

Contribution from the Republic of Albania to the OHCHR analytical study in implementing Resolution 7/23 of the Human Rights Council

General information

Albania ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on October, 1994, and it entered into force on 1 January 1995. As of January 2005 Albania is also a Party to the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC. Albania holds the status of the Non Annex I Party to both these legal documents. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of Albania is the governmental agency responsible for the implementation of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. In June 2005 the Government of Albania formally notified the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board on the nomination of the Designated National Authority (DNA) in Albania and tasked the Climate Change Unit (within the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration) established in 1998 through UNDP/GEF - funded project to support the DNA functions in Albania.

In acceding to the Climate Change Convention and its Protocol the Republic of Albania committed itself to take part in the stabilisation of the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. As a developing country Albania has no obligation towards reducing any quantity of greenhouse gas emissions, however the Government of the Republic of Albania has undertaken a number of activities, as explained under section (Information pursuant to question (c)) below, with the objective of reducing the concentration of GHG emissions.

At the moment Albania has signed few bilateral and multilateral Memoranda/Agreements on CDM project implementation with Italy, Denmark, Bio-Carbon Fund of the WB, KfW, and for capacity building with Austrian Development Assistance.

Information pursuant to question (a) – Assessment on the impact of climate change to the life of peoples and the most affected and vulnerable populations

The Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration) has not carried out any study to assess the impact of climate change to the life of peoples and the most affected and vulnerable populations.

Information pursuant to question (c) - Measures and projects in national level

The UNDP Climate Change Umbrella Programme (referred below as CCUP) provides overall support to the Government of Albania in addressing climate change issues and implementing the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The main objective of the program is to build and develop national human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol in Albania.

More specifically the program aims to: (i) build national capacities to prepare national communications to the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the UNFCCC; (ii) build national institutional and legal framework to comply with the requirements of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol; (iii) address climate change mitigation and adaptation into national development process (iv) Increase the level of public awareness, communication and outreach on climate change issues among all stakeholders in Albania

The CCUP as part of the Environmental Cluster of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Albania is guided by the UNDP Country Program Document which is the framework for UNDP interventions for the period: 2006-2010 and is based on national development priorities and “One UN Programme” and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Albania’s CCUP is structured according to the areas where it is focused. The CCUP is focused on three main thematic areas such as (i) GHG inventory; (ii) vulnerability and adaptation (iii) GHG mitigation and carbon financing. The National communication exercise which is crosscutting among these three thematic areas has proven to be instrumental to initiating other projects and programs on mitigation and adaptation to climate change as well as increase the level of awareness on climate change issues.

The CCUP emerged with the expanding of the climate change activities which started in late 1998 with the UNDP-GEF Albania’s First National Communication project (1998-2002) which was followed by UNDP-GEF Albania’s Technology Needs Assessment (2000-2004); UNDP-GEF Project on Improving the quality of GHG inventories for East Europe and CIS (2003-2006) and UNEP project on Article 6 of the UNFCCC (01-05/2006).

The current CCUP consists on a portfolio of projects under implementation, Managed on Results Based approach such as UNDP-GEF Albania’s Second National Communication project and other “sister” projects which are being run and implemented in synergy with the national communication exercise such as: a UNDP/UNEP-GEF project on Transforming the Albania’s Market for Penetration of Solar Water Heaters; UNDP- GEF project on Identification and Implementation of adaptation capacities in Drini –Mati River Deltas and; UNDP Project on Building National Capacities for Accessing Carbon Finance. Public awareness and communication activities are crosscutting among all activities horizontally and vertically. A pipeline of projects exists as part of the project, subject for funding by the Government of Albania, UNDP-GEF, and/or other donors.