementation (A/AC.237/35).

___ . Statements were made by the representatives of [39]--- States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

[--- . At the -- meeting, on -- August 1993, the Working Group agreed to recommend the draft conclusions contained in document A/AC.237/WG.I/L.14 for adoption to the Committee.]

D. Conclusions

___ . On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its ___ plenary meeting, on ___ August, agreed upon the following conclusions:

(see A/AC.237/L.19/Add. 4)

E. First review of information communicated by each Party included
in Annex I of the Convention

___ . Working Group I considered sub-item 2(c) (First review of information communicated by each Party included in Annex I to the Convention at its 7th to 9th and --- meetings, on 19, 20 and - -- August 1993.

___ . For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working group had before it notes by the secretariat on the first review of the information communicated by each Party included in annex I to the Convention (A/AC.237/36 and Add.1).

___ . Statements under this sub-item were made by representatives of [21]--- States, including one on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

--- . At the -- meeting, on -- August 1993, the Working Group agreed to recommend the draft conclusions contained in document A/AC.237/WG.I/L.13 for adoption to the Committee.

F. Conclusions

On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its -- plenary meeting, on -- August, agreed upon the following conclusions.

(see A/AC.237/L.19/Add. 2 and A/AC.237/L.19/Add. 3)

V. MATTERS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM
AND FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August 1993, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with the decision at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45) allocated agenda item 3 (Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties) to Working Group II.

At its 1st meeting, on 16 August, Working Group II, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at its second session (A/AC.237/9, para. 36) that its meetings would be open unless it decided otherwise. Subsequently, Working Group II held __ open meetings from 16 to __ August 1993.

A. Implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4

Working Group II considered sub-item 3(a) (Implementation of article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4) at its 1st to 10th meetings, on 16-20 and 23 August. It had before it the following documentation:

- (a) Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of its seventh session held at New York from 15 to 20 March 1993 (A/AC.237/31);
- (b) Note by the secretariat on implementation of Article 11 (Financial Mechanism), paras. 1-4 (A/AC.237/37);
- (c) Note by the Officers of Working Group II on proposals on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the financial mechanism (A/AC.237/37/Add.1 and Rev.1);
- (d) Note by the secretariat on approaches to the determination of agreed full incremental costs (A/AC.237/37/Add.2);
- (e) Note by the Chairman of the Committee on modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism (A/AC.237/37/Add.3);
- (f) Note by the secretariat on elements relevant to the assessment of funding needs (A/AC.237/37/Add.4);
- (g) Draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China, entitled "Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate change to the Global Environment Facility" (A/AC.237/L.18).

At the 1st meeting, on 16 August, the Chairman of the Participants' Meeting of the Global Environment Facility responded to questions raised by the Working Group.

. Statements were made by 55 delegations, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

. At the 6th meeting, on 19 August, statements were made by the observer for the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, an intergovernmental organization and the observer for the Climate Action Network, a non-governmental organization.

B. Conclusions

. On the recommendation of Working Group II, the Committee, at its ___ meeting, on ___ August, agreed upon the following conclusions:

(To be completed)

C. Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support

. Working Group II considered sub-item 3(b) (Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support) at its 11th meeting, on 24 August.

. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary on a project for an information exchange system for country activities (A/AC.237/38).

The Executive Secretary of the Committee made an introductory statement.

. Statements were made by the representatives of 16 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

be completed)

VI. PROCEDURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

A. Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 August, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with its decisions at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras. 44 and 45), allocated item 4 (Procedural, institutional and legal matters) to Working Group II.

. Working Group II considered sub-item 4(a) (Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties) at its 10th meeting, on 23 August.

. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the secretariat on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (A/AC.237/27/Rev.1).

. Statements were made by the representatives of 15 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77.

. In response to a question from a delegation regarding the interpretation of the term "private" in Rule 30 of the draft rules of procedure, the secretariat informed the Working Group that the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention provide for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies to be held in private and that the word "private" has been interpreted to permit the participation therein of duly accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental observers, in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention.

B. Conclusions

In light of the deliberations of Working Group II, the Committee, at its plenary meeting on ----- August agreed upon the following conclusions:

1. The secretariat would prepare a revised draft of document A/AC.237/27/Rev.1 taking into account comments made during the discussion of this item by the Working Group for consideration at the ninth session.
2. An informal, ad hoc and open-ended group of delegations constituting the "friends of the Co-Chairs" would meet during the ninth session, while the Working Groups are not meeting, to review the draft rules in detail and to report back to the Working Group.
3. In accordance with the precedent of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rule 30 of the draft rules of procedure would be interpreted as permitting duly accredited observers to participate in "private" meetings.
4. The secretariat would inform the Committee, at its ninth session, of the financial implications of Rule 54 wherein the official languages of the Conference of the Parties and possibly the subsidiary bodies would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. It was further requested that the secretariat inform the Committee of what the cost would be of holding meetings in three official languages only.

VII. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE CONVENTION

. At its 3rd plenary meeting on 24 August 1993, the Committee considered the information on activities related to the Convention received from United Nations entities and other international organizations, contained in documents A/AC.237/39 and A/AC.237/39/Add.1.

Statements were made by the representatives of Senegal, USA, Australia, Sweden, Jamaica and France.

The representatives of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) made statements concerning their activities.

The Committee agreed that the information was most useful but felt that there was scope for refining the focus of activities by improving the coverage, content and classification. It considered in particular that relevant information from the multilateral and regional development banks should be included.

The Committee also agreed that activities reported should relate specifically to the objective of the convention. Priority areas continued to be identified in the course of discussions in the Working Groups but included activities contributing to the rapid implementation of the Convention in such areas as the financial mechanism, inventories and research and observational systems. Capacity building, in terms of personnel and technology, was emphasized.

The Committee requested the interim secretariat to analyse the information received, in consultation with concerned organizations, with a view to identifying gaps, overlaps and complementarities and to report thereon to the Committee. In this connection the need to identify collaborative or joint activities by organizations was stressed.

The Committee decided that an item on the activities of the United Nations system related to the Convention should be on the agenda of its tenth session.

VIII. STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

At its 3rd plenary meeting on 24 August, the Committee noted that there were currently 166 signatories to the Convention and that ratification acceptances, approvals or accessions had been deposited by 31 States.

The representative of Argentina, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Japan, Botswana, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Nepal, Germany, Congo, Namibia, Guatemala, the Russian Federation, Togo, the Republic of Korea and Bolivia reported to the Committee on the status of ratification of the Convention in their countries. A similar statement was made by the representative of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

Furthermore, the representatives of Sri Lanka, Kiribati, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Uganda informed the Committee that their countries had completed the procedures at the national level and had transmitted instruments of ratification to the depositary.

IX. FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE : CALENDAR AND PRIORITIES

At its seventh session, the Committee requested the secretariat to make proposals for three further sessions of the Committee of two weeks each, two in 1994 and one in 1995, taking account of certain possible dates and places (A/AC.237/31, para. 46).

The secretariat subsequently obtained information from the Conference Services of the United Nations concerning the dates of availability of meetings services at different United Nations locations and presented that information to the Bureau.

On the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee decided at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 August, that its remaining sessions be scheduled as follows:

Ninth session, 7 - 18 February 1994, Geneva
Tenth session, 22 - 31 August 1994, Geneva (including Saturday, 27 August)
Eleventh session, 6 - 17 February 1995, New York.

It should be recalled that the schedule of the Committee for 1994 and 1995 will need to be approved by the General Assembly, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994 - 1995 and on the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences.

X. REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT INCLUDING OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

At the third plenary meeting on 24 August, the Executive Secretary introduced a note containing information on administrative and budgetary matters, including the staffing situation and needs of the interim secretariat, the need for extrabudgetary funds and the progress of certain activities undertaken by the interim secretariat in collaboration with partner organizations, related principally to information, training and the promotion of public awareness in support of the Convention (A/AC.237/40 and Corr.1).

The Executive Secretary noted that the United Nations programme budget currently provided less than half of the staffing of the interim secretariat. The remainder was provided by WMO and UNEP, funded under bilateral arrangements, or supported by the trust fund for the negotiating process. Prospects for an increase in staffing under the United Nations programme budget in the biennium 1994 - 1995 appeared to be limited. Currently, staffing was being supplemented by temporary support arrangements within the context of DPCSD, of which the interim secretariat is part. The Executive Secretary commented that this response to General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 11, which had requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the interim secretariat, reflected the nature of the United Nations programme budget process, including its priorities and the limitations on budgetary growth. Final decisions on these matters rested with Governments. Additional staffing needs would have to be met from extrabudgetary sources.

The Executive Secretary expressed thanks to the contributors to the special voluntary fund for the participation of developing countries and to the trust fund for the negotiating process. The level of support for participation was healthy and had permitted the interim secretariat to offer funding to 115 developing countries and 19 countries with economies in transition, the latter with additional funding. Of these, 89 developing countries and 17 countries with economies in transition had taken advantage of this support for their participation in the eighth session. It was estimated that a total of US\$1.4 million would be needed to support participation by these two groups of countries in the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee in 1994. The Executive Secretary noted the limits of one-member delegations having to cover parallel Working Group meetings and a wide range of subject matter, but regretted that the amount of funding available did not permit the interim secretariat to offer support to two delegates per country. The criteria for determining the eligibility of countries for support would be kept under review.

With regard to the trust fund for the negotiating process, the Executive Secretary noted with appreciation the doubling of contributions in 1993 as compared to 1992 and expressed the hope that this increase would continue. Demand on the trust fund would be heavy in the next biennium, since it would be the main source of additional support for the activities of the interim secretariat. It could be as high as \$US4.5 million for the biennium 1994 - 1995.

Statements were made by representative of seven States. Some representatives of developed countries provided information on their current and future contributions to one or both extrabudgetary funds. One of these noted the need for a significant increase in the resources of the interim secretariat, whether through the United Nations programme budget or through extrabudgetary funding. Another underlined the need for priorities in the interim secretariat's work, given resource limitations. Some delegations of developing countries emphasized the importance of maintaining balance in the recruitment of staff to the interim secretariat, a point which the Executive Secretary endorsed. In response to questions from one delegation, the Executive Secretary clarified the interrelationships and the distinctions among the different activities being undertaken by the interim secretariat in support of the Convention.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the contribution of the interim secretariat to its work and of the current and future efforts of member States to provide extrabudgetary funding. It noted the importance for the work of the Committee of the forthcoming decisions of the United Nations General Assembly on the programme budget for 1994/1995. It expressed the hope that additional needs beyond those provided for through the programme budget could be met through extrabudgetary contributions. The Committee invited the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with other organizations in activities in support of the Convention.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

At its ---- plenary meeting, on -- August, the Committee considered and adopted the draft report on its eighth session (A/AC.237/L.19 and its addenda). It requested the Rapporteur to complete the report with the assistance of the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chairman, taking into account the discussions of the Committee and the need for some editorial adjustments.