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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
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LIST OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER PARTIES
WHICH VOLUNTARILY ASSUME THE OBLIGATIONS OF
DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

Note by the Interim Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

1. For the purposes of providing financial resources, Article 20, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Biological Diversity specifies, inter alia, that "the Conference of the Parties, shall at its first meeting establish a list of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties". This list would be subject to periodic review and, if necessary, amendment by the Conference of the Parties. The same paragraph provides that other Parties, including countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, may voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties.

2. Article 20, paragraph 2, also provides that contributions from other countries and sources on a voluntary basis would also be encouraged. The Committee may wish to identify such countries and sources which could be invited to make voluntary contributions.

3. From the information received by the Interim Secretariat from a number of international bodies, it is clear that there is no single definitive list of developed countries and that a number of classifications and lists are used by organizations for different purposes. There is no common agreement in the United Nations system concerning the term "developed" or "developing" when referring to the stage of development reached by any country or area. Thus, the terms "developed" and "developing" more generally refer to conventional practice. This note reviews how countries and Parties are classified by some major organizations and under other conventions. In the concluding section, the note presents four possible approaches which may assist the Committee in preparing a list of developed country Parties and other Parties to recommend to the Conference of the Parties.

2. CLASSIFICATION BY MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS AND UNDER OTHER CONVENTIONS

2.1 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

4. In the UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1992, classification by region has been adopted for statistical convenience only, and follows that employed by the United Nations Statistical Office. The following four main regions are identified:

(a) Developed market economy countries (DMEC): Australia; Austria; Belgium; Canada; Denmark; Faeroe Islands; Finland; France; Germany; Gibraltar; Greece; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Luxembourg; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Portugal; South Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America;

(b) Countries of Eastern Europe (CEE): Albania; Bulgaria; former Czechoslovakia; Hungary; Poland; Romania; former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

(c) Socialist countries of Asia (SCA): China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Mongolia; Viet Nam.

(d) Developing countries and territories (DC): all other countries and territories in Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania not specified above.

5. It may be noted that Yugoslavia, Malta and Turkey are classified as developing countries. However, the November 1993 edition of the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics considers Malta to be a developed country in Europe.

6. Another UNCTAD publication, Trade and Development Report, 1993 uses the terms "economies in transition" and "Central and Eastern Europe" to refer to Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the former USSR (comprising the Baltic republics, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia).

2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

7. UNDP receives contributions on a voluntary basis. The principal donors are the Western European countries, the United States of America, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and several developing ("recipient") countries. UNDP indicative planning figures (IPF) are allocated to the recipient countries. Of the "recipients", some are "net contributor countries (ncc)", who do not receive IPFs. The criteria for determining if a country will receive an IPF, and the amount for which it would qualify, are contained in UNDP Governing Council decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990. The basic criteria used in its fifth programming cycle are per capita gross national product and population. UNDP technical assistance is extended on a grant basis only to countries with a 1989 per capita income of less than US\$3,000. Countries whose per capita income falls within the US\$3,000 - \$6,000 range, are eligible for technical assistance but are expected to repay UNDP for full costs of such assistance. It may be noted that the countries of the former Soviet Union that are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have applied for, and received, recipient country status in UNDP.

2.3 The World Bank

8. According to the World Bank's World Development Report 1993, for operational and analytical purposes, the Bank's main criterion for classifying economies is gross national product (GNP) per capita. In 1991, the per capita income groups were low-income (LI) (US\$ 635 or less), middle-income (MI) (\$636 to \$7,909) and high-income (HI) (\$7,910 or more). A further division, at GNP per capita of \$2,555 in 1991 was made between lower (LMI) and upper middle income (UMI) economies.

2.4 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)

9. For the purpose of differentiating between the commitments of the developed country Parties and the developing country Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established two lists of countries, which appear in annexes I and II of that Convention. The developed country Parties and other Parties included in annex I commit themselves specifically to meet the commitments contained in article 4.2 of the Convention. The countries in annex I include:

(a) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries;

(b) Some former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries (This list of countries is not exhaustive since many of these countries did not participate in the negotiations.);

(c) The European Economic Community.

10. The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in annex II commit themselves to meet specific commitments relating to the provision of new and additional financial resources and transfer of and access to environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing country Parties. Annex II consists only of OECD member States and the European Economic Community and excludes the countries that formed part of the former Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries.

2.5 The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

11. The Montreal Protocol does not identify developed country Parties. Since Article 5 of the Protocol specifically mentions developing countries, the First Meeting of the Parties, held in 1989, decided to prepare a list of these countries. The initial list of developing countries decided by the First Meeting was based on the Group of 77, with the addition of China, Albania, and Mongolia. On a representation from Turkey in 1991, the Third Meeting of the Parties decided that Turkey also is a developing country for the purposes of the Protocol. The Parties also considered whether there should be any criterion for future classification of countries as developing countries. There were suggestions that the GEF pilot phase criterion of US\$4,000 annual per capita income might be an appropriate basis for classification. The Parties to the Protocol, however, did not agree on any specific criterion and decided that if countries apply for such a classification in future they will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

12. There is no mention of countries with economies in transition in the Montreal Protocol. Where a State included in the list of developing countries, such as Yugoslavia, has broken up into different States, each of those States has been considered to be a developing country. On the same basis, none of the States emerging out of the former Soviet Union is considered to be a developing country.

2.6 Conclusions

13. The table annexed to the present report presents a summary of how States and EEC have been classified by selected United Nations agencies and the World Bank, as well as under the Montreal Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Only signatories and Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are included in the table.

14. The following observations may be made concerning the lists prepared by various organizations:

(a) The treatment of countries is not uniform across the lists. A number of cases can be cited. For instance, Turkey is considered as a developing country for the purposes of the Montreal Protocol and by UNCTAD but as a developed country Party under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Malta is classified as a developed economy in the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of November 1993, whereas it is considered as a developing country in the UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1992 and under the Montreal Protocol;

(b) The UNCTAD list is quite comprehensive as it classifies developed market economies, countries of Eastern Europe, as well as developing countries. The World Bank list uses the criterion of per capita GNP, which is simple and straightforward. The UNCTAD and World Bank lists are both subject to periodic review;

(c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change identifies countries and Parties as developed country Parties and others with economies in transition.

3. SOME POSSIBLE APPROACHES

15. The Committee may wish to consider the following four approaches in establishing a list of developed country Parties and other Parties for the purposes of the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, these approaches are by no means exhaustive and are presented as a basis for further discussion:

(a) Self-selection. For the purposes of Article 20, some Parties may voluntarily declare themselves as developed country Parties and others may assume the obligations of the developed country Parties;

(b) National income as a basis. A country can be deemed to be developed if it has a certain level of per capita GNP. In such a case, the cut-off level and source of the data to be used will have to be specified.

(c) State of markets as a basis. Reference might be made to the UNCTAD lists of developed market economies and economies in transition;

(d) Example of other conventions. The practice followed by such international agreements as the Montreal Protocol and the Framework Convention on Climate Change may provide a useful reference point for the Committee's work.

16. The Committee may wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties one of the approaches presented or a single criterion that can be used to classify existing and future Parties, for the purposes of constructing a list of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties.

References

- OECD Report 1993 - Cooperation for Development, Paris, 1992
- UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.93.II.9)
- Trade and Development Report 1993 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.10)
- UNDP UNDP Governing Council decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990
- "Programme planning: matters relating to the programming cycles: report of the Administrator", (DP/1993/21)
- UNSD Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, vol. XLVII, No. 11, November 1993, New York.
- World Bank World Development Report 1993, World Bank, Oxford University Press, 1993
- FCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Annex

CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNATORIES AND PARTIES BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AS OF 6 APRIL 1994

	UNCTAD	UNDP	WORLD BANK	OECD MEMBER	CLIMATE CHANGE		MONTREAL PROTOCOL Developing Country
					Annex I	Annex II	
Afghanistan	DC	IPF	LI				*
Albania	CEE	IPF	LMI				*
Algeria	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Angola	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Antigua and Barbuda	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Argentina	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Armenia	CEE	IPF	LMI				
Australia	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Austria	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Azerbaijan	CEE	IPF	LMI				
Bahamas	DC	IPF/ncc	HI				*
Bahrain	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Bangladesh	DC	IPF	LI				*
Barbados	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Belarus	CEE	IPF	UMI		* , a		
Belgium	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Belize	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Benin	DC	IPF	LI				*
Bhutan	DC	IPF	LI				*

HI: High income economy
 LI: Low income economy
 LMI: Lower-middle-income economy
 UMI: Upper-middle-income economy
 a: Undergoing the process of transition to market economies
 b: Pertains to former Czechoslovakia

	UNCTAD	UNDP	WORLD BANK	OECD MEMBER	CLIMATE CHANGE		MONTREAL PROTOCOL Developing Country
					Annex I	Annex II	
Bolivia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Botswana	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Brazil	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Bulgaria	CEE	IPF	LMI		*, a		
Burkina Faso	DC	IPF	LI				*
Burundi	DC	IPF	LI				*
Cameroon	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Canada	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Cape Verde	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Central African Republic	DC	IPF	LI				*
Chad	DC	IPF	LI				*
Chile	DC	IPF	LMI				*
China	SCA	IPF	LI				*
Colombia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Comoros	DC	IPF	LI				*
Congo	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Cook Islands	DC	IPF	(...)				
Costa Rica	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Côte d'Ivoire	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Croatia	(...)	IPF	(...)				
Cuba	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Cyprus	DC	IPF/ncc	HI				*
Czech Republic	CEE, b	IPF	LMI, b		*, a, b		

DC: Developing country
DMEC: Developed market economy country
CEE: Countries in Eastern Europe
SCA: Socialist countries of Asia
IPF: UNDP indicative planning figure
ncc: Net contributor countries
(...): Indicates that the item is not available

HI: High income economy
LI: Low income economy
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UMI: Upper-middle-income economy
a: Undergoing the process of transition to market economies
b: Pertains to former Czechoslovakia

	UNCTAD	UNDP	WORLD BANK	OECD MEMBER	CLIMATE CHANGE		MONTREAL PROTOCOL Developing Country
					Annex I	Annex II	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SCA	IPF	LMI				*
Denmark	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Djibouti	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Dominica	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Dominican Republic	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Ecuador	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Egypt	DC	IPF	LI				*
El Salvador	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Estonia	CEE	IPF	UMI		*, a		
Ethiopia	DC	IPF	LI				*
Fiji	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Finland	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
France	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Gabon	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Gambia	DC	IPF	LI				*
Germany	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Ghana	DC	IPF	LI				*
Greece	DMEC		UMI	*	*	*	
Grenada	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Guatemala	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Guinea	DC	IPF	LI				*
Guinea-Bissau	DC	IPF	LI				*
Guyana	DC	IPF	LI				*

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 SCA: Socialist countries of Asia
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	UNCTAD	UNDP	WORLD BANK	OECD MEMBER	CLIMATE CHANGE		MONTREAL PROTOCOL
					Annex I	Annex II	Developing Country
Haiti	DC	IPF	LI				*
Honduras	DC	IPF	LI				*
Hungary	CEE	IPF	UMI		*, a		
Iceland	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
India	DC	IPF	LI				*
Indonesia	DC	IPF	LI				*
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Ireland	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Israel	DMEC		HI				
Italy	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Jamaica	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Japan	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Jordan	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Kazakhstan	CEE	IPF	LMI				
Kenya	DC	IPF	LI				*
Kuwait	DC	IPF/ncc	HI, b				*
Latvia	CEE	IPF	UMI		*, a		
Lebanon	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Lesotho	DC	IPF	LI				*
Liberia	DC	IPF	LI				*
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Liechtenstein			(...)				
Lithuania	CEE	IPF	UMI		*, a		

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					Annex I	Annex II	
Luxembourg	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Madagascar	DC	IPF	LI				*
Malawi	DC	IPF	LI				*
Malaysia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Maldives	DC	IPF	LI				*
Mali	DC	IPF	LI				*
Malta	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Marshall Islands		IPF	LMI				
Mauritania	DC	IPF	LI				*
Mauritius	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Mexico	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Micronesia (Federated States of)		IPF	LMI				
Monaco							
Mongolia	SCA	IPF	LMI				*
Morocco	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Mozambique	DC	IPF	LI				*
Myanmar	DC	IPF	LI				*
Namibia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Nauru	DC	IPF/ncc	(...)				
Nepal	DC	IPF	LI				*
Netherlands	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
New Zealand	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Nicaragua	DC	IPF	LI				*

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					Annex I	Annex II	
Niger	DC	IPF	LI				*
Nigeria	DC	IPF	LI				*
Norway	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Oman	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Pakistan	DC	IPF	LI				*
Panama	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Papua New Guinea	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Paraguay	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Peru	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Philippines	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Poland	CEE	IPF	LMI		*,a		
Portugal	DMEC		UMI	*	*	*	
Qatar	DC	IPF/ncc	HI				*
Republic of Korea	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Republic of Moldova	CEE	IPF	LMI				
Romania	CEE	IPF	LMI		*,a		*
Russian Federation	CEE	IPF	UMI		*,a		
Rwanda	DC	IPF	LI				*
	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Saint Lucia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Samoa	DC	IPF	LMI				*
San Marino			HI				
Sao Tome and Principe	DC	IPF	LI				*

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	UNCTAD	UNDP	WORLD BANK	OECD MEMBER	CLIMATE CHANGE		MONTREAL PROTOCOL Developing Country
					Annex I	Annex II	
Senegal	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Seychelles	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Singapore	DC	IPF/ncc	HI, b				*
Slovakia	CEE, b	IPF	LMI, b		*, a, b		
Slovenia	(...)	IPF	(...)				
Solomon Islands	DC	IPF	LI				*
South Africa	DMEC		UMI				
Spain	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Sri Lanka	DC	IPF	LI				*
Sudan	DC	IPF	LI				*
Suriname	DC	IPF/ncc	UMI				*
Swaziland	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Sweden	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Switzerland	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Syrian Arab Republic	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Thailand	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Togo	DC	IPF	LI				*
Trinidad and Tobago	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Tunisia	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Turkey	DC	IPF	LMI	*	*	*	*
Tuvalu	DC	IPF	(...)				
Uganda	DC	IPF	LI				*
Ukraine	CEE	IPF	LMI		*, a		

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					Annex I	Annex II	
United Arab Emirates	DC	IPF/ncc	HI, b				*
UK	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
United Republic of Tanzania	DC	IPF	LI				*
United States of America	DMEC		HI	*	*	*	
Uruguay	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Vanuatu	DC	IPF	LMI				*
Venezuela	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Viet Nam	SCA	IPF	LI				*
Yemen	DC	IPF	LI				*
Yugoslavia	DC	IPF	UMI				*
Zaire	DC	IPF	LI				*
Zambia	DC	IPF	LI				*
Zimbabwe	DC	IPF	LI				*
EEC	DMEC				*	*	

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