



Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Conference of the Parties

Seventeenth session

Durban, 28 November to 9 December 2011

Item X of the provisional agenda

Proposal from the Russian Federation to amend article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention

Note by the secretariat

1. Article 15, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides any “Any Party may propose amendments to the Convention”. Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Convention stipulates that “Amendments to the Convention shall be adopted at an ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties. The text of any proposed amendment to the Convention shall be communicated to the Parties by the secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption. The secretariat shall also communicate proposed amendments to the signatories to the Convention and, for information, to the Depository.” In accordance with these provisions, the Russian Federation, by a letter dated 24 May 2011, transmitted to the secretariat the text of a proposal for an amendment to article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention.
2. Pursuant to article 15, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the secretariat transmitted this proposal to Parties and signatories to the Convention by a note verbale dated 3 June 2011 and, for information, to the Depository by a letter dated 22 June 2011.
3. The communication from the Russian Federation, together with the text of the proposed amendment, is annexed hereto.

Letter dated 24 May 2011 from the Russian Federation addressed to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change proposing an amendment to article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention

The Russian Federation hereby formally submits its proposed amendment to article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change as well as a draft decision of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

The Russian Federation requests the Secretariat to communicate the proposed amendment to the Parties to the Convention in accordance with article 15, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and to undertake all necessary formalities for its consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Durban, South Africa (28 November–9 December 2011).

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Dr. Alexander **Frolov**
Head of the Russian Federal Service for
Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet)
National Coordinator of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol

Proposal of the Russian Federation to amend article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Annexes I and II to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were established as integral parts in the drafting of the Convention, which was subsequently adopted in 1992.

Annex I to the Convention contained the category of developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Annex II to the Convention included only the category of developed countries. In 1992, the member States of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were taken as the basis for these annexes.

Annexes I and II to the Convention were designed to reflect the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” and to take into account the specificities and the potential of the respective Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

The Convention provides for the possibility of introducing amendments to the Convention and its annexes. Specifically, article 4, paragraph 2 (f), establishes that “the Conference of the Parties shall review, not later than 31 December 1998, available information with a view to taking decisions regarding such amendments to the lists in annexes I and II as may be appropriate, with the approval of the Party concerned”.

Taking note of the changes in economic and technological development that have taken place since the adoption of the Convention in 1992 and are continuing to do so, the Russian Federation considers it of primary importance to clearly specify the need for a periodic review of annexes I and II to the Convention in the light of the most up-to-date scientific information, objectively reflecting the dynamics and reality of the current socio-economic development of the Parties to the Convention.

The Russian Federation proposes to make the following amendment to the Convention: in **article 4, paragraph 2 (f), after the words “with the approval of the Party concerned”, to insert the sentence “A further review of amendments to the lists in annexes I and II shall be conducted on a periodic basis, as determined by the Conference of the Parties, until the objective of the Convention has been achieved.”**

Periodic review and, where appropriate, updating of the lists of countries in annexes I and II would be the most appropriate and fair way to allocate the burden of obligations among the Parties to the Convention, so that the objectives of the Convention may be achieved as promptly and efficiently as possible.

**Draft decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change ___/CP.17**

The Conference of the Parties

1. Decides to insert in article 4, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, after the words “with the approval of the Party concerned”, the sentence “A further review of amendments to the lists in annexes I and II shall be conducted on a periodic basis, as determined by the Conference of the Parties, until the objective of the Convention has been achieved.”

2. Notes that the above amendment shall enter into force in accordance with article 15, paragraph 4, of the Convention.
