



GEF

Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.21/4
April 17, 2003

GEF Council
May 14-16, 2003

Agenda Item 6

RELATIONS WITH CONVENTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.21/4, *Relations with Conventions*, takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international agreements and welcomes the continuing collaboration between the GEF and the Conventions. More specifically, the Council:

- (a) requests the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare a project proposal for Council approval aimed at assisting developing country Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to develop the critical national capacity necessary to access, register and retrieve information to allow effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House;
- (b) authorizes the CEO to approve financing for projects for the preparation of national communications to the UNFCCC using the new guidelines adopted by COP9 and the operational guidelines for expedited approval to be prepared by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat and circulated to the Council for comment. The operational guidelines will specify the maximum level of funding which may be approved through expedited procedures. Projects for GEF financing greater than this level will be prepared in accordance with the GEF project cycle for full-sized projects; and
- (c) requests the GEF Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare for Council review at its meeting in November 2004 a draft memorandum between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention outlining arrangements to give effect to Article 13, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention.

Table of Contents

I	Convention on Biological Diversity	1
	Issues at the SBSTTA meeting	1
	Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (MYPOW).....	2
	Open-ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing	2
	Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change	2
	Guidance from the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	3
	Biosafety	3
	Consultations with the CBD Secretariat	6
II	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	6
	Review of the financial mechanism.....	6
	Additional guidance	8
	The new climate change funds.....	10
III	UN Convention to Combat Desertification.....	10
IV.	The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	11
	Sixth meeting of the International Negotiating Committee	11
	Decisions at INC-6.....	12
	Forth coming meetings of the Conventions	13
	Annex A : Decisions of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC	A1
	Annex B : Decisions INC-6 of the Stockholm Convention.....	B1

Introduction

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants that have occurred since the GEF Council meeting in May 2002.

I CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

2. During the reporting period, several meetings and activities concerning the Convention took place and the following reflects activities of direct relevance to the GEF.

Issues at the SBSTTA meeting

3. The eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Montreal, from March 10 to 14, 2003. It was attended by more than 450 participants, representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, scientists and NGOs.

4. Key issues addressed at the SBSTTA meeting included the biodiversity of mountain, inland waters, marine and coastal, and dry and sub-humid land ecosystems, biodiversity and tourism, and the operations of SBSTTA. The meeting agreed on a framework for a work program on mountains and established an ad hoc technical expert group to identify activities for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity. The program of work on inland water ecosystems was revised in the light of experience gained. The resulting revised program would, *inter alia*, further encourage close synergies with the Ramsar Convention. SBSTTA recognized the need for refinements to be made within the coastal marine work program to incorporate recommendations regarding marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and deep seabed genetic resources. The discussion on dry and sub-humid lands was centered on the collaboration with the UNCCD through the implementation of an agreed joint work program. The key issue on biodiversity and tourism was the adoption of voluntary guidelines for application at local, regional and national levels. The proposed SBSTTA strategic plan included consideration of issues, such as its heavy agenda. Of particular interest to the GEF are SBSTTA's efforts to identify synergies among the different conventions and the needed support to the implementation of the programmes.

5. In particular, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties should decide to examine the need of support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties for country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to mitigate the adverse impact of mariculture on biological diversity".¹ SBSTTA also recommended that the COP should decide "to examine the need for support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, for country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities for activities relating to the establishment and

¹ See document (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3), annex I, recommendation VIII/3 C, paragraph 14.

maintenance of marine and coastal protected areas and networks of marine and coastal protected areas and in particular to assist Parties to develop systems to make their marine and coastal protection area networks self-sustaining in the medium to long term”.² Parties to the Convention will be invited to consider these recommendations at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties when they are preparing guidance to the financial mechanism.

Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (MYPOW)

6. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (MYPOW) was held in Montreal from March 17 to 20, 2003. In addition to multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, the meeting also analyzed the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as it relates to the Convention process, and considered implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, legal and socio-economic aspects of technology transfer and cooperation, as well as international regime on access and benefit-sharing. The MYPOW recommended developing a global partnership on biodiversity comprising the major international biodiversity-related organizations, and identifying appropriate ways to address issues of overarching importance, particularly the relevant socio-economic issues identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In its recommendations on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, the meeting highlighted the need to provide focused support and improve existing support mechanisms. The meeting also recommended that the Conference of the Parties further consider the need for further guidance to the financial mechanism on technology transfer and cooperation, and a Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 with emphasis on review of implementation of ongoing work in light of the biodiversity target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

Open-ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing

7. The Open-ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing was held in Montreal from December 2 to 4, 2002. The workshop recommended a draft Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing for onward transmission to, and adoption by, the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The draft Action Plan builds on the elements annexed to decision VI/24 B of the Conference of the Parties. Projects to support the implementation of the Action Plan are among the items listed for support through the financial mechanism in decision VI/17 of the Conference of the Parties.

Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change

8. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requested SBSTTA to prepare scientific advice as to how to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, in collaboration with the appropriate

² Ibid., recommendation VIII/3 B, paragraph 25.

bodies of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As a response to this request, SBSTTA established an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) for this purpose, and the GEF Secretariat has actively participated in this process. The draft report *Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change and Advice on the Integration of Biodiversity Considerations into the Implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol* has been widely distributed for peer-review. The AHTEG is expected to finalize its work at its third meeting in May 2003 and submit its input to SBSTTA in November and to UNFCCC COP in December.

Guidance from the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

9. In the *GEF Business Plan FY04-06* (GEF/C.21/9) and *GEF Strategic Planning: Directions and Targets* (GEF/C.21/Inf.11) the GEF Secretariat has incorporated, in generic terms, the most recent guidance (Decision VI/17, paragraph 10) for consideration of the Council at its May 2003 meeting.

Biosafety

10. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was adopted by the resumed first extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, on January 29, 2000. As of April 11, 2003, 46 countries and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the protocol, and it is expected that it will enter into force within the next few months.

11. In November 2000, the GEF Council approved the GEF Initial Strategy for Biosafety for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol. The main objectives of the strategy are to:

- (a) assist countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety through the establishment of national biosafety frameworks;
- (b) promote information sharing and collaboration, especially at the regional and subregional level; and
- (c) promote collaboration with other organizations to assist capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

12. One of the major activities under this strategy was the approval of the UNEP-GEF project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF)*. Using a country-driven process, the project is helping each participating country to set up a framework for management of living modified organisms at the national level, allowing them to meet the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. The project is also promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of experience on issues of relevance to the national biosafety frameworks. This project is also providing financial support to eligible countries to implement surveys and inventories and start establishing national databases and some funding for equipment.

13. In developing the initial strategy, it was recognized that the biosafety clearing-house (BCH) is central to the implementation of the Protocol, and that GEF assistance can facilitate

participation by developing countries in the BCH. Nevertheless, it was agreed that before the GEF can determine what assistance is required by developing countries, there must be an agreement as to the terms of reference and the structure of the BCH. The strategy went on to provide that:

“once the BCH is established, the GEF could be available to provide prompt assistance to the national competent authority to enable participation in the clearing-house. This would require countries to identify a national competent authority responsible for the biosafety clearing-house before support could be provided. Should the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol propose a time frame for launching the BCH prior to the entry into force of the Protocol, the GEF Secretariat will inform the Council of the type and modality of assistance that it recommends be provided to countries to assist them to participate in the biosafety clearing-house. In preparing its recommendations, the GEF will draw upon its experience in providing assistance to countries for the Convention’s clearing-house mechanism. One issue that will need to be determined is whether GEF assistance for the BCH should only be made available to interested countries that have ratified the Protocol or whether signature of the Protocol is a sufficient criterion.”³

14. The BCH is a critical component for the implementation of the Protocol. Without access to the BCH, Parties will not be able to fulfill their obligations under certain provisions of the Protocol. Once the protocol enters into force, all Parties will be required to use the BCH as the only recognized mechanism for making available certain information required under the Protocol. It is therefore critical that all Parties have the necessary capacity to access, register and retrieve information in the BCH effectively in order to fulfill their obligations once the Protocol enters into force.

15. The Convention Secretariat launched the Pilot Phase of the BCH in March 2001. It has two main components: a central portal and a distributed network of national components. The Central Portal has been established by the CBD Secretariat at a total cost of more than US\$1 million from donors. It has been designed to serve as the gateway to all of the functionality of the BCH website and to make the two primary activities of finding information and registering information (as obliged by the Protocol) as clear and intuitive as possible, as well as to provide documentation and other resources.

16. The need for additional support to Parties to the Protocol related to their use of the BCH has been well recognized and fully supported in recent decisions of the joint CBD / ICCP Bureau (December 2002 and March 2003).

17. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties provided the following additional guidance to the GEF with respect to capacity-building in biosafety, including the BCH:

³ GEF/C.16/4/Rev.1, paragraphs 37 and 38.

“...[T]he GEF as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism should provide financial resources:

(b) For national capacity-building in biosafety, in particular for enabling effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and in the implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety proposed by the Intergovernmental Committee on Cartagena Protocol at its second meeting, and for other needs identified in the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee at its second meeting for assisting developing countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol;”⁴

18. The urgency of the situation is brought about by the expected entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the next few months. It is therefore proposed that support be provided to eligible recipient countries that have ratified the Protocol in order to meet their urgent needs with respect to training and to putting in place the national components of the BCH.

19. The GEF Secretariat has been collaborating with the Secretariat to the CBD Convention and UNEP to agree on the scope of the required support as well as the best means for providing such support to eligible Parties to the Protocol.⁵ It is expected that this preparatory effort will result in a project proposal being submitted to the Council for its approval as part of the July 2003 intersessional work program.

20. The specific objectives of the project will be:

- (a) to strengthen capacity in eligible countries through support for training activities for key stakeholders. The training programs will cover (i) database design and data management; (ii) access and use of information, including information required for decision-making; and (iii) registration of information with the BCH; and
- (b) to create an enabling environment for Parties to meet the obligations for implementation of the Protocol by providing participating Parties with appropriate computer hardware and software, as well as a means of access to the BCH through Internet connectivity or other means.

21. In order to make the most effective and efficient use of GEF resources, it is proposed that the project should be managed as part of the existing efforts on capacity building for Biosafety. Therefore, to take full advantage of the synergies with the UNEP- GEF project on *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks*, this new project would be designed as an add-on component of the national assistance being provided through this GEF project. Regional Coordinators from

⁴ Decision VI/17 paragraph 10 (b) of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (The Hague, The Netherlands, 7-19 April 2002).

⁵ In initial consultations to develop a project proposal, it has been suggested that training and other assistance should be made available through the project to eligible Parties that have ratified the Protocol by the date of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol expected in April 2004.

the UNEP project would discuss with eligible Parties to the Protocol their participation in the project and make available funds through the ongoing projects with the countries. The Convention Secretariat would assist in the preparation of appropriate training material and guidelines for countries on national components of the BCH and assist in the project, wherever there was a comparative advantage.

Consultations with the CBD Secretariat

22. The GEF Secretariat will be consulting with the Convention Secretariat on key issues related to the implementation of decisions VI/17 *Financial mechanism under the Convention* and VI/16 *Additional financial resources*, as appropriate, with a view to addressing them and reporting the action taken to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Additionally, as shown in the section above, the GEF Secretariat, the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP have been consulting on the implementation of paragraph 10 (b) of COP decision VI/17.

II UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

23. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-8) took place in New Delhi from October 23 to November 1, 2002. Five decisions⁶ adopted by COP-8 are of direct relevance to the GEF, and they are attached to this document as Annex A. Issues directly relevant to the GEF are as follows:

Review of the financial mechanism

24. The Conference of Parties at its eighth session saw the culmination of a review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, initiated in 2002. The review was undertaken in accordance with guidelines agreed by COP-4 and contained in the annex to decision 3/CP.4 and was based on the statements of Parties at sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), information contained in the initial national communications of non-Annex I Parties, documents of the COP and the SBI, periodic (annual) reports of the GEF to the COP, GEF monitoring and evaluation reports including the *First Decade of the GEF, Second Overall Performance Study (OPS2)*, and the views of Parties to the Convention submitted to the Convention Secretariat. A synthesis report prepared by the Convention Secretariat assisted the deliberations on the second review of the financial mechanism.

⁶ The decisions are:

decision 5/CP.8 *Review of the financial mechanism*;
decision 6/CP.8 *Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism*;
decision 7/CP.8 *Initial guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund*;
decision 8/CP.8 *Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the Least Developed Countries Fund*; and
decision 11/CP.8 *New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention*.

25. The Conference of Parties at its eighth session noted⁷ that the GEF has effectively performed its role as an entity operating the financial mechanism of the Convention, and requested the GEF Secretariat to initiate, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, a dialogue in order to implement Convention guidance more effectively on the basis of its experience with projects and programs, and to explore opportunities to streamline guidance to it.

26. At the initiative of the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, a retreat was held between the two Secretariats in early April 2003 to strengthen inter-secretariat collaboration and to renew regular communication and exchange of information. During the meeting, the two secretariats began consultations to explore how best to undertake such a dialogue.

27. As noted in the *Action Plan to respond to the Recommendations of the Second GEF Assembly, the Policy Recommendations of the Third Replenishment, the Second Overall Performance Study of the GEF and the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, GEF/C.21/Inf.4, the GEF Secretariat proposes to initiate consultations with the secretariats of the global environment conventions for which the GEF operates their financial mechanisms on opportunities and proposals for improving the dialogue between the GEF and the conventions with a view to streamlining guidance to the GEF and to updating and clarifying existing priorities and commitments when new guidance is agreed. The GEF Secretariat proposes to report to the Council at its meeting in May 2004 on the outcome of these consultations.

28. The Conference of Parties at its eighth session also requested that the GEF's project cycle be further reviewed to make it simpler and more efficient, that the concept of incremental costs be made simpler and more transparent, that efforts be continued to increase administrative efficiency and cost effectiveness in accordance with recommendations of the Second Overall Performance Study, and that efforts be strengthened to promote consistency of GEF activities with national priorities and national planning frameworks. These recommendations are consistent with the Beijing Declaration, and the Action Plan proposes how the GEF can respond to them.

29. Referring to its decisions 12/CP.2 and 12/CP.3 by which the Memorandum of Understanding between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties were approved, the Conference of the Parties requested the Convention Secretariat in consultation with the GEF Secretariat, to prepare a report on the implementation of those decisions in accordance with Article 11 on determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention.

30. The eighth session of the Conference of Parties took particular note of the Second Overall Performance Study, and asked the GEF to report at its ninth session on progress in the implementation of its plan of action to respond to the recommendations of the study.

31. The Conference of Parties welcomed the "successful and substantial" third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, as well as the Beijing Declaration of the GEF's Second Assembly.

⁷ See decision 5/CP.8 *Review of the financial mechanism*.

32. According to decision 5/CP.8 the Conference of Parties requested its Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its twenty first session to initiate the third review of the financial mechanism, using the same criteria contained in the guidelines annexed to decision 3/CP.4 (unless amended). The report on such a review would be considered by the Conference of the Parties at the twelfth session, to be held in 2006.

Additional guidance⁸

33. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties adopted new guidelines for the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC⁹ and requested the GEF to provide financial assistance for the purpose at an “appropriate level” on an ‘agreed full cost’ basis and in an expedited manner. The new guidelines build on the earlier guidelines adopted by the second session of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of which initial national communication projects have been funded by the GEF, but they are wider in scope, particularly on issues of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

34. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties was unable to decide on the time frame in which non-Annex I Parties are to submit national communications based on the new guidelines. The Conference of the Parties will come back to this issue at its ninth session in late 2003, but in the meantime, the GEF would provide funding on the basis of the same deadline for submission as for the initial national communications (i.e. three years¹⁰).

35. In response to this new guidance, it is proposed that expedited funding be made available for the preparation of second national communications in accordance with the new COP guidelines. For this purpose the GEF Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, the UNFCCC Secretariat and other experts as necessary, will prepare operational guidelines, similar to the guidelines that were adopted in April 1997 for expedited funding of initial national communications. The earlier guidelines prescribed an upper limit of \$350,000 for projects approved through expedited procedures, with larger projects requiring approval by Council. Given the scope of the guidelines approved at COP-8, the Secretariat estimates that the preparation of second national communications through expedited procedures may require an increase of 10-15% of funding, and it is proposed that the upper limit for expedited processing be correspondingly increased.

36. In order to ensure a prompt response to the guidance of the Parties on second national communications, the Council is invited to authorize the CEO to approve financing for projects for preparations of second national communications under expedited procedures, using the new COP guidelines, and in accordance with operational guidelines to be developed by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The operational guidelines, which will indicate the maximum level (expected to be between 10-15%

⁸ Decision 6/CP. 8 *Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism.*

⁹ Decision 17/ CP.8 *Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.*

¹⁰ Three years from the date of entry into force of the Convention for the Party concerned, or of the availability of financial resources. The above deadline does not apply to the submission of initial national communications by least developed countries. (See Article 12.5 of the Convention).

above the earlier limit) for expedited approval by the CEO will be circulated to the Council for comment before they are made effective. As before, projects requiring GEF financing greater than the maximum authorized under expedited procedures will be prepared in accordance with the GEF project cycle for full-sized projects.

37. On the basis of relevant recommendations of OPS 2, the GEF's 'Initial Review of Climate Change Enabling Activities' prepared by the monitoring and evaluation unit, and the need to mainstream national communications in climate change activities, it is proposed that one innovation in the new guidelines be the possibility of early release of funds for countries to undertake a comprehensive stocktaking exercise with wide stakeholder consultations as preparation for formulating proposals for further assistance. The stocktaking would highlight work done under the first national communication, other national, regional and global projects supported by the GEF, and other multilateral or bilateral assistance, that should directly contribute to the preparation of second national communications. Stakeholder consultations should contribute to covering more sectors impacted by climate change and build greater public participation in the preparation of second national communications. The GEF Secretariat will work closely with the Implementing Agencies to identify the quickest and simplest modality for release of such funding, which will be within the overall limit proposed for expedited approval.

38. In order to provide technical support and promote consistent methodologies being used during the preparation of first national communications through GEF-financed enabling activities, the GEF financed the National Communications Support Program, implemented by UNDP and UNEP. This support program was highly successful and much appreciated for its inputs by the Parties to the Convention and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The GEF Secretariat will consult with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat to ascertain whether a similar support program would effectively and efficiently contribute to the preparation of second national communications. If a comparable technical support program is deemed feasible and advantageous, a proposal will be prepared for Council review and approval.

39. In other guidance, the Conference of the Parties requested the GEF to take into consideration its various decisions on the subject of capacity building when developing proposals for approaches and modalities for capacity building to be considered by the GEF Council in May, 2003. The Conference of the Parties also asked the GEF to provide financial support to non-Annex I Parties for technology transfer, education, training, and public awareness in furtherance of Article 6 of the Convention and related COP decisions.¹¹ To date, such assistance has been provided by the GEF primarily through enabling activities.

40. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the ninth session the specific steps undertaken to implement the provisions contained in the decision and also address the SBI-17 conclusions on the report of the Global Environment Facility.

¹¹ Decision 4/CP.7 and decision 7/CP.7 (technology transfer) and Decision 11/CP.1 and decision 6/CP.7 (education, training and public awareness).

The new climate change funds

41. With regard to the Special Climate Change Fund established at the seventh session, the Conference of the Parties welcomed¹² the arrangements that have been made by the GEF to operate the fund (approved by the Council in May 2002) and provided further guidance to it aimed at promoting complementarity with the other funds operated by the GEF, financial separation from those funds, transparency in operations, and streamlining of operational procedures while ensuring sound financial management.

42. In order to prioritize activities to be funded under the Special Climate Change Fund, the Conference of the Parties initiated a process of soliciting the views of Parties, the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (both of which have been established by earlier COP decisions). The Conference of the Parties expects guidance to the GEF on priorities under this new fund, based on responses to these requests, to be finalized at the ninth session to be held in 2003.

43. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties decided that the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol, to be administered by the GEF, will be financed through contributions of two percent of the proceeds of each transaction under the Clean Development Mechanism transactions. Modalities and procedures for the collection and transfer of these funds are yet to be decided by the Conference of the Parties.

44. Developments regarding the Least Developed Countries Fund are reported in document GEF/C.21/5, *Operation of the LDC Trust Fund for Climate Change*.

III UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

45. A meeting of the Committee for the Review and the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) took place from November 11 to 22, 2002, in Rome. The Committee for the Review and the Implementation of the Convention was established as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties “to assist it (COP) in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention”.¹³ The meeting was attended by representatives from 149 Parties and observed by 6 states. United Nations organizations and more than forty NGOs also attended the meeting. The GEF was also represented at the meeting.

46. Recommendation 6 adopted by the CRIC on financing Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, provides: “Participants welcomed the decision by the second Assembly of the GEF confirming the availability of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, as called for by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and encouraged the COP, at its sixth session, to take appropriate action.”¹⁴ The GEF Council was further “invited to discuss, finalize and adopt at its

¹² Decision 7/CP.8 *Initial guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund*.

¹³ See decision 1/COP.5, ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1.

¹⁴ See document ICCD/CRIC(1)/10, 17 January 2003.

meeting in May 2003 the new Operational Programme for land degradation. Participants recommended that the COP take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the CRIC in defining issues it wishes to see addressed in the implementation of the new Operational Programme.”¹⁵

47. The GEF has been informed that the UNCCD Secretariat and the President of the African Group of the UNCCD are jointly organizing a ministerial and technical meeting on GEF procedures to take place in Parakou, Benin, from April 5 to 10, 2003. Invited participants to this meeting include Ministers of Environment from Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, the Gambia, and Togo. UNCCD and GEF focal points of these countries, representatives of the Comité Interétats de la Lutte Contre la Sécheresse (CILLSS), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as GEF Council Members/Alternates from the West African countries are also invited.

IV. THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

48. As of early April 2003, 30 countries ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Fifty ratifications or accessions are required for the Convention to enter into force.

49. During the reporting period, three meetings were held in the context of the Convention: the sixth meeting of the International Negotiating Committee (INC-6), a workshop on liability and redress (Vienna, September 19-21, 2002), and the first session of the expert group on best available techniques and best environmental practices (Research Triangle Park, U.S.A, March 10-14, 2003).

Sixth meeting of the International Negotiating Committee

50. The sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was held in Geneva, June 17 to 21, 2002, with the participation of representatives from 125 countries, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

51. This meeting was the first since the adoption of the Convention in May 2001. It marked the transition from a “negotiation mode” to an “implementation mode”, and started to prepare the way for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The delegates discussed, *inter alia*, best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP), stockpiles and wastes, the addition of “new” POPs, effectiveness evaluation, non-compliance, technical assistance, national implementation plans (NIPs), and financial resources and mechanism.

52. The GEF submitted an information document describing the steps taken to facilitate early implementation of the Convention, particularly regarding capacity building in eligible countries

¹⁵ See document ICCD/CRIC(1)/10, 17 January 2003.

through funding for the development of National Implementation Plans (enabling activities), and the decision of Council which recommended that the Assembly adopt a new POPs focal area. The INC “welcomed the efforts made by the GEF to facilitate early implementation of the Convention, particularly the decision to recommend a new focal area for POPs, the proposed amendments to the GEF Instrument, and the progress made in facilitating the application, approval and funding of projects to develop national implementation plans.”¹⁶

Decisions at INC-6

53. Three INC-6 decisions are of direct relevance to the GEF: decision INC-6/12 on Draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Environment Facility, decision INC-6/13 on Guidance to the financial mechanism, and decision INC-6/14 on Draft terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism.

54. Also of particular relevance are decisions INC-6/6 on Development of interim guidance to assist countries in the preparation of national implementation plans and guidance for reviewing and updating national implementation plans, and decision INC-6/11 on Capacity Assistance network.

55. Decision INC-6/12 requests the Convention secretariat to consult with the GEF secretariat to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding between the GEF Council and the COP to be submitted at the next INC meeting for comments, along with a review of similar agreements, including the experience gained.

56. Decision INC-6/13 initiates the process for developing guidance to the financial mechanism and requests the Convention Secretariat to compile and synthesise views that countries are to provide in writing, along with a review of experience with other conventions.

57. Decision INC-6/14 initiates the process for developing terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism, and requests the Convention Secretariat to submit elements of draft TORs at the next INC.

58. Decision INC-6/6 includes a request to the Convention Secretariat to prepare a draft interim guidance document on National Implementation Plans, taking into account *inter alia* the GEF guidelines for POPs enabling activities.

59. Decision INC-6/11 includes a request to the Convention Secretariat to take into account modalities for a Capacity Assistance Network when preparing a feasibility study and case studies on regional and sub-regional centres to facilitate the provision of technical and financial assistance.

60. These decisions are attached as Annex B.

¹⁶ See INC-6 Report: UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22.

Forth coming meetings of the Conventions

61. Council Members may wish to note that the following COP or INC are scheduled:

POPs: INC-7 will take place in Geneva, July 14 - 18, 2003.

UNCCD: COP-6 will take place in Havana, August 25 - September 5, 2003.

UNFCCC: COP-9 will take place in Milan, December 1 - 12, 2003.

CBD: COP-7 will take place in Kuala Lumpur, April 19 - 30, 2004.

ANNEX A : DECISIONS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO UNFCCC

Draft decision 5/CP.8

Review of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraph 3, and Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/CP.1, 11/CP.2, 12/CP.2, 13/CP.2, 11/CP.3, 12/CP.3 and 3/CP.4,

Noting the review process on the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, undertaken by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its seventeenth session, in accordance with the criteria contained in the annex to decision 3/CP.4,

Noting also the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat on the review of the financial mechanism,¹⁷ the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session,¹⁸ and the Second Overall Performance Study of the Global Environment Facility,

Noting further that the Global Environment Facility has effectively performed its role as an entity operating the financial mechanism of the Convention,

Welcoming the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund,

Welcoming also the Beijing Declaration of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility,

1. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on progress in the implementation of its plan of action developed in response to the recommendations of the Second Overall Performance Study of the Global Environment Facility, and also on how it has taken into consideration the recommendations of the second review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility secretariat, in consultation with the Convention secretariat to initiate a dialogue in order to implement more effectively the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility as an entity operating the financial

¹⁷ FCCC/SBI/2002/14.

¹⁸ FCCC/CP/2002/4

mechanism, drawing upon the experience gained and lessons learned from the projects and programmes funded by the Global Environment Facility, and to explore opportunities for streamlining guidance, and to report on the outcome of this dialogue in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session;

3. *Requests* the Convention secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twentieth session a report on the implementation of decisions 12/CP.2 and 12/CP.3 in accordance with Article 11, on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To review, in cooperation with the implementing and executing agencies as well as national focal points, its project cycle, with a view to making it simpler and more efficient, taking into account the lessons learned and the findings of the Global Environment Facility Monitoring and Evaluation Unit;

(b) To continue its efforts to increase the administrative efficiency and cost effectiveness of its operations in line with the recommendations of the Second Overall Performance Study of the Global Environment Facility and the Beijing Declaration;

(c) To continue to make the concept of agreed incremental costs and global benefits more understandable, recognizing that the process for determining incremental costs should be transparent, flexible and pragmatic, consistent with the Beijing Declaration;

(d) To strengthen efforts to promote consistency of Global Environment Facility activities with national priorities and to integrate them into national planning frameworks, such as national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies;

5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to initiate the third review of the financial mechanism at its twenty-first session in accordance with the criteria contained in the guidelines annexed to decision 3/CP.4, or as they may be subsequently amended, and to take appropriate measures and report on the outcome to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session.

Draft decision 6/CP.8

Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 3, Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, Article 6, Article 9, paragraph 2(c), Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 5, and Article 12, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 13/CP.1, 7/CP.2, 10/CP.2, 11/CP.2, 12/CP.2, 9/CP.3, 1/CP.4, 2/CP.4, 4/CP.4, 6/CP.4, 8/CP.5, 9/CP.5, 10/CP.5, 2/CP.7, 3/CP.7, 4/CP.7, 6/CP.7 and 7/CP.7,

Recalling further that in accordance with decision 11/CP.1 the Conference of the Parties is to give guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,

Acknowledging the usefulness of cooperation to promote, facilitate, develop and implement public awareness programs on climate change and its effects, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention,

Reaffirming that capacity-building for developing countries is essential to enable them to participate fully in, and to implement effectively their commitments under, the Convention,

1. *Decides* that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should:

(a) On matters relating to national communications:

(i) Provide financial resources at an appropriate level to cover the requirements of the guidelines annexed to decision --/CP.8, in an expedited manner, by an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, on an agreed full cost basis for the preparation of national communications, as well as capacity-building activities related to the preparation of national communications pursuant to decision 2/CP.7, and in particular paragraphs 1(c), 3, 4 and 5 of decision 6/CP.7;

(ii) Continue to provide funding to Parties that have initiated the process of preparing second national communications and received funding under the expedited procedures or on an agreed full cost basis prior to the approval of the guidelines annexed to decision --/CP.8;

(b) On matters relating to capacity-building: further the prompt implementation of

decision 2/CP.7, taking into account paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of decision 6/CP.7, and also take into account decisions 2/CP.7, 3/CP.7 and 6/CP.7 when developing its “Elements of strategic collaboration and a framework for Global Environment Facility action for capacity-building on the global environment” to be presented to the Council of the Global Environment Facility in May 2003;

(c) On matters relating to transfer of technologies: provide financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and the small island developing States among them, in accordance with decision 4/CP.7, through its climate change focal area and the Special Climate Change Fund established under decision 7/CP.7, for the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention contained in the annex to decision 4/CP.7;

(d) On matters relating to Article 6: provide financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and the small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1 and 6/CP.7, to support the implementation of the work programme on Article 6 of the Convention contained in the annex to decision --/CP.8;

(e) On matters relating to the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties: include in its report to the Conference of the Parties detailed information in accordance with the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its seventeenth session, on the report of the Global Environment Facility;¹⁹1

2. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to also include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session information on the specific steps undertaken to implement the provisions of this decision.

¹⁹ Document FCCC/SBI/2002/L.19

Draft decision 7/CP.8

Initial guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 1(b), 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Convention,

Recalling its decision 7/CP.7, which established that there is a need for funding, including funding that is new and additional to contributions which are allocated to the climate change focal area of the Global Environment Facility and to multilateral and bilateral funding, for the implementation of the Convention, and thus established, inter alia, the Special Climate Change Fund,

Recalling further decision 4/CP.7 which requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial support through its climate change focal area and the Special Climate Change Fund for the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, as contained in the annex to that decision,

Recalling paragraph 3 of its decision 7/CP.7, which stated that Parties included in Annex II, and Parties included in Annex I that are in the position to do so, shall be invited to contribute to the fund, which shall be operated by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming with appreciation the joint political declaration made by the European Community and its member States, together with Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, and invite other Parties in a position to do so, to contribute to the fund,

Welcoming further the arrangements made by the Global Environment Facility for the establishment of the Special Climate Change Fund,

Recalling decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 1, which states that Parties included in Annex II shall report on their financial contributions on an annual basis, and that the Conference of the Parties shall review those reports also on an annual basis,

1. *Decides* that, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, the Global Environment Facility, as an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, should:

(a) Promote complementarity of funding between the Special Climate Change Fund and other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;

(b) Ensure financial separation of the Special Climate Change Fund from other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;

(c) Ensure transparency in the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund;

(d) Adopt streamlined procedures for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund while ensuring sound financial management;.2. *Decides* to further define the prioritized activities, programmes and measures to be funded out of the Special Climate Change Fund in areas enumerated in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7 by undertaking the activities described below:

(a) Initiating a process now with a view to providing further guidance to the Global Environment Facility. This process will consist of:

(i) Requesting Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2003, views on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;

(ii) Requesting the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to submit to the secretariat, as soon as possible, views, relevant to their mandates, on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;

(iii) Requesting the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its eighteenth session, a report summarizing and analyzing the above-mentioned submissions;

(b) Upon completion of such a process, a decision at its ninth session will provide guidance to the Global Environment Facility in order for the Global Environment Facility to operationalize the fund without delay thereafter.

Draft decision 8/CP.8

Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the Least Developed Countries Fund

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries referred to in Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention,

Reaffirming the need for the adoption and operationalization of simplified procedures and expedited access to the Least Developed Countries Fund by the least developed country Parties,

Reaffirming the need to ensure complementarity of funding between the Least Developed Countries Fund and other funds with which the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention is entrusted,

Welcoming the arrangements made by the Global Environment Facility as the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for operationalizing the Least Developed Countries Fund,

Recalling its decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7 establishing the Least Developed Countries Fund to support the programme of work for least developed countries,

Welcoming the progress in mobilizing voluntary contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund,

Recognizing the specific needs of least developed countries with regard to training in negotiating skills and language,

Recalling its decision 27/CP.7 containing the initial guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, and 29/CP.7 mandating the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to serve in an advisory capacity to the least developed countries on the preparation, and strategy for implementation, of national adaptation programmes of action, through, inter alia, workshops, upon request by least developed countries Parties,

1. *Decides* to adopt the following additional guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund established under decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7;

2. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, including its implementing agencies, to ensure the speedy release and disbursement of funds and timely assistance for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action;

3. *Requests* the entity in its capacity referred to in paragraph 1 above to support, where sufficient voluntary funding has not been provided from bilateral sources, the organization, under the guidance of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, of four regional workshops in 2003 (one in Africa for francophone least developed countries, one in Africa for anglophone least developed countries, one in Asia, and one in a small island developing State) to advise least developed countries in order to advance the process for preparing national adaptation programmes of action in these regions;
4. *Requests* the entity referred to in paragraph 1 above to undertake the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the above-mentioned guidance, and to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this guidance;
5. *Encourages* Annex II Parties, and Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so, to address the needs of least developed countries with regard to training in negotiating skills and language through bilateral and other sources of funding;
6. *Invites* all Parties, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies, to submit to the secretariat, by 15 April 2003, views on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries work programme, in order to meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least developed countries, for consideration by Parties at the eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation of views received pursuant to paragraph 6 above;
8. *Decides* to consider providing further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, at its ninth session.

Decision 11/CP.8

New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 11/CP.1, 2/CP.7, 3/CP.7, 4/CP.7, 5/CP.7 and 6/CP.7,

Recalling further Agenda 21 and relevant reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Recognizing the importance of Article 6 in engaging all stakeholders and major groups in the development and implementation of policies related to climate change, consistent with sustainable development goals,

Recognizing also the need to establish a country-driven work programme that enhances cooperation, coordination and exchange of information among governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as well as the private and public sectors,

Recognizing further the need for adequate financial and technical resources to ensure effective implementation of activities under Article 6, and for strengthening or establishing, as appropriate, national climate change secretariats or national focal points, particularly in developing country Parties,

Having considered the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its seventeenth session,

1. *Adopts* the five-year work programme on Article 6 contained in the annex to this decision;
2. *Decides* to undertake a review of the work programme in 2007, with an intermediate review of progress in 2004, to evaluate its effectiveness;
3. *Requests* Parties to prepare reports (within their national communications, where possible) on their efforts to implement the work programme for the purpose of reviewing the programme in 2004 and 2007;
4. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their activities relevant to Article 6 and invites them to develop programmatic responses to the five-year work programme;

5. *Encourages also* Parties to make full use of the existing opportunities provided by the Global Environment Facility, as an entity operating the financial mechanism of the Convention, in particular in accordance with decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 1(h)²⁰ and decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7, or in the context of national communications, as well as the opportunities provided by other multilateral and bilateral sources of funding;

6. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I (non-Annex I Parties), in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1 and 6/CP.7, to support the implementation of the work programme;

7. *Encourages further* multilateral and bilateral organizations to support the activities related to the implementation of Article 6 and its work programme, as well as relevant capacity-building activities in non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them.

Annex

New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

A. Observations

1. The implementation of all elements of Article 6 of the Convention, including education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation, will contribute to meeting the objective of the Convention

2. All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities, are responsible for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. The capacity to implement Article 6 activities will vary among countries, as will the priority thematic areas and target audiences, consistent with their sustainable development priorities and the culturally preferred method of programme delivery, in order to increase people's understanding of the climate change issue.

3. Regional, subregional and international cooperation can enhance the collective ability of Parties to implement the Convention, improve synergies, avoid duplication of effort between the different conventions, and ultimately both improve the effectiveness of programming and facilitate its support.

²⁰ Decision 6/CP.7 paragraph 1(h), states:

“1. *Decides* that, in accordance with Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 11.1 of the Convention, the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, for the following activities, including those identified in paragraph 7 of decision 5/CP.7:

(h) Undertaking more in-depth public awareness and education activities and community involvement and participation in climate change issues”.

4. It is important to learn more from countries regarding the needs and gaps in their Article 6 activities, so that Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have the resources to do so might effectively target their efforts at providing appropriate support.

5. Many Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as well as the private and public sectors, are already working actively to raise awareness on, and increase understanding of, the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as solutions. In particular, many governments are already implementing measures that could be linked to Article 6 activities. However, the lack of adequate financial and technical resources could inhibit some Parties' efforts to implement such activities, in particular developing country Parties.

6. The nature of Article 6 activities carried out by Parties can easily be reported. However, measuring or quantifying the impacts of these activities may be more challenging.

B. Purposes and guiding principles

7. The present work programme sets out the scope of, and provides the basis for action on, activities related to Article 6, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. It should serve as a flexible framework for country-driven action addressing the specific needs and circumstances of Parties, and reflecting their national priorities and initiatives.

8. The Article 6 work programme builds on existing decisions of the Conference of the Parties, specifically the Marrakesh Accords, which contain a number of references to Article 6 activities, in particular decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 on capacity-building in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, 4/CP.7 on development and transfer of technologies, and 5/CP.7 on implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9.

9. The Article 6 work programme shall be guided by:

(a) A country-driven approach;

(b) Cost-effectiveness;

(c) A phased approach integrating Article 6 activities into existing climate change programmes and strategies;

(d) Promotion of partnerships, networks and synergies, in particular, synergies between conventions;

(e) An interdisciplinary approach;

(f) A holistic, systematic approach;

(g) The principles of sustainable development.

C. Scope of the work programme

10. As part of their national programmes to implement the Convention, and taking into account national circumstances and capacities, Parties are encouraged to undertake activities under the categories listed below, which reflect the six elements of Article 6.

International cooperation

11. Subregional, regional and international cooperation in undertaking activities within the scope of the work programme can enhance the collective ability of Parties to implement the Convention, and the efforts of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations can also contribute to its implementation. Such cooperation can further enhance synergies between conventions and improve the effectiveness of all sustainable development efforts.

Education

12. In order to advance implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, it is useful to cooperate in, promote, facilitate, develop and implement education and training programmes focused on climate change, targeting youth in particular, and including exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts.

Training

13. In order to advance implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, it is useful to cooperate in, promote, facilitate, develop and implement climate change focused training programmes for scientific, technical, and managerial personnel at the national and, as appropriate, subregional, regional and international levels. Technical skills and knowledge provide an opportunity to adequately address and respond to climate change issues

Public awareness, public participation and public access to information

14. In order to advance implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, it is useful to cooperate in, promote, facilitate, develop and implement public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects at the national and, as appropriate, subregional, regional and international levels. It is also useful to facilitate public access to information on climate change and its effects, and to promote public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses.

D. Implementation

Parties

15. As part of their national programmes and activities in implementing the Convention, and within the scope of the Article 6 work programme, Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities and capacities, could, inter alia:

- (a) Develop institutional and technical capacity to identify gaps and needs for the implementation of Article 6, assess the effectiveness of Article 6 activities, and consider the linkages between Article 6 activities, implementation of policies and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and other commitments under the Convention, such as technology transfer and capacity-building;
- (b) Prepare assessments of needs specific to national circumstances in the area of the implementation of Article 6, including the use of surveys and other relevant instruments to determine target audiences and potential partnerships;
- (c) Designate, and provide support to, a national focal point for Article 6 activities and assign specific responsibilities. These responsibilities could include the identification of areas for possible international cooperation and opportunities for strengthening synergies with other conventions, and the coordination of the preparation of the Article 6 chapter in the national communication, ensuring that relevant contact information, including web-site addresses, is provided therein;
- (d) Develop a directory of organizations and individuals, with an indication of their experience and expertise relevant to Article 6 activities, with a view to building active networks involved in the implementation of these activities;
- (e) Develop criteria for identifying and disseminating information on good practices for Article 6 activities, in accordance with national circumstances;
- (f) Increase the availability of copyright-free and translated climate change materials, in accordance with laws and standards related to the protection of copyrighted materials;
- (g) Enhance efforts to develop and use curricula and teacher training focused on climate change as methods to integrate climate change issues at all educational levels and across disciplines;
- (h) Seek opportunities to disseminate widely relevant information on climate change. Measures could include translation into appropriate languages and distribution of popularized versions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report and other key documents on climate change;

(i) Seek input and public participation, including participation by youth and other groups, in the formulation and implementation of efforts to address climate change and encourage the involvement and participation of representatives of all stakeholders and major groups in the climate change negotiation process;

(j) Inform the public about causes of climate change and sources of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as actions that can be taken at all levels to address climate change;

(k) Share the findings contained in their national communications and national action plans or domestic programmes on climate change with the general public and all stakeholders. 16. In developing and implementing Article 6 activities, Parties should seek to enhance cooperation and coordination at international and regional levels, including the identification of partners and networks with other Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, state and local governments, and community-based organizations, and to promote and facilitate the exchange of information and material, and the sharing of experience and good practices.

Intergovernmental organizations

17. Intergovernmental organizations, including convention secretariats, are invited, inter alia:

(a) To continue supporting efforts to implement activities under Article 6 through their regular programmes, and through specific programmes focused on climate change, including, as appropriate, through the provision and dissemination of information and resource materials, such as diagrams that could easily be translated and adapted, as well as through the provision of financial and technical support;

(b) To strengthen collaboration with, and enhance involvement of, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a view to ensuring coordinated support to Parties in their activities related to Article 6 and avoiding duplication of work.

Non-governmental organizations

18. Non-governmental organizations are encouraged to continue their activities related to Article 6 and are invited to consider ways to enhance cooperation between non-governmental organizations from Annex I and non-Annex I countries, as well as collaboration on activities between intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and governments.

Support

19. Parties will need to determine the most efficient and cost-effective way to implement Article 6 activities, and are encouraged to create partnerships with other Parties, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders, to facilitate

the implementation of these activities, including the identification of priority areas for support and funding.

20. As initial priorities, the implementation of the work programme will require the strengthening of national institutions and capacities, in particular in developing countries, and the establishment of a mechanism to provide and exchange information.

Review of progress and reporting

21. The Conference of the Parties, through the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, will undertake a review of progress in the implementation of this work programme by 2007, with an intermediate review of progress in 2004.

22. All Parties are requested to report in their national communications, where possible, and in other reports, on their accomplishments, lessons learned, experiences gained, and remaining gaps and barriers observed.

23. Intergovernmental organizations are invited to develop programmatic responses to the Article 6 work programme and, following consultations with the Convention secretariat, to communicate to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice through the secretariat the responses and progress achieved, for the purpose of reviewing the programme and evaluating its effectiveness in 2004 and 2007.

24. Non-governmental organizations are invited to provide relevant information to the secretariat and in accordance with their national circumstances, informing and involving their national focal point as appropriate, on progress achieved for the purpose of reviewing the Article 6 work programme and evaluating its effectiveness in 2004 and 2007.

Role of the secretariat

25. In accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, the secretariat is requested to facilitate efforts under the Article 6 work programme and, in particular:

(a) To prepare reports to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on progress achieved by Parties in implementing Article 6, based on information contained in national communications and other sources of information. These reports will be issued regularly, and in particular for the interim progress review in 2004 and the review in 2007;

(b) To facilitate coordinated inputs into the five-year Article 6 work programme by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(c) To continue work on the structure and content of an information clearing house, including information on existing resources that could facilitate (i) the implementation of the work

programme, and (ii) information exchange and cooperation between Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working on Article 6 issues, and to identify institutions that could host and provide regular support for such a clearing house.

ANNEX B : DECISIONS INC-6 OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Decision INC-6/6

Development of interim guidance to assist countries in the preparation of national implementation plans and guidance for reviewing and updating national implementation plans

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

Recalling the need for each Party to develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Noting the guidance document prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank with the support of the Government of Denmark for the pilot project to support 12 countries in the preparation of their national implementation plans,

Further noting guidelines prepared by the Global Environment Facility for enabling activities,

1. Invites Governments to provide their comments on the full document referred to in UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/8 and other views on guidance for the preparation of national implementation plans to the secretariat by 31 October 2002;
2. Requests the secretariat to:
 - (a) Prepare, based on those comments and relevant existing guidance material, interim guidance to assist countries to develop their national implementation plans, taking into account the different situations, needs and experiences of countries;
 - (b) Submit a draft interim guidance document for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session;
 - (c) Prepare guidance relevant to the review and updating of national implementation plans for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session.

Decision INC-6/11

Capacity assistance network

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

1. Invites intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international financial institutions to provide the secretariat with information on how they might contribute to facilitating and coordinating access to financial and technical assistance. Such information should be submitted to the secretariat by 31 October 2002;
2. Requests the secretariat, based on the views and information gathered by the secretariat in pursuance of paragraph 1 above and decision INC-6/8 on guidance on technical assistance, to include in the feasibility study referred to in decision INC-6/9 on the feasibility study on regional and subregional centres, arrangements for developing possible modalities for a capacity assistance network as agreed upon in resolution 3, paragraph 2 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and taking into consideration the work done in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19.

Decision INC-6/12

Draft memorandum of understanding with the Global Environment Facility

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

Recognizing the designation of the Global Environment Facility as the principal entity entrusted, on an interim basis, with the operation of the financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

1. Decides to initiate a process for developing a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Global Environment Facility;
2. Requests the secretariat to submit to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session a review of similar agreements between the Global Environment Facility and the governing bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements, including the relevant experience gained from the use of these agreements between the Global Environment Facility and the governing bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements;
3. Further requests the secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session and to make available to the Committee at that session any comments thereon by Governments.

Decision INC-6/13

Guidance to the financial mechanism

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

1. Decides to initiate a process for developing, for consideration by Conference of the Parties, draft guidance to the financial mechanism, as required under paragraph 7 of article 13 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
2. Draws the attention of Governments to the elements contained in subparagraphs (a) through (e) of paragraph 7 of article 13;
3. Invites Governments to provide to the secretariat by 30 November 2002 their views on elements that might be included in such guidance;
4. Requests the secretariat to submit a report on possible elements of such guidance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for its further consideration at its seventh session. The report is to comprise:
 - (a) A compilation of the views received from countries;
 - (b) A synthesis of the views received from countries;
 - (c) A review of the relevant experience gained from the provision of guidance given to the Global Environment Facility by the governing bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements.

Decision INC-6/14

Draft terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism under paragraph 8 of article 13

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

1. Decides to initiate a process for developing draft terms of reference for consideration by the Conference of the Parties for use in the review of the financial mechanism called for under paragraph 8 of article 13 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
2. Requests the secretariat to submit elements of such draft terms of reference to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for its further consideration at its seventh session. In developing the draft terms of reference, the secretariat should:
 - (a) Use paragraphs 7 and 8 of article 13 of the Stockholm Convention as the primary basis for the draft terms of reference;
 - (b) Seek the input of relevant experts regarding potential options for conducting such reviews, as appropriate.