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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Sixth meeting

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Item 24 of the provisional agenda*

**STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONVENTION***Assessment of information contained in the second national reports**Note by the Executive Secretary***I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The objective of national reporting, as specified in the Article 26 of the Convention, is to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken by the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

2. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered and endorsed the guidelines and format for future national reporting that were developed by the Secretariat through a pilot project, carried out in collaboration with a number of Parties, to identify a methodology for assessing the status of the implementation of the Convention. This involved: (i) identifying the obligations on the Parties deriving from the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties; and (ii) formulating these as questions designed to elicit responses that would reveal the level of implementation, relative priorities, constraints encountered and issues not yet addressed.

3. Following a request contained in paragraph 3 in decision V/19 of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary circulated to the Parties in September 2001 the revised format for second national report by incorporating the views expressed by the Parties and further questions arising from the decisions of its fifth meeting.

4. Through decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting decided to prepare and develop a Strategic Plan for the Convention, with a view to considering and adopting the Strategic Plan at its sixth meeting. To this end, the Inter-sessional Meeting on Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention (MSP) was held from 19 to 21 November 2001 in Montreal.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

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5. MSP considered a preliminary synthesis of information contained in the second national reports (based on 55 reports received by the end of October 2001) and, in paragraph 1 of its recommendation 2 (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5, annex), requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Undertake a full assessment of the information contained in the second national reports, including the identification of progress made by Parties in implementation of the Convention and of constraints to implementation they have encountered, and to submit this assessment to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Include in this assessment information on the specific experience of small island developing States and least developed Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

(c) Ascertain from Parties that have not submitted a second national report the reasons for late submission and include information on this in the report to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. The present note, together with relevant information documents, was prepared by the Executive Secretary following these requests as well as the paragraph 9(a) of decision V/19, which requested the Executive Secretary to prepare reports based on information contained in national reports for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its meetings, and make them available through the clearing-house mechanism.

7. Also following the latter request, the Secretariat has developed a database to post all the national reports received on the website of the Convention to facilitate access to the information contained therein.

8. The Secretariat also developed an electronic tool for the analysis of the second national reports, taking advantage of its standardized format. The tool is called "The Second National Reports Analyser" and can be found at <http://www.biodiv.org/reports/nr-02.asp>. The Analyser allows the aggregation of data according to selected Parties, geographic area, economic groups and other criteria and also generates tables and graphics.

9. Section II of the present note contains sections on the status of second national reports received; section III introduces in general terms the approaches employed for the assessment of information contained in second national reports; sections IV and V summarize the results of the assessments made, the experience and lessons learned from the reporting process, including the views and recommendations from MSP; and finally section VI presents further recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

II. SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS RECEIVED

10. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision V/19, established May 15, 2001 as a deadline for submission of a second national report by the Parties. By that time, only 17 reports had been received from the Parties.

11. By the end of October 2001, a total of 55 reports had been received and a preliminary synthesis of information contained in these reports was presented to the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/4).

12. By the end of January 2002, a total of 65 reports had been received from the Parties and one from non-Parties. Two of them are interim reports. A list of second national reports received by the end of January 2002 is contained in the annex to the present document.

13. By regional breakdowns, the Secretariat had received 13 reports from Asia, 17 reports from Africa, nine reports from Central and Eastern Europe, eight reports from Latin America and the

Caribbean and 19 reports from the Group of Western and Other States (WOEG). For the purpose of following requests from MSP, it should be noted that 17 reports have been received from the least developed Parties (out of a total of 49 such Parties) and seven reports from small island developing Parties (out of a total of 37 such Parties).

14. It should be noted that around 65 per cent of second national reports are yet to be submitted and the geographical distribution of the reports received is unbalanced.

III. APPROACHES TO THE ASSESSMENT

15. The assessment is grouped by thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention to facilitate the related discussion at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. With the same objective, the present note has been prepared to serve as an introduction to the assessments of information concerning the implementation of cross-cutting issues and other articles of Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/10) and of information concerning implementation of thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/COP6/INF/11).

17. The assessments aim to identify the progress in and constraints to the implementation of the Convention at the national level. From there an attempt is made to capture the status and trends of implementation of the Convention at regional and global levels if possible. Since it is understood that the analysis from regional perspectives may facilitate the collaboration among the Parties in the same region in the implementation of the Convention, the assessment aims to provide analysis from regional perspectives, with due consideration to the experience of implementation in least developed Parties and small island developing Parties, also as requested by MSP. However, it should be noted that analysis by regional groups is made only in cases where major regional differences are observed. Sometimes analysis from the perspectives of economic groups of Parties (developing and developed Parties) is made where differences among the Parties can be identified from that perspective. The analytic angles are, therefore, selected depending on the issue being analysed and the information provided by the Parties.

18. Finally, a number of important limitations must be kept in mind when evaluating the results of this exercise. For instance, in some cases, only a summary of general trends and developments is given, considering that it is difficult to draw any conclusion or capture any trend based on the information available from the second national reports received so far.

19. From a statistical point of view, it should be stressed that the analysis and some conclusions drawn here are preliminary given the low number of second national reports received by the end of January 2002 when this assessment was completed. Regional imbalance in report submission constituted a further difficulty to the analysis from a regional perspective.

20. From a technical point of view, other problems arose, one being the differences in the number of responses on which most of the assessments were based, resulting from multiple options a few Parties selected for some questions, or from the fact that some Parties did not answer certain questions. Others selected questions they wished to answer and deleted those they were unable or unwilling to answer. Still others left unanswered questions that were addressed to them, while others answered questions that were not designed for them.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT

21. The following analysis of the assessments constitutes a condensed version of the assessments contained in full in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/10 and UNEP/CBD/COP6/INF/11. The presentation of the results follows the same structure of the assessments themselves.

22. It must be noted that, according to the request from MSP, the assessments were drawn from the information contained in the second national reports only. No other sources of information were used.

A. *Results of the assessments of thematic programmes of work*

1. Marine and coastal biological diversity

23. Although much cannot be said about the implementation of the entire marine and coastal programme of work based on the questions in the second national report, it is encouraging to note that a large number of Parties promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in their national strategies and action plans. However, only eight out of 65 responding Parties had reviewed the programme of work enabled by decision IV/5 and identified national priorities for implementation. Additionally, a little less than half of the responding Parties were in the process of undertaking such a review. This could simply indicate that conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources have been a priority for most coastal Parties well before the work programme was established under the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1998, and that a national review and prioritisation of the work programme will serve mainly to update and possibly refocus activities that are already in progress.

24. That activities related to the work programme are being implemented at the national level is evidenced in the responses to the questions relating to integrated marine and coastal area management. Most Parties are either in the process of developing, or have already developed, institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM). However, the degree of implementation is likely to vary to a great extent depending on the programme element in question. The second national reports did not contain questions relating to, for example, marine and coastal protected areas and alien species and genotypes.

25. As an example of the varying degrees of implementation inferred to above, only half of the responding Parties indicated that they were implementing the work plan on coral bleaching. This, however, is not surprising for two reasons. Firstly, the coral bleaching work plan is very new, and many Parties may have not had a chance to review it. Secondly, it may not be immediately intuitive what particular measures, beyond those relating to assessment and monitoring, a country can undertake in response to coral bleaching. It is likely, however, that with increasing evidence regarding the seriousness of this problem, an increasing number of response measures will have to be considered.

26. It should be noted with caution that the sample size for this analysis was very small, as only approximately 50 Parties had answered most of the relevant questions. Since 146 of the 182 Parties to the Convention have marine and coastal areas, the responses here represent roughly a third of all the relevant Parties.

2. Forest biodiversity

27. Overall, the majority of measures adopted/recommended by the Conference of the Parties in decisions II/9, IV/7 and V/4 have been given attention and implemented to various extents, by a majority of reporting Parties. However, only a minority of Parties have reviewed the programme of work (decision II/9) and submitted information concerning its implementation (decision V/4).

28. No clear trends emerge in terms of regional groupings. An analysis in terms of economic development (i.e., industrialized, developing, and economy in transition), however, gives some insights as to the possible constraints to implementation. Indeed, there appears to be a clear link between the level of economic development and the level of implementation. The data shows that developing Parties (including small islands and least developed Parties) and Parties with economies in transition are lagging behind when it comes to operational implementation of measures related to forests biodiversity, in spite of

a declared high level of commitment and/or willingness to do so. This can be explained by the inadequacy of financial, technical and human resources. In industrialized Parties, poor records may be accounted by other priorities for action in terms of conservation of biodiversity.

3. *Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands*

29. The implementation of the programme of work calls for more and substantive actions and supports. It should be noted, however, that a considerable number of Parties have undertaken some actions though to a limited extent, such as reviewing the programme of work and fostering some cooperation at the regional and subregional levels.

4. *Agricultural biological diversity*

30. Some encouraging trends have emerged at this stage for the implementation of the programme of work, such as promotion of transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity friendly farming practices. Unfortunately, some actions are relatively slow, such as legislation, programme development and information dissemination and exchange. It seems that the financial support provided to the implementation of the programme of work is inadequate for many Parties.

5. *Inland waters biological diversity*

31. Responses show that the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems was reviewed by nine Parties only, which identified priorities for national action in implementing it. Twenty-four Parties reported, nonetheless, on developing national and sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. This indicates that a majority of the national sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems are developed irrespective of the programme of work.

B. *Results of assessments of cross-cutting issues*

1. *Access and benefit-sharing*

32. Overall, the implementation of Article 15 on access to genetic resources is a medium to high priority for a majority of Parties that have submitted a second national report. It must be noted, however, that only limited actions have been undertaken to date to implement Article 15 mainly due to limited resources. On the basis of the responses provided, no major differences are observed among different regional groups with respect to this issue.

2. *Ecosystem approach*

33. The application of the ecosystem approach is only in the early stages. More efforts are needed to adapt the approach for use in different regional, national and local conditions. For this purpose, more case-studies are definitely needed, and capacity-building should be a priority for future efforts.

3. *Public education and awareness*

34. Overall, there is a need for more funds and resources, more practical and concrete solutions, strategies and ideas, more focus and a better understanding of the issues, as well as increased cooperation. Because of the insufficient number of reports received on the topic, existing data are inadequate for an in-depth analysis.

4. *Global Taxonomy Initiative*

35. The second national reports suggest that a great deal remains to be done in the area of taxonomic support for implementation of the Convention. In terms of the respondents versus non-responses there is a disproportionate lack of response from developing Parties. There is thus a sampling bias in favour of those with better resources. One of the constraints noted by Parties in their responses is in terms of resources. The picture gained from the analysis may thus considerably exaggerate the levels of activity under way.

36. The responses examined show that where programmes and policies are at early stages of development or not undertaken at all, developing Parties are a majority. In this respect, several impediments have been mentioned by Parties, such as the lack of financial and trained human resources. Logistical problems to identification and monitoring activities have also been mentioned. There are still many taxonomic needs assessments and action plans to be constructed, although even where such activities have been carried out there are still insufficient resources to make taxonomic information available to meet all known needs adequately.

37. The need for comprehensive surveys rather than surveys of specific species have been stressed by a few States. It is interesting to note that in developing Parties, taxonomic activities are still very much based on individual initiatives by scientists.

5. *Alien species*

38. The differences among regional groups of Parties in the implementation of the Article 8(h) are not remarkable. However, some regional groups of Parties are further advanced in legislation and policy and programme development than other groups of Parties. Generally the Parties of all groups are at a similar level of implementation, which may be attributed to the fact that the issue of alien species is relatively new and the work on various aspects of the issue is still ongoing within CBD or other relevant forums.

39. Judging from the responses concerning identification of alien species, risk assessment and measures taken, it is clear that more needs to be done for a full implementation of the Article 8(h), though a number of Parties have made some progress in scientific research, monitoring, legislation and planning. Some Parties have identified the following as constraints for implementation of the Article 8 (h): weak capability of research, inventorying, risk assessment and monitoring; lack of measures to control unintentional introduction; inconsistency of policy among relevant sectors and industries; weak information exchange and cooperation among the Parties at the regional level; and lack of regulatory and technical tools.

6. *Article 8(j): traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities*

40. In analysing the responses to 22 questions that address the implementation of Article 8(j) and its related provisions, the decisions of previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the programme of work, some clear trends have emerged. From 58 reports, it is evident that only a small number of Parties (four) have consistently given positive responses to the 22 questions, indicating that they have effectively addressed the requirements. On the other hand, a third of responses indicate that no measures have been taken to address the matters raised in the questions. Generally, for most of the questions, a little more than half of the reports indicated that some actions were either being taken or considered to address the implementation of Article 8(j).

41. While only a small number of Parties have taken the actions required to fully implement Article 8(j), a significant number of Parties nevertheless have started the process. Noting that the programme of work includes the tasks for developing the guidelines or principles, many Parties indicate

that they are waiting for these to be finalized in order to fully develop their own programmes for the implementation of Article 8(j).

42. An assessment of the responses to 22 questions indicate that much more still needs to be done in relation to putting in place measures (such as national legislation or policies) to implement the provisions of Article 8(j), increase the level of participation of indigenous and local communities in the activities undertaken under the Convention, address the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, and increase the level of participation of women and their organizations in the programme of work for the implementation of Article 8(j).

7. *Incentive measures*

43. It can be concluded that implementation of Article 11 by the Parties to the Convention is not yet complete. In particular, general implementation deficits can be noted in regard to valuation and to the identification and removal of perverse incentives. The analysis also points to the importance of resource constraints in implementing Article 11.

8. *Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity*

44. A majority of reporting Parties are taking action to integrate consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making. Many Parties are taking some measures to avoid or minimize the adverse impacts of use of biological resources on biological diversity, protect and encourage customary use of biological resources and help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced. It seems that more actions are needed for identifying indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at various levels, and developing the mechanisms for the private sector and indigenous and local communities to be involved in the initiatives on sustainable use.

9. *Biological diversity and tourism*

45. The majority of sustainable tourism policies, programmes and activities have only to a limited extent been based on an assessment of the interlinkages between tourism and biological diversity. In addition, only 15 per cent of the Parties have made significant progress in the establishment of enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism. At the same, it should be borne in mind that the programme of work on sustainable tourism is at its beginning and only recently has the Convention process given clear indications and guidance to Parties on the issue.

10. *Impact assessment and indicators*

46. While the requirement to assess biodiversity considerations may not be an explicit part of the environmental impact assessment legislation in most Parties, their value and importance is widely recognized, particularly when addressed during the early stages of the process. Through recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the need to integrate environmental impact assessment into the thematic areas under the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties has further acknowledged this importance.

47. Biodiversity is a global issue and the likely significant impacts of proposed plans, policies and programmes have transboundary affects. More emphasis needs to be given to the assessment of such impacts through bilateral and multilateral/regional discussions/agreements. Emergency responses to potential danger within and outside the State have been recognized as relevant and a high number of reports indicate that international cooperation is being encouraged.

48. To a small extent, use is being made of strategic environmental assessments in assessing global and cumulative effects of not only projects, but also plans, policies and programmes, however, further development is needed of such methodologies/procedures. Information on strategic environmental assessments and best practices would benefit national practice.

49. More information exchange is needed amongst Parties (example, within regional groups) to further the use of environmental impact assessment.

50. Biodiversity considerations need to be/are being further developed in national environmental impact assessment legislation so that they can form an integral part of the procedures rather than be used on an ad-hoc basis for certain projects.

51. Capacity building should be strengthened, and possible lessons learnt from those Parties that have integrated programmes to build expertise should be shared.

11. Protected areas

52. The second national reports suggest that the responding Parties have given *in-situ* conservation a priority status, and that most have established protected areas to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8. The results suggest that a majority of the responding Parties have a national system of protected areas in place, or at least have a plan for such a system. Most Parties have also adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of those protected areas.

53. The results also seem to indicate that management measures aimed towards sustainable development outside of protected areas are not as advanced as those inside protected areas. Although a majority of Parties had some measures in place, only 12 per cent had reasonably comprehensive measures in place. It should also be noted that the majority of Parties indicated that the resources they had available for *in-situ* conservation were limiting, and that more needs to be done to overcome this obstacle. This highlights the importance of capacity building and of making available both financial and trained human resources.

54. Because of the nature of the questions contained in the second national reports, the results do not give an indication about how effectively the existing protected areas are managed to accomplish conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and whether their extent and coverage is adequate to accomplish this objective. In this respect, the thematic report, the format for which the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to approve, will provide much more valuable detail. In addition, collaboration with relevant organizations, ongoing programmes, and initiatives gathering such information will be important when assessing the status and effectiveness of protected areas nationally, regionally and globally.

55. Finally, it should also be noted that this analysis is based on roughly one third of all the Parties to the Convention. In particular, a high number of developing Parties did not submit a second national report, resulting in a possible bias in the analysis.

C. Results of assessments of other articles included in the second national reports

1. Cooperation, research and training, access to and transfer of technology, exchange of information and technical and scientific cooperation

56. This analysis points to strong support by Parties for implementation of obligations related to cooperation (Article 5), research and training (Article 12), access to and transfer of technology (Article 16), exchange of information (Article 17) and technical and scientific cooperation (Article 18).

Indeed, throughout the second national report, it is possible to sense implicit and explicit recognition by Parties on the value and potential impact of these five inter-related complementary articles.

57. With the exception of industrialized Parties, a significant majority of Parties indicated insufficient resources as a major obstacle to the implementation of these articles. It is safe to assume that this problem will not be resolved in the immediate or short-term future. However, by emphasizing its broker and facilitator role, a need identified in the analysis, the Secretariat may be able to more effectively match supply with demand, and better encourage joint initiatives. In support of these goals, the clearing-house mechanism, because of its mandate and experience, is able to adopt a more proactive and aggressive programme of work to facilitate and promote national capacities initiatives and more effective technical and scientific collaboration.

2. *General measures for conservation and sustainable use*

58. Because an insufficient number of responses were received on this topic, existing data are inadequate for an accurate analysis. In spite of this, the most important concern to emerge is the lack of resources across Parties of all economic groups. The encouraging aspect is that many of these Parties have an advanced biodiversity strategy and action plan, although few reports are available, most probably as a result of a lack of resources.

3. *Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits*

59. Regarding the implementation of Article 19 of the Convention, the key observation from analysis of the second national reports is the extent to which implementation by developing Parties and Parties with economies is resource-limited. In addition, comments received with the national reports seem to indicate that many developing Parties do not have adequate capacity for implementation of Article 19.

4. *Financial mechanisms and resources*

60. A reasonably high priority would seem to be afforded to financial resources. Slightly over fifty percent of submissions indicated that high priority has been afforded to Article 20 due to specific circumstances of reporting Parties. More than half of the submissions from developed Parties indicated that available financial resources are good or adequate, implying good potential for further advancing the implementation of the Convention. It should be noted that the priority status afforded to financial resources is not in line with the adequacy of available resources.

61. The majority of reporting Parties have put in place financial measures to support national biodiversity activities. For example, progress has been already made in considering tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations.

62. Progress has been made in the provision of financial resources through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels. Good progress has been made to strengthen financial institutions in support of biological diversity. Most of the submissions from developing Parties stated that the resources available through the financial mechanism are either limited or severely limited.

V. REPORTING PROCESS

A. *Information concerning late or no submission of the second national report*

63. As requested by MSP, the Executive Secretary circulated a notification to the Parties at the end of November 2001, informing them that a request was made by MSP to those Parties that have not submitted a second national report to submit reasons for late or no submission, so that the Executive Secretary will be able to include relevant information in the assessment of second national reports. Only a very small number of Parties have given feedbacks to this notification by the end of January 2002.

64. From the feedbacks received, some developing Parties are still waiting for funds to prepare their second national reports or are still working with relevant implementation agencies on funding matters. Others indicated that domestic coordination and approval processes also contributed to the delay in report submission, while still others indicated that report preparation is under way and submission is due soon.

B. Experience and lessons in reporting process

65. During MSP, a number of positive comments on the reporting process were made by the Parties. In general, Parties were of the view that the format for the second national reporting adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties represented major progress in various ways.

66. First of all, compared with the first national report, one of the advantages of this format is that analysis of the information contained in the second national reports is more straightforward. The level of implementation by different Parties can, therefore, be assessed more simply.

67. Secondly, it is now possible to access information by fields of enquiry, such as articles, and regional and subregional groups. The format also lends itself more easily to electronic analysis by devices such as the “Analyser” made available on line by the Secretariat at its website. To this end, the Secretariat has also developed a database where all the second national reports received so far can be found (see <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>).

68. Thirdly, the amount and range of information is not limited to multiple-choice questions. To build on the experience of the first round of national reporting, this format has included additional space for further comments to allow Parties to provide as much information as they consider necessary to fully illustrate their national circumstances relating to the questions asked, particularly in the cases where the options provided to the question are not enough to serve the purpose of full and detailed reporting.

69. Some constructive criticism was also offered by Parties during MSP. Some expressed their concerns with the difficulty they experienced in preparing the second national report. Firstly, they found that a few questions were overly complex. Secondly, some options were considered ambiguous, such as the distinction between “good” and “adequate” when asked to evaluate the amount of resources available for implementing a certain article, provision or decision. Thirdly, they felt the number of questions for some programmes of work was insufficient to assess their implementation more substantively.

70. It was, therefore, recommended that some definitions be provided to certain optional answers to avoid diverging interpretations by different Parties. It was also recommended that the format be designed to facilitate the identification of the progress in, and constraints to the implementation. The questions should be designed to allow the Parties to provide their experience in implementing their national strategies and action plans, particularly those priorities identified therein. For monitoring the financial resources provided for the implementation of the Convention, it was suggested that a section should be included to allow the Parties to report on the flow of funds for this purpose.

71. A significant number of Parties commended on the process of multi-stakeholder participation required for preparing national reports. A number of Parties indicated that this process was instrumental for national coordination for and public participation in report preparation, and despite, caused some delay sometimes for report submission.

72. While indicating that they are seeking funding from GEF or other sources to prepare their second national reports, they cited this process as a contributing factor to the delayed submission of national reports.

73. Many Parties recognized the necessity of harmonization and streamlining of national reporting process but some Parties wished to ensure that this does not affect the ability of the Conference of the

Parties to adjust national reporting procedures under the Convention in order to better meet the needs of Parties.

74. From an assessment of the information contained in second national reports, it seems that there is a need to hold some training workshops at the regional level to facilitate and improve the preparation of future national reports so that more substantive information will be available for the purpose of assessing the implementation of the Convention.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

75. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention has made some recommendations concerning national reports for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5, annex, recommendation 2) with a view to adopting a decision concerning national reporting. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties is invited to:

(a) To request the Secretariat of the Convention and the Global Environmental Facility to explore innovative funding modalities for facilitating the preparation of future national reports and thematic reports;

(b) To decide to establish a technical expert group to provide inputs or advice to the preparation for the format for the third round of national reporting, with the members of the technical expert group selected from the roster of experts, taking into consideration their expertise and regional representation, and the members of this expert group providing advice through proper means of communication with the Secretariat.

*Annex***SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY END OF JANUARY 2002***Parties listed alphabetically with the regional groupings to which they belong in brackets.*

1. Argentina (GRULAC)
2. Armenia (Central and Eastern Europe)
3. Australia (WEOG)
4. Austria (WEOG)
5. Belarus (Central and Eastern Europe)
6. Belgium (WEOG)
7. Benin (Africa)
8. Botswana (Africa)
9. Bulgaria (Central and Eastern Europe)
10. Burkina Faso (Africa)
11. Burundi (Africa)
12. Canada (WEOG)
13. Central African Republic (Africa)
14. China (Asia)
15. Comoros (Africa)
16. Congo (Africa)
17. Costa Rica (GRULAC)
18. Cuba (GRULAC)
19. Democratic Republic of the Congo (Africa)
20. Denmark (WEOG)
21. Djibouti (Africa)
22. Ethiopia (Africa)
23. Fiji (Asia)
24. Finland (WEOG)
25. France (WEOG)
26. Germany (WEOG)
27. Guinea Bissau (Africa)
28. Hungary (Central and Eastern Europe)
29. India (Asia)
30. Islamic Republic of Iran (Asia)
31. Ireland (WEOG)
32. Israel (Asia)
33. Italy (WEOG)
34. Japan (WEOG)
35. Madagascar (Africa)
36. Malawi (Africa)
37. Mali (Africa)
38. Marshall Islands (Asia)
39. Mexico (GRULAC)
40. Monaco (WEOG)
41. Netherlands (WEOG)
42. New Zealand (WEOG)
43. Niger (Africa)
44. Norway (WEOG)
45. Pakistan (Asia)
46. Peru (GRULAC)
47. Poland (Central and Eastern Europe)
48. Portugal (WEOG)
49. Republic of Korea (Asia)
50. Republic of Moldova (Central and Eastern Europe)
51. Romania (Central and Eastern Europe)
52. Saint Lucia (GRULAC)
53. Samoa (Asia)
54. Senegal (Africa)
55. Slovak Republic (Central and Eastern Europe)
56. Slovenia (Central and Eastern Europe)
57. Solomon Islands (Asia)
58. Spain (WEOG)
59. Sri Lanka (Asia)
60. Sweden (WEOG)
61. Thailand (Asia)
62. Uganda (Africa)
63. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (WEOG)
64. Uruguay (GRULAC)
65. Viet Nam (Asia)
