



Milan, 2 December 2003

SBSTA-19

Agenda Item 8 Cooperation with scientific organisations and United Nations bodies

Statement on the IPCC Workprogramme

Mr Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to inform the SBSTA about the ongoing and planned work by the IPCC.

In the course of the recent months the IPCC was involved in intensive preparations for structuring the Fourth Assessment Report. We had two scoping meetings, one in Marrakech in April 2003 and the second in Potsdam in September 2003 in which over 130 and 150 experts participated and contributed to the development of the structure and outlines of the three Working Group reports. In the development and subsequent revisions of the outlines we also benefited from comments and extremely valuable inputs requested and received from governments over the course of the scoping process.

The outlines of the working group contributions to the AR4 were discussed and adopted at the sessions of the three IPCC Working Groups and subsequently accepted by the 21st session of the IPCC in November 2003 in Vienna, Austria. They can be viewed on the IPCC website and are available at the IPCC booth.

Let me recall that to enhance integration across working group reports the IPCC at its 20th session in February 2003 agreed on the use of cross cutting themes which are

- (1) Uncertainty & Risk,
- (2) Integration of Mitigation and Adaptation,
- (3) Article 2 of the UNFCCC and Key Vulnerabilities,
- (4) Sustainable Development,
- (5) Regional Integration,
- (6) Water, and
- (7) Technology.

With the acceptance of the outline of the AR4 the process has moved into the next phase, which is the selection of authors for the AR4. Let me draw your attention to the fact that last week the IPCC Secretariat has sent a call for nominations of experts that could act as authors and expert reviewers for the AR4 to all governments and participating organisations. Deadline for nominations will be the 20 January 2004. In line with IPCC procedures the Working Group Bureaux and the IPCC Bureau will select Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors for the respective chapters of the AR4, taking into consideration guidance received from the Panel such as to aim for geographical balance, involvement of new authors and for expanding the range of disciplines involved in preparing the AR4. Let me recall that the AR4 is scheduled to be finalized in the year 2007.

The Panel at its 21st session in November 2003 addressed also the question of whether to prepare an AR4 Synthesis report, its scope and nature. Many delegations stressed the

importance of producing a SYR and agreed that the main purpose of an AR4 SYR would be to provide governments, industry, business, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations with a comprehensive but concise policy-relevant synthesis of the AR4 Working Group reports. A range of views were expressed on its purpose, target audience, format, scope, content, length, timing and approval process, e.g. the SYR could

- Bring together the main messages from the individual WG reports;
- Synthesise cross-cutting information from the individual WG reports, including the AR4 cross-cutting themes;
- Provide a top-down perspective for decision makers on issues covered by AR4;
- Produce an overview of the key conclusions of AR4 in non-technical and readily translatable language;
- Re-assess the policy relevant questions addressed in the TAR SYR.

After extensive discussions the Panel agreed to establish a process that would enable decisions concerning an AR4 Synthesis Report to be taken, at its 22nd Session and requested its Chairman, to initiate the follow-up work which would include the organisation of an AR4 SYR Scoping Meeting to develop specific detailed recommendations on the scope, content and process for preparation of the AR4 SYR and to invite governments to comment on the output from the Scoping Meeting.

At its 21st session the IPCC agreed also to prepare a technical paper on climate change and water to be finalised in the 3^d quarter 2007. Based on the AR4 the technical paper would evaluate the impacts of climate variability and change on hydrological processes and regimes and on water resources, their use, quality and management.

At the recent Panel session an initial discussion was also held on the product set, including technical papers and outreach material that would result from the fourth assessment period. Many delegations stressed a need to ensure that the AR4 product set provides regionally relevant information, but that further scoping of needs and priorities and in view of the full range of proposed AR4 products is required. In this context may I invite suggestions from governments and other users of IPCC material concerning products that would meet their information requirements.

Since SBSTA-18 the IPCC has also advanced the preparation of the two special reports, both of them in response to an invitation by the UNFCCC.

The Special Report entitled: Safeguarding the ozone layer and the global climate system: issues related to hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons is prepared in cooperation with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol. The first lead authors meeting was held in August 2003 in the Netherlands and the second meeting will be held from 12-16 January 2004 in Boulder, USA. The report should be completed in time to be submitted to the 22nd session of the SBSTA meeting and to the Montreal Protocol 25th Open-ended Working Group, which both take place in the second quarter of 2005.

The first lead authors meeting for the Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage was held from 2 - 4 July 2003 in Oslo, Norway and the second one will be held from 15-18 December 2003 in Canberra, Australia. The expert review is scheduled to take place in March-April 2004. The Special Report should also be completed in the first half of 2005.

Let me refer briefly to the activities of the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, which are explained in more detail under other agenda items:

The IPCC at its 21st Session has adopted and accepted two methodology reports which were prepared following an invitation by COP-7, the report on good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry, also known as LULUCF Task 1 and the report on definitions and methodological options to inventory emissions from 'degradation' of forests and 'devegetation' of other vegetation types, known as LULUCF Task 2. The Panel at its 21st sessions also approved the terms of reference, table of content and workplan for the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories'.

Mr. Chairman allow me to conclude my mentioning that in approving the workplan and budget the Panel noted that the average annual requirements will increase from presently 4-5 million SFR per annum to around 6,2 Million CHF per annum for the forthcoming four-year period of the fourth assessment. The Panel therefore invited governments that are in a position to respond positively to contribute generously to the IPCC Trust Fund taking into account the increased financial requirements for the full assessment period.