

recently should allow them to get back on schedule in the coming months. To date eight reviews of national communications have been done, including Canada in April 1995. Because no formal final reviews have been held with the countries being reviewed, no conclusions were presented. A round of generally supportive statements by Parties was made. Canada stressed the need for the process to be open and transparent and called on the Secretariat to bring forward a brief assessment of the process, including cost effectiveness, for consideration at the next meeting of the SBI.

24. MOU between the COP and the GEF: Good back room work by the G-77 and some Annex 1 countries, particularly the USA, avoided any major controversy. The MOU which has been developed to outline arrangements between the COP and the GEF was approved with the caveat that the SBI would consider, at its third session, an annex on procedures to facilitate the joint determination of funding necessary and available to implement the Convention. An arrangement was made for the heads of the GEF and the COP Secretariats to jointly elaborate this annex as referenced in paragraph 9 of the MOU. A policy paper on additional financing policies will be brought to the GEF Council for its consideration at its April 1996 meeting and then to the SBI for its third session in July 1996.

25. Discussion on MOU approval was marked by a strong Brazilian intervention, which expressed grave concerns and difficulties in attaining sufficient funds from the financial mechanism for preparing their national communication, a priority item for COP. Particular point of contention appears to revolve around support for activities related to remote sensing research and adaptation in the preparation of national communication in Brazil. The issue was effectively addressed by chair, who noted that the GEF Council will have an opportunity to review it, while confirming that COP in relation to the GEF remains the supreme body.

26. Work programme for the SBI: Was approved essentially as proposed by the Secretariat. The programme will deliver advice to the COP on numerous issues including an assessment of the policy aspects of national communications from Parties, allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels, transfer of technology (a theme repeated numerous times by G-77 Parties), activities implemented jointly, and institutional and budgetary advice. On this latter point, the Executive Director of the Secretariat reminded Parties of the consideration at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this fall of the funding for the operation of the Convention. Specifics will follow under separate cover for the attention of PRMNY. The decision on Activities implemented jointly will see the SBSTA taking the lead in the development of a framework for reporting activities implemented jointly (AIJ) with input from the SBI as requested. The reporting framework is to be ready for adoption by COP2, if at all possible. This would allow consideration by SBI of a first synthesis report on AIJ at its sixth session, immediately preceding COP3.

27. Annex I Project on Policies and Measures for Common Action: