

VIII. Methodological issues under the Convention (Agenda item 8)

A. Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Agenda item 8 (a))

57. The SBSTA welcomed the report by the secretariat on activities relating to the technical review of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties).²⁹

58. The SBSTA noted that the review activities, which include individual inventory reviews and the training programme for review experts, as well as the GHG information system, in particular the CRF Reporter software developed by the secretariat, continue to contribute to improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of the review process and review experts, the quality of inventories of Annex I Parties and the reliability of information available to the COP.

59. The SBSTA reaffirmed the importance of meetings of lead reviewers and requested the secretariat to continue to organize these meetings. The SBSTA encouraged Parties in a position to do so to ensure proper funding for this activity.

60. The SBSTA acknowledged the commendable effort made by Parties and experts, supported by the secretariat, that made it possible to conduct 40 reviews in 2007, including 36 in-country reviews, and publish the corresponding review reports under established deadlines.³⁰ However, it noted that the review process needs further strengthening, in particular through the participation of an increased number of well-trained review experts and more support from the secretariat to continue with the review procedures established by the UNFCCC review guidelines.³⁰

61. The SBSTA acknowledged the problems indicated in the report referred to in paragraph 57 above, in particular some delays in the preparation of final reports, a lack of sufficient experts being available, resulting in individual experts having to participate in multiple reviews, and the lack of funding to continue and improve the training of new review experts.

62. The SBSTA noted that several Parties did not nominate experts for the roster of experts and that a number of experts nominated to the roster of experts did not participate in the reviews,³¹ contributing to the problems identified in paragraph 61 above. The SBSTA strongly encouraged these Parties to nominate experts to the roster of experts and, to this end, encouraged Parties to update, at least once a year, the roster of experts by nominating new experts where necessary and removing from the roster experts who are no longer available. The SBSTA further encouraged Parties to ensure that experts nominated to the roster of experts participate in the training programme and,

²⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2007/INF.4.

³⁰ "UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention".

³¹ See FCCC/SBSTA/2007/INF.4, table 1, for a list of Parties that provided experts for reviews conducted in 2007.

providing they have passed the mandatory training, that they are made available to participate in the review process.

63. The SBSTA further noted the importance of the training programme for new experts to the review of GHG inventories under the Convention. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to update the training programme to take into account the methodological developments in GHG inventories and the experience gained in the review process, and to continue as soon as possible with the training of review experts nominated to the roster of experts, subject to the availability of resources. The SBSTA strongly encouraged Parties in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding for the training programme.

64. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to continue the development and maintenance of the software tools for reporting and reviewing GHG information, including CRF Reporter, and to organize in 2008 a meeting of the users of CRF Reporter in order to establish priorities for further development to take into account the experiences of users, subject to the availability of resources. The SBSTA encouraged Parties in a position to do so to ensure proper funding of these activities.

65. The SBSTA reiterated the need for continued analysis of the effectiveness of the review process in implementing decision 12/CP.9 and the conclusions of the SBSTA at its twenty-fourth session.³²

66. The SBSTA also noted with concern the high volume of work in 2008 related to the reviews of the national communications, the rescheduled reviews of 2007 inventory submissions and the forthcoming reviews of 2008 inventory submissions. This will place considerable pressure on, and demand for resources from, the Parties, review experts and the secretariat.

67. The SBSTA further noted that in accordance with the conclusions by the COP at its twelfth session, there is a need for continued flexibility in the timing of the review activities for the 2007 inventory submissions and that for those Parties where an in-country review of the 2006 inventory submission was conducted in 2007, the review of the 2007 inventory submission should be conducted in conjunction with the review of the 2008 inventory submission, with a focus on the most recent submission. The SBSTA requested the lead reviewers to consider this issue at their next meeting and make recommendations on how to implement this flexibility.

³² FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paragraph 95.