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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 ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

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Addendum

CHAPTER: MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

REVIEW OF INFORMATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: THE ROLES OF
THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONVENTION

Draft conclusions of Working Group I

1. Working Group I considered, in the context of each item in its agenda, the roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention. The following draft conclusions on this subject drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents are recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.
2. In light of the timing for the first communications of information by Annex I Parties, the key importance of the review of the information and the adequacy of the commitments contained in Article 4.2 (a) and (b), the

Committee recommended that, at its next session, a separate agenda item be allocated to the consideration of the roles of subsidiary bodies established by the Convention, including possible interim arrangements prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP I). It was proposed to adopt new acronyms for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice [SUBSTA] and for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation [SUBIM].

3. It was recognized that, in order to prepare effectively for COP I and satisfactorily carry out the first review of the implementation of the Convention, the Parties would have to rely on the work assigned by the Convention to the subsidiary bodies. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare, for the next session, documentation offering options to clarify the respective roles of the subsidiary bodies, the relationships between them and their relationship with other bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The paper should also outline possible options at hand to satisfy the requirements of COP I, with their full range of implications. Suggestions on the appropriate timing for meetings of the subsidiary bodies, as well as on the need for technical support by the secretariat, including the human and financial resource implications, would also have to be considered. The interim secretariat should take into consideration the papers on methodologies and on the first review of information, as well as the following guidance in this document, in their preparations.

4. The options identified in the course of the debate were:

(a) Should the Committee convene the subsidiary bodies on an interim basis before COP I?

(b) Should the Committee carry out the tasks of the subsidiary bodies, on an interim basis? and

(c) Should COP I be held in two parts, namely, an organizational session, inter alia, to convene the subsidiary bodies, followed by a substantive session after these bodies have delivered their reports? The secretariat will present in its documentation the legal ramifications of those options.

5. Although Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention outline the respective tasks of the two subsidiary bodies, it was concluded that further elaboration of these tasks to assist the Conference of the Parties (COP) in reviewing the

implementation of the Convention was needed before these bodies start working. This would serve the purpose of clarifying further the respective mandates and responsibilities of these bodies.

6. It was stressed that existing experiences under other international legal agreements could provide useful insights into the consideration of that issue.
