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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

Rapporteur: Maciej Sadowski (Poland)

Addendum

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_: MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

FIRST REVIEW OF THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATED BY EACH PARTY  
INCLUDED IN ANNEX I OF THE CONVENTION

Draft conclusions of Working Group I

1. Working Group I held preliminary discussions on task A.3, "First review of the information communicated by each Party included in Annex I of the Convention", adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change at its sixth session (see A/AC.237/24, para. 44). Document A/AC.237/36 and Add.1, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject. The following draft conclusions on the item drawn from the Convention, the debate and background documents are recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.

2. The Committee expressed its thanks for the presentation of the work undertaken by a group of countries and organizations included in Annex I to the Convention and other organizations in the preparation of their national communications of information under the Convention. The initiative was seen as a useful contribution to the preparatory work of the Committee. These countries and organizations should report to the Committee at its ninth session on further results achieved under the project they reported to the Committee, thus enabling the Committee to take advantage of their contribution.

3. It was recognized that, in light of the likely short time available until the first communications of Annex I Parties are due, draft guidelines for the preparation of their communications should be provided by the secretariat for consideration by Working Group I at the next session of the Committee. Such guidelines would ensure consistency, transparency and comparability of information across communications and flexibility, taking into account countries' specific situations. Suggestions on possible common elements were mentioned and will be taken into account by the interim secretariat in the documentation for the ninth session. The interim secretariat should suggest the minimum core information necessary, the type and level of detail of data, periodicity of submission thereof and methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of measures undertaken. It was suggested that the issue of confidentiality of data be left aside for the time being until the need for such rules has been demonstrated.

4. The Committee placed emphasis on the critical importance of the assessment of the effects of measures on emission trends and of the adequacy of measures. The secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on methodologies for such assessments, as already envisaged in the context of methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of all greenhouse gases.

5. Practical arrangements for distribution and transmission of communications were recognized as being important. Initial suggestions were made by the secretariat, which was requested to bring forward to the next session an efficient procedure for distributing and translating communications, including a cost estimate to meet these needs.

6. The communications must be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties (COP). It was agreed that such reviews should be facilitative,

non-confrontational, open and transparent. They should facilitate exchange of information and experiences on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention. The review process could include several steps outlined in the following paragraphs. In this regard, the diagram, contained in annex I to document A/AC.237/36, was discussed. It was agreed that it should be further elaborated upon, taking into account proposals by, and experiences of member States. The value of informal consultations among Parties on matters relating to communication and review of information was recognized.

7. The Committee agreed on the importance of two principal tasks: (a) a thorough analysis of national communications; and (b) a compilation and synthesis of the information provided by the Parties in their national communications, including the overall effects of policies and measures. These tasks should be carried out by the subsidiary bodies, drawing upon inter alia the work of IPCC.

(a) The task of analysing national communications should include inter alia, verifying methodologies used; comparing national data with authoritative international sources; noting the inclusion or absence of information and data, as well as their quality; reviewing projections of emissions by sources and removals by sinks and the assumptions on which these projections were based; and assessing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of claimed mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as evaluating stated national impacts of climate change. The Committee acknowledged that additional information or visits to clarify country reports might be useful. It might also be useful to designate a national focal point with whom the bodies of the Convention could interact.

(b) The task of compiling and synthesizing information contained in national communication was considered as important, for the purpose of assessing the overall effects of policies and measures. The methodologies for this purpose are critical and should be given further consideration.

8. An assessment of the adequacy of the commitments is required by Article 4.2 (d) of the Convention. It was agreed that a compilation and a synthesis of information on the global situation would provide a basis for such assessment under the Convention.

9. The interim secretariat was also requested to provide considerations on the format and content of the report of the COP on implementation. The paper should further address the kind of support needed from the secretariat, including financial and human resource implications.

10. The interim secretariat was further requested to provide at the next session of the Committee additional information to facilitate the discussion on the first review of the adequacy of commitments.

11. It was recalled that decisions taken with regard to communications by Annex I Parties would also be, to the extent possible, relevant to the communications of developing country Parties due at a later stage. In this context, a proposal was made to set up units by developing country Parties, if they should so desire, supported by the financial mechanism, to serve as contact points for implementation of the activities under the Convention.

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