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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Ninth Session
Geneva, 7-18 February 1994
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ITS NINTH SESSION HELD AT GENEVA

Draft Report

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Geneva from 7 to 18 February 1994. The session was convened in accordance with the decisions in paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/195 and the schedule recommended by the Committee at its eighth session (see A/AC.237/41, para. 119).
2. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela, opened the session at the 1st plenary meeting, on 7 February 1994. In welcoming participants he noted that since the last session the fiftieth ratification of the Convention had been received. The Convention would enter into force on 21 March 1994. A number of matters before the Committee, therefore, took on an added measure of urgency if the necessary preparatory work was to be completed before the first session of the Conference of the Parties in March 1995. He congratulated the Executive Secretary and his staff for the excellent documentation before the session which would greatly facilitate the work of the Committee.
3. The Executive Secretary, in welcoming all participants, expressed regret that it had not been possible to fund as many participants as for previous sessions, owing to the insufficiency of contributions received. He then introduced the documentation for the session drawing attention to those areas where decisions were required by the Committee at the present session, to items dealing with the future evolution of the Convention and to institutional options for the permanent secretariat of the Convention.
4. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Professor Bert Bolin, reported on the work of the Panel since the last session of the Committee, mentioning at the same time several developments in the science of global warming. He and his colleagues were available to assist the Committee particularly in its consideration of methodologies for inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases.
5. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ambassador Vicente Sánchez, made a statement at the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee. He noted that both the Convention on Biodiversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change were outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil in 1992 and that both had the same purposes - to better conserve the environment and make use of natural resources in a sustainable manner. He wished the Committee every success in the accomplishment of the tasks before it.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Committee adopted the following agenda: 1/

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Election of officers.
2. Matters relating to commitments (Working Group I):
 - (a) Methodological issues;
 - (b) First review of information communicated by each Party included in annex I to the Convention;
 - (c) The roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention
 - (d) Review of adequacy of commitments in Article 4, paras. 2(a) and (b)
 - (e) Criteria for joint implementation;
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), paras. 1-4;
 - (b) Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support.
4. Procedural, institutional and legal matters:
 - (a) Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention (Working Group II);
 - (b) Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning (Plenary).
5. Status of ratification of the Convention.
6. Review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including review of extrabudgetary funds.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its ninth session.

B. Organization of work

7. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Committee approved the organization of its work as contained in document A/AC.237/42. 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.237/42, annex II).

8. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Co-Chairmen of Working Groups I and II reported on the progress of consideration of agenda items under their respective responsibilities.

C. Election of Officers

9. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman reported on the progress of his consultations on the nomination of a candidate to fill the position of Co-Chairman of Working Group II, vacated by the resignation of Ambassador Robert F. Van Lierop (Vanuatu). He recalled that the inclusion of one position among the eleven elected officers of the Committee and its Working Groups was intended to reflect the interests of the Alliance of Small Island States, within the context of the established structure of five regional groups. Statements were made by the representatives of 12 States.

10. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 February, the Chairman announced that he had received a letter from Mr Edmundo de Alba Alcaraz (Mexico) confirming his resignation, for personal reasons, as Vice-Chairman of Working Group I. Consultations to find a candidate to fill the vacancy were in progress.

(To be completed)

D. Attendance

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

(To be completed)

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

(To be completed)

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

(To be completed)

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

(To be completed)

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

(To be completed)

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

(To be completed)

E. Documentation

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

III. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS

A. National communications

18. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 7 February, the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom and the USA made brief presentations of their respective national communications submitted to the interim secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/195, paragraph 4, and made available to the Committee. The representatives of Canada and the UK noted that their communications were to be considered as fulfilling their initial commitment under Article 12 of the Convention.

19. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 February the representative of Switzerland presented its national communication, submitted in accordance with resolution INC/1991/1 and the declaration by Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland when they signed the Convention on 12 June 1992, and made available to the Committee.

B. Other statements

20. At the 1st plenary meeting, the representative of Argentina provided information on the activities of his country related to implementation of the Convention. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 February 1994, the representative of Slovakia made a similar statement.

21. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 February, the representatives of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat made statements.

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its sixth session (A/AC.237/24, paras.44 and 45), allocated agenda item 2 (matters relating to commitments) to Working Group I.

23. At its 1st meeting, on 7 February, Working Group I, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at the second session (A/AC.237/9, para.25) that its meetings would be open unless it decided otherwise. Working Group I held ___ open meetings, from 7 to ___ February, as well as a number of informal consultations.

24. Also at the 1st meeting of the Working Group, the Chairman of the IPCC responded to questions raised by representatives in the Working Group, in the light of his earlier presentation to the Committee.

A. Methodological issues

(To be completed)

B. First review of information communicated by each Party included in annex I to the Convention

(To be completed)

C. The roles of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention

(To be completed)

D. Review of adequacy of commitments in Article 4,
paras. 2(a) and (b)

(To be completed)

E. Criteria for joint implementation

(To be completed)

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

25. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken 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 countries) to Working Group II.

26. At its 1st meeting, on 7 February, Working Group II, bearing in mind rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, maintained the decision taken at the second session (A/AC.237/9, para. 36) that its meetings would be open unless it decided otherwise. Working Group II held _____ open meetings from 7 to _____ February, as well as a number of informal consultations.

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

(To be completed)

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

27. Working Group II considered sub-item 3(b) (Provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support) at its 9th meeting, on 14 February. The item comprised two parts: (i) project for an information exchange system on country activities on climate change, otherwise known as Climex, and (ii) training programme to promote the implementation of the Convention.

(a) Project for an information exchange system on country activities on climate change

28. For its consideration of this sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the interim secretariat of the UNFCCC and of UNEP on progress achieved in this joint project since the eighth session of the Committee (A/AC.237/51).

29. Representatives of the interim secretariat and UNEP introduced the document, noting that the collection and processing of information about the availability of resources for activities related to climate change had started under the auspices of the project, and that a substantive report would be available by the tenth session of the Committee. The committee was also informed of the arrangements to cover the financial needs of the joint project. A proposal for funding had been submitted to UNEP, and a number of countries had been approached on a bilateral basis.

30. While the totality of the funding requirements had not yet been met, some positive responses had been received, in particular a pledge of US\$200,000 toward the costs of the Climex project, announced by the representative of Denmark at the session.

31. A number of delegations spoke, supporting the basic objectives of the joint project. One delegation requested clarification concerning the role of Infoterra. Another delegation asked whether GEF funded projects would be included in Climex. In response, representatives of the interim secretariat and of UNEP, noted the complementarity between Infoterra and Climex, and confirmed that GEF funded projects would be included.

32. The Committee invited the interim secretariat and UNEP to continue activities in this joint project, and requested that they prepare a substantive report to the Committee for its tenth session on the information exchange process being promoted by Climex, as well as a proposal for activities which could follow the present pilot phase.

(b) Training Programme

33. For its consideration of this sub-item, the Working Group had before it a note by the interim secretariat of the UNFCCC and of UNITAR on progress achieved in this joint project since the eighth session of the Committee (A/AC.237/52).

34. Representatives of the interim secretariat and UNITAR introduced the document, noting that the one-year pilot phase of the project was now well under way. Activities had now started in three countries: Zimbabwe, Viet Nam and Lithuania.

35. Several delegations requested that the programme be expanded to other countries, and to other regions as soon as possible.

36. Representatives of the interim secretariat and of UNITAR responded to the questions raised by a number of delegations.

37. The Committee invited the interim secretariat and UNITAR to continue its activities in this project, and requested that they prepare a further progress report to the Committee for its tenth session together with proposals for the expansion of the programme beyond the pilot phase.

VI. PROCEDURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

A. Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

(To be completed)

B. Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements
for its functioning

(To be completed)

VII. STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

38. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Committee noted that as at that date 55 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited, and that the Convention would enter into force on 21 March 1994.

39. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Benin, Brazil, Chad, Gambia, Hungary, Italy, Kiribati and Senegal informed the Committee that their countries had completed ratification procedures at the national level and were transmitting instruments of ratification to the depositary.

40. The representatives of Cambodia, Nepal, Rwanda, the Russian Federation and Turkey reported to the Committee on the status of ratification of the Convention in their countries. A statement was made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

41. The representative of the Republic of Korea made a statement.

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

(To be completed)

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS NINTH SESSION

42. At the ___ plenary meeting, on 18 February, following statements by the Co-Chairmen of the two Working Groups summarizing the progress of their work, the Rapporteur presented the draft report to the Committee (A/AC.237/L.20 and Adds 1- ___). The Committee considered and adopted the draft report as orally amended. It requested the Rapporteur to complete the report, with the assistance of the interim secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairman, taking into account the discussions of the Committee and the need for editorial adjustments.

Notes

1/ The Committee agreed to delete item 3(b) of the provisional agenda (A/AC.237/42). Consequently, item 3(c) of the provisional agenda was renumbered 3(b).