

secretariat, (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/3) and that are supported by Canada.

22. The SBI decided to consider draft guidelines, that will enhance and improve the current review process, (which only occurs as part of a periodic in-depth review of National Communications) at its eleventh session, and requested the secretariat to prepare draft guidelines for technical reviews and invited Parties to submit their views to the secretariat by October 1, 1999. In addition, the SBI requested the secretariat to develop a work plan, including operational requirements, for the period 2000-2002, for consideration at the eleventh session of SBI.

23. **NON ANNEX I NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS:** SBSTA/SBI 10 addressed issues related to the process of consideration of initial national communications and the timing of second national communications, with a view of reaching a decision at CoP5. A large part of the early discussions focused on the nature and scope of the review of enabling activities of the GEF and its implementing agencies. The G-77, and the EU both tabled draft decision texts. The texts, varying significantly in terms of objectives and emphasis, left the Co-Chairs with very little room to manoeuvre in order for them to generate a consensus position.

24. The G-77 draft decision text argued that, in light of the very small number of submissions made to date, it is premature to review guidelines, and the present guidelines for initial national communications should remain valid. The G-77 highlighted the importance of recognizing the technical difficulties and financial restraints faced by developing countries in submitting their national communications and the need for enhancing capacity-building. In this regard, they proposed the notion of a non-Annex I Group of Experts which would be composed primarily of non-Annex I experts, and viewed it as the best vehicle to address many of their concerns. Its role would be to assess the availability of financial resources and technical support, identify gaps and act as forum to exchange experiences and information. It was also proposed that the group would make its recommendations and conclusions available to the CoP/SBs.

25. The EU, on the other hand, took a position aimed at laying out a clear process for consideration of national communications. This would entail compilation and synthesis of initial submissions by the secretariat, technical assessments of the submissions using country visits, resulting in the revision of guidelines for second national communications by CoP6. They saw the present mechanisms as appropriate to address G-77's concerns and would prefer the continued engagement of the secretariat in the process. They emphasized that the current initiative of the secretariat together with GEF and its implementing agencies to organize workshops and expert group meetings under the National Communication Support Programme (NSCP) was an important one and could be complemented with country visits by experts nominated by Parties as a basis for the revision of guidelines. The EU proposal also included a suggestion for the IPCC Inventory Task Force to develop a work plan to prepare a comprehensive database on emission factors, by region and technology, and proposing that the secretariat should develop a paper on regional priorities for the research and development of emission factors.