

VII. Article 6 of the Convention

(Agenda item 7)

72. The SBI took note of the reports on the regional workshops for the Asia and the Pacific (FCCC/SBI/2005/21) and the Latin America and the Caribbean (FCCC/SBI/2005/14) regions. It expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Japan and Uruguay for hosting the workshops and to the Governments of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America, and to UNEP, for providing financial and technical support.

73. The SBI welcomed the progress made by Parties, in the four regions in which workshops have been held to date, in implementing activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention and the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. It noted their desire to develop regional strategies for the six pillars of Article 6 of the Convention (education, training, public awareness, public participation, access to information and international cooperation).

74. The SBI also noted that the financial resources made available through various means, such as for national communications and other enabling activities, and for implementing the New Delhi work programme, were not commensurate with the needs and concerns identified by Parties. The SBI urged Annex II Parties, other Annex I Parties in a position to do so, and the GEF and other bilateral and multilateral agencies, to continue to support financially the implementation of activities relating to Article 6 of the Convention.

75. The SBI welcomed the launch of the prototype information network clearing house (CC:iNet) for Article 6 of the Convention at its twenty-third session and thanked the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for their financial support to this project. The SBI noted that funding is currently available for the clearing house and its operation only until mid-2006. The SBI also acknowledged the offers by several entities to serve as possible regional nodes. The SBI noted that the clearing house was one of many tools for promoting the further implementation of Article 6. The SBI urged governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the success of the clearing house by populating it with relevant information and documents. The SBI also called on Parties and organizations to promote, where possible, wider awareness of the clearing house, for example, by creating links to it from their own web sites.

76. The SBI noted that five countries have established Article 6 focal points. The SBI further encouraged those Parties that have not done so to appoint Article 6 focal points and to inform the secretariat accordingly. The SBI further urged Parties and institutions in a position to do so to strengthen focal points in order to promote activities relating to Article 6.

77. The SBI also requested Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 4 August 2006, their views on advancing work on the clearing house and on making it fully functional, multilingual and user-friendly, and requested the secretariat to compile these views into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-fifth session (November 2006).

78. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report, based on the reports of the workshops, highlighting common themes and issues as a way of providing broader insights into the results of the workshops, for consideration at its twenty-fifth session.

79. The SBI reiterated the need for a workshop on Article 6 to address the particular needs of small island developing States (FCCC/SBI/2004/19, para. 65) and requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize such a workshop before SBI 25. The SBI called on Parties in a position to do so to provide financial support for conducting this workshop.

80. The SBI noted that the information contained in the submissions mentioned in paragraph 77 and the synthesis report mentioned in paragraph 78, together with other continuing submissions on the work of Parties on Article 6, could be used by Parties in the review of the New Delhi work programme, in accordance with decision 11/CP.8, paragraph 3.