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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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Item 2 (e) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

CRITERIA FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

Comments from member States on criteria for joint implementation

Note by the interim secretariat

Addendum

In addition to the submissions included in document A/AC.237/Misc.33 and A/AC.237/Misc.33/Add.1, the interim secretariat has received comments from Austria. This submission is attached to this Addendum in the language in which it was received.

A/AC.237/Misc.33/Add.2

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Intervention by Austria

My Delegation welcomes this first opportunity to discuss the issue of "joint implementation" in a formal setting. The secretariat has provided us with a paper which outlines extensively the difficult issues that will have to be discussed in connection with that topic. We generally agree with the description of the concept of joint implementation as contained in paras 4 to 7 of document /35. Let me however add a few remarks on the issue. We consider the text of the Convention to be the starting point of our deliberations. "Joint Implementation" as a concept is explicitly mentioned in par. 2.a., b. and d of Art. 4, which relate exclusively to the specific commitments undertaken by the parties listed in Annex I of the Convention. Those Parties are therefore the primary addressees of those provisions.

We should be very careful in our analysis. Most of all we should avoid confusing this specific concept with other mechanisms of financial and technical cooperation for the implementation of the objective of the Convention, as contained in paras. 3, 4 and 5 of Art. 4 as well as Art. 11 and welcome therefore the clarifications provided in para 11 of the document /35. Consequently we are also reluctant to consider scenarios concerning developing country Parties as described in para. 8 of the document as cases of "joint implementation".

Having said that Mr. Co-Chair, I would also like to relate back to the ultimate objective of the Convention, as contained in Art. 2 where it is stated explicitly as "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate

system". In implementation of this objective the different groups of parties of the Convention are committed to different levels of activities. Annex I Parties are committed by paras. 2.a. and b. of Art. 4 to adopt policies and measures aiming at returning to previous levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of this decade. Possible joint implementation of policies and measures between these Parties will therefore be measured by the same yardstick. Even there we see considerable practical problems in applying the concept. Drawing up reliable criteria even for these cases will be a major undertaking.

Obligations of developing country Parties under the Convention on the other hand are at this point not defined in the same terms and do not contain a comparable commitment for action. We have therefore certain difficulties in seeing how at least in the short term joint implementation between different groups of country Parties could be a significant contribution to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention. We see the priority for action on the further clarification on criteria and feasibility for joint implementation between Annex I country Parties. We could however as the Convention evolves return to this question in the future.

Turning now to the issue of criteria for joint implementation, I would like to list some basic principles, which should be included. Generally we think that the criteria should be elaborated in a transparent manner and be based on comparable and accountable methods:

- 1) Country Parties should be required to carry out a specified amount of their emission reductions domestically;
- 2) Priority should be given to actions at the source side, in particular in the energy sector;
- 3) Credits should be allotted in proportion to the quantifiable environmental effects of measures over time (e.g. efficiency of emission reduction);
- 4) Joint implementation should lead to an increased benefit, e.g. the reduction achieved jointly should be higher, than just the sum of single measures in separate countries;