

WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

SUBMISSION FROM GHANA

Under Article 4, paragraph 1 and Article 12, paragraph 1 of the UNFCCC, developing countries are required to prepare their national communications taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances.

Under normal circumstances, after submitting the initial national communication, subsequent national communications should be submitted after every four years. However, due to various and to some extent several challenges and constraints at the different stages in the process and preparation of the national communications, developing countries are not able to meet this four-year cycle. Ghana's initial national communication was submitted in 2000 and the second national communication was submitted in 2011.

Challenges and constraints that developing countries encounter include the following:

- Data gaps, incompatible formats and poor quality data in the various sectors;
- Capacities of relevant national institutions in using guidelines, methodologies, tools and software;

- Assessments for mitigation, vulnerabilities, impacts and adaptation;
- Monitoring systems for sustainably collecting processing and archiving data in the required format and quality.

COP 15 mandated the re-constituted Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) to provide technical advice, support and enhance the capacity of Non-Annex 1 (NA1) parties to prepare their national communications. Since 2011, the CGE has been providing technical support and advice to NA1 country parties with training and capacity building activities in relation to the preparation of their national communications. Within the work programme of the CGE, training materials are being updated to facilitate their use by parties, including hands-on training on the different aspects of the national communications. So far the training sessions organized by the CGE have allowed countries to have practical experience with some software; exchange information and best practices across the different regions. However, there are still some NA1 parties who have not submitted their initial national communications and will still need the technical advice and support of the CGE to enable them prepare and submit them to the UNFCCC.

Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 59 (c), also states that developing countries, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting should submit biennial update reports containing updates of national greenhouse gas inventories, including national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. At COP 17, guidelines were adopted for the biennial reports, as well as modalities for work on the NAMAs.

This entails additional training and capacity building for NA1 parties to enable them meet these requirements.

Countries are also identifying new sectors that have to be included in their subsequent national communications which may need some additional materials and tools.

With the experience gained by the CGE in its work, there is the need to review and revise its terms of reference and make it a permanent body of the Convention to ensure the continuous provision of the needed support and technical advice to NA 1 parties.