

(f) In addition to the questions raised in paragraph 10 of the annotated agenda (FCCC/AG13/1995/1), a number of other questions were raised that could be included in the questionnaire:

(i) What principles should govern the process? Is it sufficient that the process should be simple, transparent, facilitative and non-confrontational in character?

(ii) What is the legal status of the process?

(iii) What is meant by the Article 13 phrase: "Parties on their request"? Who may trigger the process apart from the Parties themselves? Is this process compulsory or optional?

(iv) What is meant by the word "process" in Article 13? Should it be understood as a sequence of events or as a mechanism or as an institution? Could it imply all of these?

(v) If a new mechanism or institution were to be established under Article 13, should its membership be general or restricted to specialists such as legal, economic, social or technical experts? In this context, should a roster of experts to provide advice be envisaged?

(vi) Is it necessary to establish such a multilateral consultative process? If so, what measures should the Conference of the Parties take for its adoption: decision of COP? Amendment? Protocol?

3. The Group requested the secretariat to organize a half-day panel discussion on experience of comparable consultative procedures to be held on the opening day of the second session of the AG13 and to circulate relevant materials in advance.