

Co-operation among Parties with respect to Article 6 of the Protocol  
Submitted by Germany

I. Introduction

At the XXII ATCM from 25 May – 5 June 1998 in Tromsø, Peru proposed the agenda item "Co-operation among Parties with respect to Article 6 of the Protocol" for inclusion in the preliminary agenda of the XXIII ATCM in Lima. This proposal was agreed to by all Consultative Parties.

A discussion of this agenda item is useful and necessary. After its entry into force the Protocol of Environmental Protection has to be implemented and the given frame has to be filled out. Of course the practical implementation also concerns Article 6 of the Protocol addressing international cooperation. First approaches to concretise this cooperation have already been undertaken both in the framework of the ATCM and at the bilateral level. These concepts should be supplemented and intensified.

II. At the XVIth ATCM from 7.-28. October 1991 in Bonn and at the XVIIth ATCM from 11. – 20. November 1992 in Venice the Consultative Parties have broadly discussed the issue of international cooperation in the field of scientific research and their associate logistic activities.

In this context, numerous working papers as well as relevant paragraphs in the respective Final Reports regarding this issue are recalled. Paragraph 104 of the Final Report of the XVI. ATCM, which was by and large confirmed by the Recommendation XVII-4, reads as follows:

„Papers submitted to the Meeting noted the benefits to be derived from increased international cooperation in the fields of:

- mutual exchange of information on long-term scientific programmes
- more efficient use of human scientific capacity
- cost-effectiveness for laboratories, instruments, stations and logistics
- reduced environmental impact and improved safety of operations
- more systematic and coordinated scientific observations
- a coordinated approach to the siting of stations
- integration into existing arrangements of the scientific programmes of new Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

In this context, the Meeting welcomed with satisfaction SCAR's Conference on Antarctic Science, designed to foster interdisciplinary research, to strengthen the interaction within the international scientific community and to further integrate scientific planning into programmes of global significance.

In the long line of Antarctic tradition which stems from the International Geophysical Year, the Meeting felt that the time might have come for consideration of a more systematic approach to international collaboration in research programmes and their associate logistic activities in Antarctica.“

- III. Environmental protection in Antarctica is task and challenge for all Consultative Parties. To international cooperation in this field the same principles should apply as to international cooperation in scientific research and associate logistic activities.

This primarily concerns cooperation with respect to Art 6 of the Protocol, but also bilateral cooperation.

1) Cooperation with respect to Art. 6 of the Protocol

In order to implement Art. 6 of the Protocol and especially paragraph 2 of this provision, it is important first of all to broaden and to strengthen exchange of information on the planning and carrying out of activities in Antarctica.

Furthermore in accordance with the other provisions of Art. 6 there is a need for

- the promotion of co-operative programmes
- assistance in the preparation of environmental impact assessments
- information on and assistance in environmental risks
- consultation on the planning of sites for prospective stations and other facilities

2) Bilateral Cooperation

As far as its bilateral cooperation is concerned, Germany since years has pursued the objective, to include as far as possible other Consultative Parties in its own activities in Antarctica. This is especially true in relation to those Consultative Parties which feel a need to catch up in special Antarctica related technologies and/or which want to reduce their otherwise higher financial burden in the framework of joint projects.

Germany also pursues these objectives with a view to environmental protection especially since the Protocol of Environmental Protection entered into force. Thus in the framework of a cooperation treaty with Argentine Germany and the Netherlands put a sewage treatment device at the disposal of the Argentine Antarctic Institute for use in the Jubany Station.

Generally it should be kept in mind that environmental protection also benefits from the various projects that Germany undertakes with other Consultative States in the area of scientific research and the associate logistic activities. In this sense joint projects with other Consultative States Parties are either planned or have already been put to practice. In this context Germany mainly focusses on the promotion of assistance in training, e.g. through participation in joint projects, invitation to relevant workshops and information visits to its Federal Environmental Agency.