



Global Environment Facility

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GEF Council
December 8-10, 1999
Agenda Item 13

RELATIONS WITH CONVENTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.14/12, *Relations with Conventions*, takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international global agreements, and encourages the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to continue their collaboration with the Parties to the Conventions and the Convention Secretariats. The Council encourages recipient countries, the Implementing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat to continue their efforts to develop country-driven projects consistent with the policies and program priorities identified in the guidance from the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Council takes note of progress that has been made by the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies in preparing revised operational criteria to guide revisions to enabling activities in light of the increased funding approved by the Council at its last meeting. Such increasing assistance should respond to immediate capacity building priorities of countries consistent with the guidance on capacity building from the conventions pending the results of the Capacity Development Initiative.

The Council requests the CEO to continue to observe the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants and to keep the Council informed of progress made in the negotiations.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that have occurred since the GEF Council meeting in May 1999. The document also includes information on developments in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and negotiations concerning certain organic pollutants that might be of interest to the Council.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, June 21-25, 1999

2. Six substantive items were discussed at this meeting:
- (a) work program for drylands, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems;
 - (b) global taxonomic initiative;
 - (c) alien/invasive species;
 - (d) new technology for the control of plant gene expressions;
 - (e) incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment; and
 - (f) approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources including tourism. Additionally, issues related to the work program for SBSTTA and terms of reference for the establishment of ad hoc technical expert groups were addressed.
3. Among the decisions of the meeting, the recommendation on further advancement of a Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/14, Recommendation IV2) makes specific reference to the GEF. The recommendation proposes to the Conference of the Parties, *inter alia*, “that funding institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, recognize the cross-cutting nature of taxonomy which underpins the ecosystem approach and the thematic approach taken by the Convention, and facilitate partnerships between developing and developed countries.”
4. The next meeting of SBSTTA will be convened in Montreal from January 31 to February 4, 2000.

Inter-sessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention, Montreal, June 28-30, 1999

5. An inter-sessional meeting on the operations of the Convention was convened pursuant to decision IV/16 of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting considered two main agenda items:

- (a) review of the operations of the Convention and the program of work; and
- (b) access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

6. The report of the inter-sessional meeting will be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2000 (Document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/4). In its recommendations on review of the operations of the Convention, the meeting recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting consider elements of a proposed draft decision. Paragraph 7 of the proposed decision reads: "Decides that guidance to the financial mechanism should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries, in a manner that is transparent and allows participation and full consideration of other decisions that are being considered by the Conference of the Parties." The full text of the recommendation is presented in Annex A to this document. The Council's attention is also drawn in particular to paragraphs 10-13, 19 and options for paragraph 26.

Expert Panel on Access and Benefit-Sharing, San José, October 4-8, 1999

7. In pursuance of decision IV/ 8 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a selected panel of experts was convened to develop a common understanding of basic concepts related to access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing as contained in the Convention. The experts met in Costa Rica from October 4 to 8, 1999, and considered the subject in detail. In the context of the GEF's potential role in capacity building for access and benefit-sharing purposes, the panel recommended that "The Secretariat [of the CBD] in consultation with the Secretariat of the GEF should develop a proposal for the consideration of Parties as to how to address these [capacity building] needs." The report of the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit Sharing is available as document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/8. Key conclusions of the panel regarding information and capacity building are found in paragraphs 166-172 of the report. These are reproduced in Annex A to this document.

Biosafety Protocol

8. As reported to Council at its last meeting, the GEF continues to follow with interest the negotiations on a Biosafety Protocol. The negotiations are scheduled to reconvene in Montreal from January 24-28, 2000 in Montreal.. The GEF's envisaged role continues to be in the area of capacity-building for biosafety.

Report of the GEF to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

9. The draft Report of the GEF to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is before the Council for comment and approval (document GEF/C.14/14).

Biodiversity Enabling Activities: Revised Operational Criteria

10. It will be recalled that the operational criteria for expedited approval of enabling activities were revised in July 1997 to accommodate the additional guidance provided to the GEF by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Following further guidance from the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the additional funding under enabling activities approved by Council in May 1999, the operational criteria are in the final stages of a second revision. It is expected that this revision will make it simpler still for eligible countries to seek additional GEF resources for priority sectors. A longer term plan of action to meet capacity building needs is to be developed under the Capacity Development Initiative approved by Council in May 1999.

Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities

11. An *Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities* is before the Council for its consideration (document GEF/C.14/11). The review's overall objective is to assess the progress made to date, through GEF-supported enabling activities, in assisting countries meet the relevant obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The exercise was based on interviews and review of key documents as well visits to 12 countries: Argentina, Belize, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Kenya, Mexico, Poland, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. Additional case-studies were commissioned in India, Nepal and the Philippines. Broader reviews were commissioned for enabling activities in two regions, the Arab States, and the South Pacific Islands.

Collaboration with the Convention Secretariat

12. During this reporting period, close collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention and the GEF Secretariat has been best evidenced through the participation of GEF staff in the four Liaison Groups organized by the Convention Secretariat to examine issues concerning agrobiodiversity, drylands biodiversity, the ecosystems approach and indicators. In addition, representatives of the two Secretariats met in Montreal to review the implementation of relevant COP-4 decisions and to consider future cooperation.

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies

13. The tenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Convention (UNFCCC) were held in June 1999. Of most direct relevance to the GEF were discussions in these bodies on non-annex 1 communications, technology transfer and research and systematic observation. Several conclusions of the subsidiary bodies contain explicit references to the GEF, and these are set forth in annex B to this paper.

Collaboration with Convention Secretariat

14. In the period since the last GEF Council, the GEF Secretariat has continued to collaborate closely with the UNFCCC Secretariat, including through exchange of information and reciprocal attendance at meetings.

Climate Change Enabling Activities: Revised Operational Criteria

15. Following the decisions of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the additional funding for expedited enabling activities approved by Council in May 1999, the operational guidelines for climate change enabling activities have been extended to allow eligible countries to address priority concerns with GEF assistance. As in the case of biodiversity, a longer term plan of action to meet capacity building needs is to be developed under the Capacity Development Initiative approved by Council in May 1999.

Report of the GEF to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties

16. The Council approved by mail on September 20, 1999, the report of the GEF to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, October 25-November 5, 1999).

Review of the GEF support to initial national communications from non-annex I Parties

17. A comprehensive review of support to initial national communications from Non-Annex I Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change through enabling activities has been initiated. The purpose of the review is to take stock of experiences and extract lessons for future support. Specifically, the study is expected to examine:

- (a) the effectiveness of this modality of support;
- (b) the effectiveness and efficiency of GEF's operational procedures;
- (c) the influence of the support on broader capacity building and/or planning; and
- (d) best practice from country experience.

18. The proposed methodology comprises a review of all relevant documentation, the views of the Parties as indicated in Decision 12/CP.4 of the Conference of the Parties, consultation with all GEF entities and the UNFCCC Secretariat, as well as studies in a sample of non-annex I countries. The report will serve as an important input into the work of the Capacity Development Initiative.

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

19. In the period since the last GEF Council, the GEF Secretariat has collaborated closely with the CCD Secretariat. In June 1999, the CCD Secretariat participated in the GEF/STAP workshop on linkages between land degradation and the GEF focal areas in Bologna, Italy. There have been close consultations between the two secretariats on the preparation of the paper on

linkages between land degradation and the GEF focal areas that is before the present Council meeting (GEF/C.14/4). This paper prepared for Council's consideration and the findings of the STAP workshop will be the subject of a workshop during the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Recife, Brazil.

20. The CCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat continued to participate reciprocally in the meetings of the two entities.. The GEF Secretariat will organize two workshops at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification in November as well as an exhibit on GEF activities in land degradation. The GEF Secretariat also participates in meetings of the CCD Global Mechanism (August, October and November 1999).

THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (INC) FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON CERTAIN ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

21. The negotiations process to prepare an international legally binding instrument designed to reduce/eliminate the release of 12 specified persistent organic pollutants (POPs) entered its more critical phase, as delegates were confronted with substantial issues such as prohibitions/reductions/exemptions and technical and financial assistance.

22. Advances have been made on specific texts for articles dealing with measures to reduce or eliminate releases, national implementation plans, the process for adding new chemicals, and information exchange. Important steps forward were made on the annexes dealing with chemicals to be prohibited or restricted. Agreement was reached on the immediate total ban of production and use, without exemptions, of three pesticides: *Aldrin*, *Endrin*, and *Toxaphene*. Elimination of production and use was also agreed upon, but with exemptions for specific countries, for five additional pesticides: *HCB*, *Chlordane*, *Deldrin*, *Heptachlor*, and *Mirex*. A decision has yet to be made on how to handle *DDT*. Similar problems were faced when dealing with industrial chemicals (*PCBs*), still present in the electric equipment in many countries. Discussion started on *Dioxins* and *Furans*, accidental by-products.

23. No agreement was reached on the financial aspects, a critical challenge facing the delegates. The Group on Implementation Aspects met in parallel with the plenary sessions to analyze different positions and proposed texts for the relevant articles presented by several groups of countries. During the closing plenary the delegates agreed to develop a Chair's text, based on the proposals made during INC3 and on discussions during the intersessional period, to be presented at INC4 (March 1999, Bonn). This text will include reference to GEF's ongoing POPs programs as well as to multilateral funds such as that of the Montreal Protocol.

24. The statement made by the GEF during INC 2 in Nairobi was still very much in the minds of the delegates. The GEF Secretariat provided updated information on ongoing GEF facilitated activities on global contaminants. Several delegates recognized the wide range of issues being addressed and the rapid response to this emerging global threat.

ANNEX A

Excerpt from the *Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention*, Document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/4, July 9, 1999

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING
ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

1. Review of the operations of the Convention and the programme of work

The Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting consider the following elements of a draft decision with a view to their adoption:

“The Conference of the Parties

[A. Conference of the Parties]

1. Decides to amend rule 4 of its rules of procedure by replacing paragraph 1 with the following paragraph:

"1. Ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held every [two] year[s]. The Conference of the Parties shall from time to time review the periodicity of its ordinary meetings in the light of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention."

[2. Decides that meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice should take place every year;]

3. Decides that its provisional agenda should include the following standing items:

(a) Organizational matters;

(b) Reports from subsidiary bodies, the financial mechanism and the Executive Secretary;

(c) Review of the implementation of the programme of work;

(d) Priority issues for review and guidance; and

(e) Other matters;

4. Decides that, to the extent possible, its decisions should identify expected outcomes, activities to achieve those outcomes, those to whom the decisions are directed and timetables for action and follow-up;
5. Also decides to review its previous decisions periodically in order to assess their status of implementation;
6. Further decides to revise its procedures for decision-making regarding administrative and financial matters with a view to ensuring transparency, participation and full consideration of other decisions that are being considered by the Conference of the Parties;
7. Decides that guidance to the financial mechanism should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries, in a manner that is transparent and allows participation and full consideration of other decisions that are being considered by the Conference of the Parties;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to limit the number of pre-session documents for any of its meetings, to keep them as short as feasible, if possible less than 15 pages and to include an executive summary;
9. Decides to consider whether there is a need to review the institutional linkages of the Secretariat;

[B. Strategic Plan for the Convention]

10. Requests the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to develop options for a strategic plan, based on the programme of work contained in decision IV/16, for consideration and adoption at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For this purpose, it:

(a) Invites Parties to make submissions to guide the Executive Secretary in this task;

(b) Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixth meeting to develop the elements of the strategic plan regarding scientific, technical and technological matters as mentioned in recommendation IV/1 of the Subsidiary Body; ;¹

¹ Note The procedure is to be considered and determined at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including the possibility of making use of an open-ended inter-sessional mechanism or other option as mentioned in paragraphs 25 and 26 of this recommendation.

C. Improvement in the operations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice]

11. Decides that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or other members of the Bureau authorized by him or her may represent the Subsidiary Body at meetings of the scientific bodies of other conventions and relevant biological diversity-related conventions, institutions and processes;
12. Encourages the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to hold meetings with equivalent bodies of other relevant biological-diversity-related conventions, institutions and processes
13. Recognizes that in certain cases it will be appropriate for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to make recommendations that include options or alternatives;
14. Decides that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may establish ad hoc technical expert groups and adopt terms of reference for them, and shall seek ways to ensure transparency in the choice of experts, and the rationalization of meetings and to give effect to this by amending paragraph 12 (c) of the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body (decision IV/16, annex I) to read:

“(c) The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will determine the exact duration and specific terms of reference when establishing such expert groups under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;”
15. Confirms that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may request the Executive Secretary and utilize the clearing-house mechanism to assist in the preparation of its meetings;
16. Decides to make an assessment at its sixth meeting of the recommendations made to it by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with a view to providing guidance to the Subsidiary Body on ways to improve its inputs;
17. Decides that the guidance to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in specific decisions of a meeting of the Conference of the Parties should take into account the need for a coherent and realistic programme of work for the Subsidiary Body, including the identification of priority issues;
18. Decides, in line with paragraph 21 of its decision IV/16 and recommendations IV/1 B and V/_. of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to undertake sound scientific assessments based on the use of ad hoc technical expert groups, rosters of experts, extensive in-depth peer-reviews and the clearing-house mechanism under the guidance of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in order to mobilize national and international scientific, technical and technological expertise for in-depth assessments

of the state of knowledge on issues critical for the implementation of the Convention and calls on the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to propose a mechanism for undertaking such assessments, including the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook report, as provided for in decision II/1, and to reflect properly the findings of in-depth assessments in its recommendations;

[D. Miscellaneous]

19. Decides that every effort should be made to promote the development of the clearing-house mechanism with respect to its role in the transfer of technology and know-how and in enhancing capacity-building, especially at the national level, taking into account the review of the mechanism;

[20. Recognizes that regional-level activities, including existing regional processes established for other biological-diversity-related purposes, have an important role to play in preparing for Convention meetings and enhancing implementation of the Convention and calls on Parties to actively participate in suitable regional-level activities as well as on the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to facilitate the involvement in such regional-level activities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition;]

21. Requests the Executive Secretary to enhance communication with the Parties by introducing a notification system for the Convention with respect to: inter-sessional activities, documents received, selection of experts for technical panels, peer-review processes initiated by the Executive Secretary, liaison groups and other expert bodies, and to make such information available through the clearing-house mechanism save to the extent that an expert objects to the release of information concerning him or her;

22. Decides to improve the functioning of the existing operational procedures for the conduct of meetings under the Convention to allow small delegations to participate more effectively, including in relation to the scheduling of agenda items and dealing with timetable changes;

23. Calls on the Executive Secretary to use national reports, as appropriate, to gather focused information as part of the preparatory process for issues in the work programme, and decides to reflect this approach in its decisions on national reports arising from work agreed to in decision IV/14;

24. Requests the Executive Secretary to designate a theme each year for the International Day for Biological Diversity;

[E. Implementation]

25. Decides that it is necessary to enhance the review and facilitation of implementation of the Convention;²

[26. Decides to review the implementation of the Convention within its existing institutions and procedures [which could include limitation of and clearer guidance to ad hoc inter-sessional mechanisms such as expert panels and workshops];]

[26. Decides to change the organization of its meetings to include a Working Group on Implementation;]

[26. Decides to hold a second inter-sessional meeting on the operations and implementation of the Convention;]

[26. Decides to enhance further the functions of regional meetings in preparing for meetings under the Convention and in promoting the implementation of the Convention at the regional, subregional and national levels;]

[26. Decides that its Bureau [jointly with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice] shall act as an inter-sessional executive body to guide the work and performance of the Convention in periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties];

[26. Decides to establish, pursuant to paragraph 4(g) of Article 23 of the Convention, a Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with the following terms of reference. The Subsidiary Body shall:

(a) Assist the Conference of the Parties in the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention and shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on all aspects of its work;

(b) Be open to participation by all Parties;

(c) Under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, have authority to:

(i) Consider the information communicated in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention (National reports) for the purpose of assessing the

² Note. A decision on the potential mechanism or combination of mechanisms which could be used to address this concern will be taken on the basis of a paper to be prepared by the Executive Secretary for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties setting out the identified options building on document UNEP/CBD/ISOC/2.

overall effectiveness of the measures taken by Parties to meet the objectives of the Convention;

(ii) Elaborate and review the [programme of work] [strategic plan] of the Convention;

(iii) Review the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as approved by decision III/8 of the Conference of the Parties and, in particular, the guidance given to the financial mechanism;

(iv) Consider ways in which to support implementation of the Convention by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition;

(v) Identify the most appropriate modalities for the transfer of appropriate technologies and know-how in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

(vi) Assist the Conference of the Parties as appropriate in the preparation and implementation of its decisions; and

(vii) Consider administrative and financial matters;]

[26. Decides to establish a mechanism for voluntary review of national programmer and needs relating to implementation of the Convention.]"

Excerpts from the *Report of the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit Sharing*, Document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/8

166.there is a particular need for more information regarding:

- (a) User institutions;
- (b) The market for genetic resources;
- (c) Non-monetary benefits;
- (d) New and emerging mechanisms for benefit-sharing;
- (e) Incentive measures;
- (f) Clarification of definitions;
- (g) *Sui generis* systems; and
- (h) Intermediaries.

167. More user-friendly documents are required. Better access to examples of actual contracts, codes of conduct, voluntary guidelines, including those used by the private sector, is also required.

168. The Secretariat is requested to prepare for the Conference of the Parties a proposal to begin to address these information needs.

E. Capacity-building

169. Further development of capacities regarding all aspects of access and benefit-sharing arrangements is required for all stakeholders, in particular, local governments, academic institutions, and indigenous and local communities.

170. Four of the most critical capacity-building needs are:

- (a) Assessment and inventory of biological resources as well as information management;
- (b) Contract negotiation skills;
- (c) Legal drafting skills for development of access and benefit-sharing measures; and
- (d) Development of *sui generis* regimes for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

171. The Secretariat in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility should develop a proposal for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties as to how to address these needs, which would include support from the financial mechanism and other relevant organizations and the private sector.

172. The Conference of the Parties should consider guidance to the financial mechanism, bilateral and multilateral donors to provide support for developing the capacities of competent national authorities and/or focal points.

ANNEX B

**Excerpt from *Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its Tenth Session*,
Document FCCC/SBI/1999/8, August 19, 1999**

IV. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

(Agenda item 4)

A. Provision of financial and technical support

(Agenda item 4 (a))

1. Proceedings

22. The SBI considered this sub-item at its 1st, 3rd and 8th meetings, on 31 May, and 1 and 10 June, respectively. It had before it the following documents: FCCC/SBV1999/INF.1, FCCC/SBI/1999/INF.3, and FCCC/SBV1999/INF.4.

23. Statements were made by representatives of 19 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

24. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 June, the SBI agreed that this sub-item should be taken up in informal contact group discussions in conjunction with sub-items 4 (c) and (d) of the agenda. The informal contact group was co-chaired by Mr. Paul Maclons (South Africa) and Mr. Daniel Reifsnyder (United States of America).

2. Conclusions

25. At its 8th meeting, on 10 June, the SBI, having considered a proposal by the Chairman, adopted the following conclusions:

- (a) The SBI noted with appreciation the information contained in document FCCC/SBV1999/INF.3 regarding the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to facilitate the provision of financial and technical support as well as the information regarding the status of preparation of communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;
- (b) The SBI took note of views expressed by Parties and information contained in document FCCC/SBV1999/INF.1. It requested the secretariat, in preparing its report on "Information on relevant actions by the Global Environment Facility", to request that, in accordance with decision 10/CP.2,7 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariat make available the dates of disbursement of funds for enabling activity projects for the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties and agreed to continue consideration of this matter at the eleventh session of the SBI;

- (c) The SBI noted the information contained in document FCCC/SBV1999/INF.4 and views expressed by Parties during the discussions and recommended that the "List of projects submitted by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in accordance with Article 12.4 of the Convention" contained in that document should be brought to the attention of the GEF and, as appropriate, other bilateral and multilateral financing institutions through the established channels for such assistance;
- (d) The SBI took note of the draft decisions proposed by the Group of 77 and China and the European Community and its member States contained in document FCCC/SBV1999/MISC.3 and views expressed by Parties during the discussions and invited Parties to submit to the secretariat further views and comments, if any, on this matter by 15 July 1999. It requested the secretariat to compile and make available such views and comments at the eleventh session of the SBI;
- (e) The SBI agreed that the co-Chairs of the informal contact group would prepare a document providing a framework for the elements of the draft decisions submitted by the Group of 77 and China and the European Community and its member States to be considered by the SBI at its eleventh session; and
- (f) The SBI decided to continue its consideration of this sub-item at its eleventh session, by requesting the informal contact group to continue its discussions, with a view to recommending a draft decision for adoption by the COP at its fifth session.

B. Input from Parties to the Global Environment Facility review of enabling activities

(Agenda item 4 (b))

1. Proceedings

26. The SBI considered this sub-item at its 1st and 8th meetings, on 31 May and 10 June. It had before it document FCCC/SBV1999/MISC.2.

27. Statements were made by representatives of five Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. Conclusions

28. At its 8th meeting, on 10 June, the SBI, having considered a proposal by the Chairman, adopted the following conclusions:

- (a) Views submitted by Parties with regard to the GEF review of enabling activities (FCCC/SBV1999/MISC. 2), statements made by Parties during the discussion of

this agenda item at the current session, information included in the initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties, further views to be submitted by Parties, any other guidance the Parties may give to the secretariat, as well as all relevant decisions of the COP, will provide the basis for the secretariat to prepare a report, as requested in decision 12/CP.4, paragraph 7 (e), on inputs from Parties to the GEF review of enabling activities, to be submitted for consideration by the SBI at its eleventh session. Submissions from Parties should reach the secretariat by 15 July 1999;

- (b) In its annual report to the COP, in accordance with decision 12/CP.2, the GEF should include information on any progress made or results obtained from the GEF review of enabling activities as well as on how the views and concerns expressed by Parties will be taken into account by the GEF in that review; and
- (c) In the framework of the Convention, the scope of enabling activities covers a number of other activities which facilitate the implementation of Articles 4.1 and 12.1 of the Convention. The secretariat will prepare a report containing information included in initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties, regarding efforts to assist developing country Parties in the implementation of enabling activities, and submit it to the SBI for its consideration at its thirteenth session.

Excerpt from Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its Tenth Session, document *FCCC/SBSTA/1 999/6*, August 19, 1999

B. United Nations bodies

(Agenda item 3 (b))

1. Proceedings

- 29. The SBSTA considered this sub-item at its 1st and 10th meetings, on 31 May and 10 June, respectively.
- 30. Statements were made by representatives of nine Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.
- 31. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. Conclusions

32. At its 10th meeting, on 10 June, having considered a proposal by the Chairman, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

- (a) Noting that there are many relevant activities under way in other United Nations bodies, the SBSTA expressed the need for these to be brought within the context of the UNFCCC process, and to be consistent with decisions of the COP, in particular with decision 7/CP.4. The SBSTA welcomed the initiative of the secretariat to bring together four United Nations bodies, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and encouraged it to continue drawing upon their contributions for the development of a joint project on capacity-building for developing countries for the clean development mechanism, taking careful account of relevant decisions and conclusions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the conclusions on agenda item 12 of the SBSTA at its current session (see paragraph 94). The SBSTA requested the secretariat to make further information available for consideration at its eleventh session; and
- (b) The SBSTA requested the secretariat to continue to explore with these and other United Nations partner organizations, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, other areas where their expertise and resources could support the various work programmes under the Convention process, and to inform it at subsequent sessions on progress achieved.

VIII. RESEARCH AND SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION

(Agenda item 8)

1. Proceedings

33. The SBSTA considered this item at its 1st, 3rd and 8'h meetings, on 31 May and 1 and 8 June, respectively. It had before it document FCCC/SB/1999/1/Add.2. The GCOS secretariat draft submission on guidance for reporting on systematic observation, which was prepared for the workshop on revised guidelines for Annex I Party national communications (Bonn, 17-19 March 1999), was also available to Parties.

34. Statements were made by representatives of 12 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

35. At the Is' meeting, on 31 May, a statement was made by the Chairman of the GCOS Steering Committee, on behalf of the organizations participating in the Climate Agenda, concerning recent activities related to research and systematic observation.

36. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 June, the Chairman invited Ms. Susan Barrell (Australia) and Mr. Philip Gwage (Uganda) to assist him in conducting informal consultations on this item.

2. Conclusions

37. At its 8th meeting, on 8 June, having considered a proposal by the Chairman based on informal consultations, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

- (a) The SBSTA noted with appreciation the report of the Chairman of the GCOS Steering Committee, on behalf of the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda;
- (b) The SBSTA expressed its appreciation for the preparation by the GCOS secretariat of the preliminary draft guidance for reporting on systematic observation, prepared for the workshop on the revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Bonn, 17-19 March 1999). It noted that the GCOS draft guidance is undergoing further review. The SBSTA decided to consider the issue at its eleventh session and it urged the GCOS secretariat to make the revised draft guidance available in sufficient time for that session;
- (c) The SBSTA invited the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, through the GCOS secretariat, to report to the SBSTA at its eleventh session on their actions and plans, in accordance with decision 14/CP.4, including proposals to hold workshops and, in preparing to do so, to consult widely, *inter alia*, with the Convention secretariat, the Chairman of the IPCC and the GEF;
- (d) The SBSTA noted with concern reports of the continued degradation of the observing capability in developing countries and urged Parties to enhance support for capacity-building in developing countries to enable them through, *inter alia*, GCOS and related activities, both to reverse that degradation and to improve the collection, exchange and utilization of data to meet local, regional and international needs;
- (e) The SBSTA recalled decision 2/CP.4, paragraphs 1(c) and 5, requesting the GEF to report to the COP on its activities with regard to providing funding to developing countries to build capacity for participation in systematic observational networks; and
- (f) The SBSTA also noted that, whilst decision 14/CP.4 focuses on actions to improve global monitoring capabilities for climate to meet the needs of the Convention, Parties also need similarly to support research on climate change, both nationally and internationally.