

Reporting Tel Part II: Second Conference of the Parties (COP 2) of The Framework Convention on Climate Change, July 8-19, Geneva

Continued from Part I report (paragraphs 1 - 23) Tel AGE 0684

24. Communications from Parties included in Annex 1: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration - negotiations covered two areas: 1) more technical, looking to improve on the guidelines developed for the first round of Annex 1 negotiations; 2) policy issues, in particular, what the in depth reviews are telling us about how well Annex 1 Parties are implementing the commitments and aims laid out in the Convention. Regarding the former, revised guidelines now contain considerable elaboration on the preparation of inventories; the description of policies & measures and effects on projections & assessments in reducing/limiting net ghg emissions; and detailed reporting on new and additional financing to developing countries. The format now includes more tables for presentation and will require Parties to show calculations for any adjustments to baseline figures, such as for temperature variations. Although it does not explicitly prohibit such adjustments, the presentation should help with transparency and comparability concerns raised in the past. SBSTA 4 is also tasked with further examination of methodological questions, including temperature adjustments and bunker fuels. Comments on these issues are required by the Secretariat by October 15. Finally, the only requirement for reporting on technologies will be information on transfer to developing countries. This will likely result, as in the first national communications, in diverse and incomparable information on technology transfer.

25. With respect to the review process, Parties also reached a decision with respect to how well Annex 1 Parties, on the basis of their national communications and in-depth reviews, are fulfilling their FCCC commitments. The contact group, chaired by Canada concluded that 1) Annex 1 Parties are fulfilling Article 4.2 commitments to implement national policies and measures on the mitigation of climate change, but that, for many Annex 1 Parties urgent further actions will be needed to return ghg emissions to their 1990 levels by 2000; 2) the challenges Annex 1 Parties face in meeting this aim, and the efforts being made to address those challenges, are relevant for the AGBM negotiation process; and 3) there is a need to address the concern expressed by non-Annex 1 Parties that Annex 2 Parties are falling short of their commitments related to the transfer of technology and provision of financial resources. These conclusions were approved by the COP.

26. Guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration for national communications from non Annex 1 Parties: About 20 Parties representing both developed and developing countries, including Canada participated in a contact group, which worked hard until the last day of SBSTA to reach conclusion on a set of guidelines acceptable to all. Negotiations were difficult because developing countries were resisting the use of 1990 as the base year, strictly following the IPCC guidelines, and inclusion of information on mitigation measures. At the same