

FCCC Work Program on AIJ

In the progress report on AIJ, the Secretariat presents a proposed work plan. It is the recommendation of the U.S. that a work plan be adopted so that the subsidiary bodies can begin to complete the work necessary to implement, review, and complete the international pilot on AIJ. Several specific issues are raised in the proposed work plan. I will address each one in turn.

1. Workshops on methodological issues: The Secretariat has proposed expert workshops on methodological issues surrounding AIJ. The U.S. supports Secretariat efforts to convene such workshops. In particular, we would support an initial workshop that identifies a broad array of methodological issues surrounding AIJ, identifies the technical analysis that needs to be completed on these topics during the pilot phase, and begins to evaluate options for addressing them. The U.S. is willing to host and co-sponsor this workshop.

2. Information storage and dissemination: The Secretariat has raised three issues concerning the storage and dissemination of information regarding AIJ electronically. First, they have raised the possibility of storing and disseminating information on AIJ during the pilot phase electronically. The U.S. supports such efforts. Secondly, they have questioned whether or not information received by the Secretariat should be considered to be public information or whether some information might be considered confidential. It is the position of the U.S. that all information provided to the Secretariat on AIJ is public information. None of the information provided in our first report to the Secretariat is confidential. Third, the Secretariat has questioned whether, in addition to synthesis reports, there is a need to disseminate information received from Parties in the form in which it is submitted. It is the view of the U.S. that the dissemination of such information, other than summary information provided by the Secretariat to Parties electronically or through publications, is the responsibility of each Party.

3. Compilation report: The Secretariat has suggested the publication of a compilation report on AIJ for each of the subsidiary bodies' regularly scheduled meetings. The U.S. endorses the publication of such a compilation report, which is updated over time. Such a report should include information submitted by the Parties related to ongoing projects and available resources, a bibliography of current printed material on AIJ, a directory of electronic sites containing information on AIJ, and updated national contact information as provided in the Annex to the current Addendum. We recommend against having this report contain information on proposed projects, as recommended by the Secretariat. The provision of such information would be very time and resource-consuming for the Secretariat. The Secretariat is planning to provide such information to the international community electronically in any case.

4. AIJ Forum: The Secretariat has suggested that Parties consider the formation of an AIJ Forum which would meet in conjunction with regularly scheduled subsidiary body meetings. The U.S. is supportive of the development of a forum for the technical implementers of government's AIJ programs to meet once or twice a year and share views and experiences. The forum could cover such topics as the importance of criteria, how to set up an interagency review process, and how to set up a project evaluation process. We