

VI. ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONVENTION

(Agenda item 6)

1. Proceedings

38. The SBI considered this item at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 2 and 9 December, respectively. It had before it documents FCCC/SBI/2003/10, FCCC/SBI/2003/17, FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.16 and FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.11. Statements were made by representatives of nine Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and of some acceding States.

39. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair invited the representative of UNEP to make a statement.

40. At the same meeting, the SBI agreed to consider this item in informal consultations convened by the Chair of SBI with the assistance of Mr. Markus Nauser (Switzerland). At its 6th meeting, the SBI received a report on these consultations.

2. Conclusions

41. At its 6th meeting, on 9 December, having considered a proposal by the Chair, the SBI adopted the following conclusions:¹⁰

(a) The SBI considered documents FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.11 containing views from Parties on possible ways to improve reporting on Article 6 activities in national communications, and FCCC/SBI/2003/17 containing a synthesis of those views. The SBI also noted the web document FCCC/WEB/2003/2, containing information from the database on key programmes and initiatives reported by Annex I Parties in their third national communications, and document FCCC/SBI/2003/13, the fifth compilation and synthesis of initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

The SBI also considered document FCCC/SBI/2003/10 containing the report of the European regional workshop on Article 6 of the Convention, and noted the oral report of the secretariat on this agenda item.

(b) The SBI reaffirmed that reporting on activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention should receive particular attention, and:

(i) Encouraged Parties to report on the six key areas of Article 6 in their national communications, consolidated and organized to the extent possible consistent with the scope of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6;

¹⁰ Adopted as FCCC/SBI/2003/L.20.

(ii) Noted that additional and/or separate interim reports on the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 will remain a voluntary initiative by Parties;

(iii) Invited Parties to make use of the current guidelines for the preparation of national communications when reporting on Article 6 matters, and to take note of other sources of guidance such as the New Delhi work programme on Article 6.

(c) The SBI considered the report by the secretariat on the development of an Article 6 information network clearing house (FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.16) and noted the offer of the UNEP/GRID–Arendal centre to contribute to the development of this clearing house.

(d) The SBI concluded that further guidance to the secretariat is necessary for the implementation of the clearing house. In order to achieve this it requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(i) To set up an interim informal advisory group of interested Parties as soon as possible. This group will facilitate the prompt start of the preparation phase of the clearing house, based on the secretariat's initial proposal contained in document FCCC/SBI/2003/4;

(ii) To further explore possible institutions that could house and/or support the clearing house, and report back to the SBI no later than at its twenty-first session;

(iii) To undertake development work, under the guidance of the interim informal advisory group, that would contribute to a small-scale version of the clearing house by the twentieth session of the SBI;

(iv) To organize a pre-sessional workshop to receive feedback from interested Parties on the further development of the clearing house, and to provide input to the SBI at its twentieth session for its consideration of future action relating to the clearing house.

(e) The SBI invited interested Parties, and those in a position to do so, to provide information, expertise and financial resources to this endeavour.

(f) The SBI expressed its appreciation to UNEP and to the Governments of the United States of America and Canada for co-financing the African regional workshop to be hosted by the Gambia from 28 to 30 January 2004, and welcomed the offer of the Government of France to provide interpretation between English and French during the workshop. The SBI also welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the UNFCCC secretariat and UNEP in supporting this workshop, and encouraged the secretariat to explore possible cooperation with UNEP or other United Nations agencies for the financing of regional workshops addressing the needs of Asia, Latin America and the members of the Alliance of Small Island

States. The SBI further invited Parties, in a position to do so, to consider funding these remaining workshops.