

4. *Decides*

a. that each initial national communication submitted by Parties not included in Annex I should be technically assessed in a facilitative, non-confrontational, open and transparent manner, on the basis of decision 10/CP.2. The purpose of these assessments is to analyse the information, in accordance with Art. 12.1 of the FCCC, contained in these communications, in order to provide

- the COP with accurate, consistent and relevant information to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities;
- Parties not included in Annex I feedback on ways to improve the quality of subsequent communications, to identify gaps of information required by the guidelines for the initial communications and to identify further needs related to the preparation of communications.

b. that the technical assessments will be organised by the FCCC secretariat and undertaken by technical experts nominated by Parties. [*Details on arrangements, methodology and scope t.b.d.*] The technical assessments may, with the consent of the Parties concerned, include country-visits;

c. that a first report on the technical assessments of communications submitted by 1st January 2000 should be made available by the secretariat to the Subsidiary Bodies at their 12th session;

d. that further details on arrangements, methodology and scope will be decided by the SBI on the basis of experiences gained.

5. *Welcomes* the initiative of the secretariat together with the GEF and its implementing agencies to organise workshops and expert group meetings under the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) which enable Parties to share experiences and information with experts from other interested Parties and to identify barriers and problems encountered in the preparation of communications.

6. *Decides* that initial communications from Parties not included in Annex I shall be considered, in the first instance, by the COP at its 6th session on the basis of (a) the compilation and synthesis reports and (b) the first report on the technical assessments to be provided by the secretariat

B: On guidelines for the second national communications from Parties not included in Annex I

6. *Affirms* that the guidelines for initial national communications of Parties not included in Annex I, as set out in decision 10/CP.2 and its Annex, remain valid for all such initial communications.