

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Twelfth session
Bonn, 12-16 June 2000
Agenda item 11

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

A. Draft report

1. The Executive Secretary made a statement on the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement. He addressed matters related to the integration of the United Nations, its staff and their families in the host country and the growing needs of the UNFCCC secretariat for office space to carry out the growing work programme required by the Parties. He expressed appreciation for improvements achieved in these areas, through the actions of the Federal Government of Germany and the city of Bonn, and highlighted some outstanding difficulties. The representative of the host Government made a statement confirming the continuing commitment of the Federal Government of Germany to provide the best possible working conditions for the United Nations in Bonn. He outlined his Government's current efforts to respond to the evolving needs of all United Nations entities in this city, inter alia by finding a durable solution to their accommodation needs at one site.

2. Statements were made by ... Parties, including one on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

B. Draft conclusions

3. The SBI welcomed the continuing commitment of the Federal Government of Germany to develop Bonn as a centre for international cooperation and a location for United Nations activities and to provide the best possible working conditions for the United Nations in Bonn. It noted with appreciation the improvements achieved and with concern the outstanding difficulties mentioned by the Executive Secretary.

4. The SBI welcomed the statement by the representative of Germany reiterating his Government's commitment to accommodate the UNFCCC secretariat and other United Nations organizations at one site. The SBI supported the concept under discussion to meet this need by rebuilding the former parliamentary complex in Bonn into an international conference and congress centre, including a new plenary hall.

5. The SBI noted that the UNFCCC secretariat had outgrown the space available to it in the premises it shares with other United Nations entities in Bonn. It further noted the offer of the host Government to satisfy the secretariat's need for additional space on an interim basis, while awaiting the availability of the proposed centre for international cooperation. It noted with concern that the interim accommodation offered would split the secretariat into two locations and noted that a need for additional office space might arise from future growth in the programme budget approved by the Conference of the Parties and beyond. It invited the host Government to renew its efforts to provide the secretariat with sufficient and suitable interim accommodation at one site.

6. The SBI further noted with concern the difficulties experienced by some delegates in obtaining visas before departure from their home countries, especially for a sufficient length of stay in Germany, and by the UNFCCC secretariat with regard to visas, residence status and work permits for family members. It welcomed the assurance of the host Government that it would strengthen its efforts to develop better practices in these matters and its appointment of a contact person to address existing problems in cooperation with the secretariat.

7. The SBI decided to consider these matters further at the first part of its thirteenth session and invited the delegation of Germany and the Executive Secretary to provide information to it on that occasion regarding further improvements achieved and other steps taken to address the concerns expressed above, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement.

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