

also recalled that the General Assembly at its fifty-second session had adopted a resolution requesting that Parties should avoid scheduling meetings in parallel with the General Assembly as of the biennium 2000-2001 (see resolution 52/445 of 18 December 1997).

59. One Party requested that the SBI should adopt a calendar of meetings based on three meetings each year, consisting of two one-week sessional periods and one two-week sessional period, the latter of which would include a meeting of the COP. The Executive Secretary informed the SBI that such alteration to the calendar of meetings would have serious impacts on the programme budget and programme of work in the current biennium, and would also entail a greater need for resources in the Trust Fund for Participation. He noted that changes to the calendar would have to be considered in the light of the availability of United Nations conference services and of meeting facilities in Bonn.

2. Conclusions

60. At its 12th meeting, on 12 June, the SBI, on the recommendation of the Chairman, after conducting consultations on this sub-item, adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBI took note of General Assembly resolution 52/445, and recommended that the calendar of meetings of the UNFCCC should continue to be based on a 12-month calendar, and

(b) The SBI decided to return to the issue of the calendar of meetings for the year 2000 and beyond at its ninth session and prepare a relevant draft decision for consideration and adoption by the COP at its fourth session. It noted that the calendar approved by the Conference of the Parties at its third session (see paragraph 58 above) would apply in 1999.

C. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (Agenda item 9 (c))

1. Proceedings

61. The SBI considered this sub-item at its 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 5, 8, 11 and 12 June respectively. It had before it document FCCC/SBI/1998/3.

62. Statements were made by representatives of three Parties.

63. At the 7th meeting, on 5 June, the Executive Secretary informed the SBI that an offer to host the fifth session of the COP (COP 5) had been received from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. At the 11th meeting, on 11 June, the representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan confirmed the transmission of the offer, and expressed the hope that the Conference of the Parties would be in a position to accept it.