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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

First session

Berlin, 28 March - 7 April 1995

Agenda item 6 (c)

CONCLUSION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND  
ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

Draft decision on agenda item 5 (a) (v)  
submitted by the Chairman of the  
Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole recommends to the Conference of the Parties the adoption of the following decision:

The subsidiary bodies established by the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 9 and 10 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change establishing, respectively, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI),

Having considered recommendation 8 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Noting that the roles of the subsidiary bodies can be broadly characterized as follows:

(a) The SBSTA will be the link between the scientific, technical and technological assessments and the information provided by competent international bodies, and the policy-oriented needs of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The SBI will develop recommendations to assist the Conference of the Parties in its review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and in the preparation and implementation of its decisions,

1. Decides that, subject to future reconsideration, the functions of the SBSTA and the SBI will be as outlined in annex I to this decision, which annex builds upon Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention and recommendations from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. Requests the SBSTA to undertake the tasks described in annex II, section A, to this decision, as well as the tasks mandated in decisions (Preparation and submission of national communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), (Review of first communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), (Methodological issues), (First communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention), (Criteria for joint implementation) (and Review of the adequacy of Article 4.2(a) and (b)) and to report on its work to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;

3. Authorizes the SBSTA, in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure, to establish, subject to confirmation at the second session of the Conference of the Parties, two intergovernmental<sup>1/</sup> technical advisory panels to provide it with advice on technologies, including advice on related economic aspects, and on methodologies;

4. Requests the SBI to undertake the tasks described in annex II, section B, to this decision, as well as the tasks mandated in decisions (Preparation and submission of national communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), (Review of first communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), (Methodological issues), (First communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention), (Arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and an operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism), (Resolution of questions regarding implementation of the Convention), (Criteria for joint implementation) (and Review of the adequacy of Article 4.2(a) and (b)) and to report on its work to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;

5. Requests both bodies to develop proposals on their longer-term activities and organizational arrangements, including any adjustments to the functions and/or allocation of work, and the scheduling and periodicity of sessions, taking due account of the financial and support implications, and to report accordingly to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;

6. Invites the officers of the SBSTA and the SBI to submit, after due consultation with their respective bodies, proposals for future cooperation between the SBSTA and the SBI and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Invites the officers of the SBSTA and the SBI to play an active role in preparing for the substantive sessions of these bodies, with the support of the Convention secretariat;

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<sup>1/</sup> In this recommendation, the term "intergovernmental" includes the regional economic integration organization included in Annex I to the Convention.

8. Requests the Convention secretariat to make arrangements for sessions of both subsidiary bodies on the basis of annexes II and III to this decision. When possible, sessions should be held consecutively, starting with the SBSTA, and each session would last for a week;

9. Further requests the Convention secretariat to make arrangements for three further sessions of both subsidiary bodies: in December 1996, July 1997 (preceding the third session of the Conference of the Parties) and December 1997;

10. Decides that workshops and other events, for which no provision is made in the secretariat budget, should be funded by the host country or from other sources. Such funding should include participation costs;

11. Further requests the Convention secretariat to support the substantive work of the subsidiary bodies, in particular by:

- (a) Organizing their sessions;
- (b) Liaising with competent scientific and technical international bodies and financial institutions, in order to ensure an adequate flow of information in both directions;
- (c) Preparing the documentation needed for consideration by the subsidiary bodies or the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Providing technical and analytical support for the review of communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

## Annex I

### FUNCTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### A. Functions to be carried out by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties and drawing upon existing competent international bodies

1. Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge relating to climate change and its effects (Article 9.2(a)). In this context:

(a) Summarize and, where necessary, convert the latest international scientific, technical, socio-economic and other information provided by competent bodies including, inter alia, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), into forms appropriate to the needs of the Conference of the Parties, including in support of the review of the adequacy of commitments;

(b) Compile and synthesize scientific, technical and socio-economic information on the global situation on climate change, provided by, inter alia, the IPCC, as well as on the latest developments in science, to the extent possible, and assess the implications thereof for the implementation of the Convention; and formulate requests to competent international scientific and technical bodies.

2. Prepare scientific assessments on the effects of measures taken in the implementation of the Convention (Article 9.2(b)). In this context:

(a) Consider the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of the in-depth review reports, resulting from the process for the review of national communications;<sup>a/</sup>

(b) Consider the compilation and synthesis of national communications prepared by the secretariat;

(c) Make recommendations on the technical aspects related to the review of information contained in national communications.

3. Identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how, and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or of transferring such technologies (Article 9.2(c)). In this context:

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<sup>a/</sup> In this recommendation, the term "national communications" includes communications from the regional economic integration organization included in Annex I to the Convention.

(a) Ensure the collection and dissemination of information on appropriate technologies for limiting emissions from sources, enhancing sinks of greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change, and on related international initiatives, cooperation and programmes, and the services they offer;

(b) Provide advice on the latest, and future, technologies mentioned above, their effects, their relative feasibility in different circumstances and their relevance to programme priorities of the financial mechanism, taking into account relevant advice to the Conference of the Parties from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

(c) Provide advice on ideas on promoting international initiatives, programmes and cooperation in the areas of technology development and transfer, as well as on sharing of experience between Parties;

(d) Evaluate ongoing efforts in the area of development and/or transfer of technologies to determine whether they fully meet the needs of the Convention, and advise on possible improvements.

4. Provide advice on scientific programmes, and on international cooperation in research and development related to climate change, as well as on ways and means of supporting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries (Article 9.2(d)), and assist the Parties in implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention. In this context:

(a) Ensure the collection and dissemination of information on international initiatives, cooperation and programmes in the areas of scientific research and systematic observation, as well as on education, human resources and training, public awareness, capacity-building, and the services they offer;

(b) Provide advice on education programmes;

(c) Provide advice on human resources and training;

(d) Provide advice and ideas on promoting the above initiatives, cooperation and programmes, as well as sharing of experience between Parties;

(e) Evaluate ongoing efforts in these fields to determine whether they fully meet the needs of the Convention and advise on possible improvements.

5. Respond to scientific, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body (Article 9.2(e)). In this context:

(a) Seek, in particular from the IPCC, and provide advice on, the development, improvement and refinement of comparable methodologies for:

- (i) National inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;
  - (ii) Projecting national emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and comparison of respective contributions of different gases to climate change;
  - (iii) Evaluating the individual and aggregated effects of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention;
  - (iv) Conducting impact/sensitivity analyses;
  - (v) Assessing adaptation responses;
- (b) Seek information and provide advice on methodological questions in support of the guidance to be provided by the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism, and guidelines in the application of the concept of "agreed full incremental cost";
- (c) Provide information and advice on any methodology and technical aspects that would be needed in the development of protocols to the Convention;
- (d) Provide guidance and advice to the Parties on the use of agreed methodologies;
- (e) Provide guidance to the Parties on technical aspects of issues related to the implementation of the Convention, such as the allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels or the use of global-warming potentials.

**B. Functions to be carried out by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties**

1. Consider the information communicated in accordance with Article 12.1, to assess the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by the Parties in the light of the latest scientific assessments concerning climate change (Article 10.2(a)). In this context:

Consider the policy aspects of the in-depth review reports resulting from the process for the review of national communications, *inter alia*, on the basis of the scientific and technical analysis provided by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Convention.

2. Consider the information communicated in accordance with Article 12.2, in order to assist the Conference of the Parties in carrying out the reviews required by Article 4.2(d) (Article 10.2(b)). In this context:

Consider how the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by Parties relates to the commitments set out in Article 4.2(a) and (b), to the modification of longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions, and to any further commitments that might be agreed upon by the Parties in subsequent amendments or protocols to the Convention, as well as to the objective of the Convention.

3. Assist the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, in the preparation and implementation of its decisions (Article 10.2(c)), taking into account advice from the SBSTA. In this context:

(a) Advise the Conference of the Parties on the policies, eligibility criteria and programme priorities related to the financial mechanism, as well as on transfer of technology in the light of the reviews and assessments carried out under Article 10.2(a), taking into account relevant advice from the SBSTA and, if so requested by the Conference of the Parties:

- (i) Review the financial mechanism and advise on appropriate measures;
- (ii) Consider reports from the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism on activities related to climate change;
- (iii) Make recommendations related to the arrangements for the operational linkages between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities;

(b) Provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on possible responses to the findings of the review of the adequacy of Article 4.2(a) and (b) and its implementation, including, if so requested by the Conference of the Parties, the conducting of negotiations on resolutions, amendments or protocols;

(c) Advise the Conference of the Parties on matters related to the consideration of information contained in national communications.

Annex II

TASKS FOR THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Tasks for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, should:

1. Consider the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and, where appropriate, to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI);
2. Undertake the tasks on methodological questions as specified in decision \_\_\_\_ on methodological issues;
3. Lay the groundwork for performing its advisory functions relating to technology transfer and research and development, with initial emphasis on identifying, promoting access to and disseminating information on state-of-the-art technologies and know-how for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change, and addressing capacity-building needs for the effective use and dissemination of such technologies;
4. Lay the groundwork for performing its advisory functions relating to capacity-building in developing country Parties, taking into account any information from the SBI;
5. Establish such intergovernmental technical advisory panels as may be deemed necessary and approved by the Conference of the Parties, to provide it with advice on technologies, including on related economic aspects, and on methodologies; and define the terms of reference, work plans, membership and duration of work thereof;
6. Oversee the in-depth review of scientific and technical aspects and the preparation of the compilation and synthesis of the first national communications from Annex I Parties in accordance with decision [Review of first communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention]; and make recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties and/or to the SBI.



B. Tasks for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, should:

1. Oversee the in-depth review of the policy aspects of the first national communications from Annex I Parties, including the implementation of their commitments under Article 4.2(a) and (b) in accordance with Article 12.2 of the Convention and Article 4.5 in accordance with Article 12.3 of the Convention on the basis of scientific and technical analysis provided by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, in accordance with decision (Review of first communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention); and make recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties;
2. Consider the report from the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism; and make recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties;
3. Further elaborate policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for the financial mechanism and provide assistance to the Conference of the Parties;
4. Undertake the tasks on the follow-up to the review of the adequacy of Article 4.2(a) and (b), in accordance with decision \_\_\_\_.

Annex III

SUMMARY OF THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS PRIOR TO THE SECOND SESSION OF  
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, INCLUDING A LIST OF MATTERS TO BE  
CONSIDERED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Schedule	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
First session October 1995	Consider work plan and relationships with IPCC and other bodies	Consider work plan
	Organize work of intergovernmental technical advisory panels	Work relating to follow-up to review of the adequacy of Article 4.2 (a) and (b)
	Plan for consideration of IPCC Second Assessment Report	Work relating to review of national communications
	Work relating to review of national communications	Deal with matters relating to the financial mechanism
January 1996	Intergovernmental technical advisory panels meet	
	Workshop <u>a/</u> on non-governmental inputs	
Second session Mid-February 1996	Consider IPCC Second Assessment Report	Work relating to follow-up to review of the adequacy of Article 4.2 (a) and (b)
	Consider work of intergovernmental technical advisory panels	
	Consider report of workshop on non-governmental inputs	Work relating to review of national communications
	Work relating to review of national communications	
	Deal with requests from SBI	
April 1996	Intergovernmental technical advisory panels meet	Issue-specific workshop
Third session July 1996 (preceding the second session of the Conference of the Parties)	Finalize recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its second session and, where appropriate, to SBI	Deal with matters relating to the financial mechanism
	Work relating to review of national communications	Finalize recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its second session
		Work relating to review of national communications

a/ The workshop, open to all Parties and interested non-governmental participants, should discuss the need for, and possible scope, structure, membership and work plans of, non-governmental advisory committees and/or a business consultative mechanism and report recommendations in the light of the workshop to the Conference of the Parties at its second session.

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