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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
Seventeenth session  
New Delhi, 23–29 October 2002  
Agenda item 4 (g)

### METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

#### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF CROATIA UNDER ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 6, OF THE CONVENTION

##### Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), in response to a request from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its fifteenth session (FCCC/SBI/2001/18, para. 6), considered during its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions a request from Croatia concerning the estimates of its base year emissions (FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.3).
2. The SBSTA noted that Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Convention applies to Croatia as a country undergoing the process of transition to a market economy. It also noted that this article does not specify how flexibility should be allowed. Heretofore, five Parties have been allowed flexibility in the choice of their reference or base year.
3. The SBSTA noted that Croatia wishes to use the year 1990 as a reference or base year with a level of emissions of 39.4 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent under Article 4, paragraph 6.
4. The SBSTA noted further that Croatia developed and used its own methodology to determine this level. Application of this method, based on the population of Croatia relative to that of former Yugoslavia, increases base year emissions by 7.4 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent over the level derived by applying the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC Guidelines). This increase, representing 23 per cent of the total emissions of the base year excluding land-use change and forestry, was only applied to the years 1990 and 1991 and not to all subsequent years of the inventory as a consistent time series.
5. The SBSTA noted that Croatia made available to the SBSTA at its seventeenth session additional technical material in support of its claim for flexibility under Article 4, paragraph 6.

6. The SBSTA noted that the IPCC Guidelines include neither methodologies for changing or adjusting the emission estimates calculated using the IPCC Guidelines nor methodological guidance relating to time series. The *IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC Good Practice Guidance) requires all Annex I Parties preparing inventories under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to estimate emissions consistently (IPCC Good Practice Guidance, chapter 7.3.2, page 7.18).

7. The SBSTA noted that the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories, state that the inventories of an entire time series, including the base year and all subsequent years for which inventories have been reported, should be estimated using the same methodologies and the underlying activity data and emission factors should be obtained in a consistent manner (FCCC/CP/1997/7, decision 3/CP.5, para. 10).

8. The SBSTA concluded that, from a methodological perspective, the procedure used by Croatia to estimate its base year emissions is neither consistent with the IPCC Good Practice Guidance nor with the UNFCCC reporting guidelines contained in decision 3/CP.5.

9. The SBSTA agreed to forward these conclusions to the SBI at its seventeenth session, in accordance with the conclusions of the SBSTA at its sixteenth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/6, para. 58 (c)).

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