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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Nineteenth session

Milan, 1–9 December 2003

Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

OTHER MATTERS

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on an expert meeting on the proposal by Brazil

Submission from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its seventeenth session, agreed that the work on the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil should be continued by the scientific community.
2. An expert meeting on scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal was organized by the Governments of Brazil, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Berlin, Germany, on 8–9 September 2003.
3. This document contains a report on this meeting, which was jointly submitted by the above-mentioned Governments. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRAZIL, GERMANY, AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Draft of 21 November

**REPORT TO SBSTA 19 ON THE THIRD EXPERT MEETING ON THE SCIENTIFIC AND
METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL BY BRAZIL HELD FROM 8 TO 9
SEPTEMBER 2003 IN BERLIN, GERMANY**

Provided by the UK, Brazil and Germany

As part of the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol, the delegation of Brazil made a proposal, in May 1997, to set differentiated emissions reduction targets for Parties according to the impact of their historic emissions on temperature rise. After two previous expert meetings on the subject organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, the SBSTA concluded that work on the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil should be continued by the scientific community – with the aim of such work being to model and assess the contributions of sources of emissions to climate change, to improve the robustness of the preliminary results and to explore the uncertainty and sensitivity of the results to different assumptions. Following this call, the governments of Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Germany supported a third expert meeting to facilitate further work, and engaged ECOFYS to provide a “support unit” for the work.

The meeting was held in Berlin, Germany from 8-9 September 2003. The meeting provided a forum for experts to present new results and findings, review progress on specific subjects and discuss in detail a process to take the work forward.

The meeting confirmed that several research groups are continuing to work actively in the area of attribution of contributions to climate change, and that new scientific findings and new datasets have become available since the last expert meeting. A full summary of the workshop, including key scientific findings, may be found in the report of the meeting which is available at the website (www.match-info.net).

A working group on ‘climate science’ discussed new developments in the description of the processes in the climate system as well as on emissions and other data and defined the overarching research questions related to the science of the climate system and data. A second group suggested timelines and outcomes for experimental and methodological work related to the Brazilian Proposal. It concluded that further methodological work should be approached in several steps to meet report-back timelines to SBSTA and organise the remaining work in an effective manner and elaborated a detailed schedule. The third group discussed methods for attributing non-linear changes. It first prepared an inventory of methods and agreed on a common terminology. It then formulated open questions for further analysis and finally made recommendations for a future modelling exercise.

A draft terms of reference and a draft work plan for a process until 2005 were discussed. The group is now referred to as the “Ad-hoc group for the modelling and assessment of contributions to climate change (MATCH)”. ECOFYS will provide administrative, secretarial and scientific assistance as the ‘support unit’ for the process until the end of 2005. Participants for a scientific coordination committee were selected, and will now guide the process in the coming months. It was agreed that ECOFYS should assess the need for resources for the participation of developing country experts and search for funding.

The meeting was thus highly successful and achieved its objective to start a scientific process to further consider contributions to climate change with timelines and objectives. Regular reports will be made to the SBSTA with the aim to provide final results in 2005. A dedicated web-site has been set-up, from which further information can be obtained (www.match-info.net). The next experts meeting is planned for April 2004.
