

**Statement on IPCC Report on Good Practice and Uncertainty Management
In National Greenhouse Gas Inventories**

At SBSTA 12, Bonn, Germany, 12th June 2000

**By
Robert T. Watson, Chairman, IPCC**

The SBSTA at its 8th session in June, 1998 'encouraged the IPCC-OECD-IEA Inventories Programme to give high priority to completing its work on uncertainty, as well as to prepare a report on good practices in inventory management.'

A scoping meeting was held in Paris in October 1998 to response to this request. Four sectoral expert meetings, a cross-cutting meeting and a finalisation or wrap-up expert meeting were held in various parts of the world. On behalf of Co-chairs, Dr Buruhani Nyenzi and Mr Taka Hiraishi and members of the IPCC Inventory Task Force Bureau as well as myself behalf, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the many experts, especially Dr Jim Penman, Ms Dina Kruger and Mr Ian Galbally, the three project leaders in this work, as well as to governments, industrial and other non-governmental organisations for their dedicated and generous contributions in time, effort and support. With these, the report came to fruition when the IPCC Plenary formally accepted it five weeks ago in Montreal.

The Good Practice Report is orientated towards compiling inventories that are transparent, documented, consistent over time, complete, comparable, assessed for uncertainties, subject to quality control and assurance, and efficient in the use of resources. It does not revise or replace the *IPCC Guidelines*, but provides a reference that complements and is consistent with these Guidelines. Good Practice Guidance will provide improved understanding of inventory preparation and how uncertainties may be managed. Guidance is provided on how to choose the most appropriate method with each source category, on quality control and quality assurance and on data and information to be documented. Important guidance is provided on quantifying uncertainty at the source category level and for the inventory as a whole.

This report is an important complement to the revised 1996 IPCC inventory guidelines for all sectors except land use change and forestry, which was to be dealt with later. We believe that this report represents an important milestone in greenhouse gas inventory development. It is a significant additional instrument, along with better data collections and advances in science, in improving confidence in national inventory estimates.

We sincerely hope that the merits and utility of the IPCC Good Practice Report can be fully exploited in future preparation and improvement of national greenhouse gas inventories.

Before concluding, I would like to inform the Delegates that a copy of the full report has been made available to Delegations by the IPCC. In addition, together with this statement, Chapter one, "Introduction", which constitutes a good summary of the report, will be distributed more widely to the participants.

Thank you.

(Chapter one "Introduction of the IPCC Report on Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is attached.)

Note: This statement was read out at SBSTA 12 by Mr. Taka Hiraishi, Co-chair, IPCC Inventory Task Force Bureau on behalf of Dr. Watson.