

Financial Mechanism and Technical Cooperation

SBI considered the GEF Operational Strategy and recommended that the GEF should provide expeditious support for the preparation of national communications by developing countries and enabling activities. On financial and technical cooperation, Parties noted the activities of the Secretariat including the exchange of information through CC:INFO and the coordination of activities and the effective use of resources for national communications through CC:FORUM. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a report on strengthening these activities in support of non-Annex 1 national communications.

ANNEX 1 EXPERTS GROUP ON THE FCCC

A meeting of the Annex 1 Experts' Group was held on the margins of AGBM 3 on March 6. The purpose was to review progress on the projects and to agree on the timing and a review procedure for interim products leading up to COP 2. The OECD and IEA Secretariats reported that substantial progress, with early drafts or extended outlines of all 9 projects having been sent out to experts nominated by the group. The deadline for comments is March 14. To address concerns that wider review of the first draft of projects did not leave sufficient time to provide meaningful comments, delegates agreed that distribution of the first draft would go to government and non-government reviewers, at the same time on March 29th. Comments will be due by April 19, with a second draft to be sent out for government review by May 10. Comments on the second draft are due by May 31. It was also clarified that a summary compilation report of the projects will be submitted to the FCCC Secretariat for CoP 2, since it would not be realistic to expect the full studies to be ready for general distribution before early July. Finally, Annex 1 Parties agreed that the reports submitted to the AGBM do not/not represent governments' formal approval of relevant documents. Instead studies would enjoy the recognition of governments as an input into the analytic aspect of AGBM discussions on policies & measures.

In addition, delegates were informed that the EPOC Directorate of the OECD is planning to hold a meeting of the Climate Change Forum on the first week of June or late September. The proposed agenda would focus on how Annex 1 Parties might work together more effectively in engaging developing countries to develop a global response in addressing climate change. If held in early June, the Climate Change Forum could link with meetings of the Annex 1 Experts' Group, and the IEA macro modelling study on ghg reduction scenarios.

NGO Workshop on non-governmental Advisory Committees or Consultative Mechanism, March 2, 1996

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the need for, the possible scope, structure, membership and workplan of non-governmental