

INTERVENTION BY CANADA:

THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND THE COP

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Canadian delegation too would like to extend its congratulations to you for your reelection as the Chair for this important group, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

Mr. Chairman, Canada fully agrees that the GEF and its implementing agencies should work towards expediting a timely process for the approval of projects related to the preparation of national communications. Canada notes that progress on this issue has already been made. At its last Council meeting, the GEF Parties agreed to an expedited process for the approval of enabling activities for the two Conventions. An initial allocation of \$30 million was approved for financing projects under this expedited process. We also note that the GEF Council approved an intercessional decision-making process, whereby projects can be approved between GEF Council Meetings.

Assuming that the guidelines for non-Annex 1 national communications is approved at SBSTA, and confirmed at CoP 2, Canada would strongly recommend that the GEF take on those guidelines in its support for the development of national communications in developing countries. My delegation agrees that the full agreed costs of preparing national communications should be provided by the GEF, while recognizing the right of implementing agencies to determine, with the relevant host country, the costs of preparing such communications.

On the issue of the MOU and its Annex to the GEF, allow me to be perfectly clear. The text of the Annex of the MOU represents a carefully balanced text discussed and agreed by members of the GEF Council, that involved a number of Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 Parties. We should not reopen this agreement. Many representatives of developing countries participated in the GEF Council discussions, that lead to an agreement on this annex. We expect those same countries to stand by the agreement they accepted in the GEF Council.

Even if in the unlikely event an agreement is reached at this CoP on any changes to the Annex, my delegation is of the view that this would mean the text would then have to go back to the GEF Council for their reconsideration of the text.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.