



PRESS ADVISORY

IPCC to adopt major report on the impacts of climate change

Geneva, 12 February 2001 – Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from February 13-16 to finalize its contribution to the IPCC's Third Assessment Report.

The 1,000-page draft volume entitled "Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability" will be accepted in Geneva by government delegates from more than 100 countries, who will also approve a brief Summary for Policymakers. Acceptance by a Working Group signifies that a report presents a comprehensive, objective and balanced view of the topics covered by the report.

The acceptance of this report is the culmination of more than two years of work to assess the scientific literature related to vulnerability to, and potential impacts of, climate change by hundreds of scientists and technical experts from universities and private and public scientific, industry, environmental and other organizations worldwide.

Journalists can cover this new report in five ways:

* The report's Summary for Policymakers will be posted on the Internet in English at www.ipcc.ch, at 10h00 a.m. GMT on Monday, Feb.19.

* A press briefing will be held in Geneva at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Room B, 7 bis, avenue de la Paix, Geneva at 10:30 a.m. local time on Monday, 19 February.

* TV crews may enter the meeting briefly at 10h Tuesday the 13th accompanied by a press officer. The meeting is otherwise closed to press. Please contact Michael Williams (see below).

* Telephone interviews can be arranged on Monday the 19th. Working Group II Co-Chairs James McCarthy (USA) and Osvaldo Canziani (Argentina), IPCC Chairman Robert Watson, and other IPCC experts and scientists can be reached in Geneva via the following contacts:

- Renate Christ, IPCC Secretariat, +41-22-7308 574 or christ_r@gateway.wmo.ch
- Michael Williams, UNEP Geneva, +41-22-9178-242/244/196, +41-79-409-1528 (cell) or mwilliams@unep.ch

* Interviews can also be arranged after Feb. 20 with experts who have returned home. Please contact:

- Kasey White, IPCC WG2 Technical Support Unit, +1-202-314-2228 or kwhite@usgcrp.gov
- Michael Williams, UNEP Geneva, +41-22-9178-242/244/196 or michael.williams@unep.ch
- Tim Higham, UNEP Bangkok, +662 288 2127 or higham.unescap@un.org

The Working Group I report, "Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis", addresses observed and projected changes in climate and was accepted in Shanghai in January 2001. The Working Group III report assessing options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise mitigating climate change will be finalized in Accra, Ghana from 28 February to 3 March.



The final report of Working Group II of the IPCC will address, among others, the issues identified below. Findings from the report regarding these and other issues will not be provided in advance of acceptance of the report by the Plenary Session of Working Group II and are embargoed until February 19.

Water resources

- The effects of climate change on water supplies, water demands, and flood and drought hazards.
- Adaptation options and capacity in water management and water use.

Agriculture and Food Supply

- The effects of climate change on crop yields and food supply.
- Adaptation options and capacity in agriculture.

Terrestrial Ecosystems

- The effects of climate change on forest, grassland, desert, aquatic, and alpine ecosystems and their wildlife.
- Adaptation options and capacity for management of ecosystems.

Coastal Zones and Marine Ecosystems

- The effects of climate change and sea level rise on coastal zones and marine ecosystems.
- Adaptation options and capacity for coastal zones and marine ecosystems.

Human Settlements, Energy and Industry

- Vulnerabilities of human settlements, energy and industry to climate change, including potential changes in extreme weather hazards.
- Adaptation options and capacity in human settlements and industry.

Insurance and Other Financial Services

- Trends in economic and insured losses from extreme climate events and vulnerabilities of the financial sector to climate change.
- Adaptation options and capacity in the financial sector.

Human Health

- The effects of climate change on human health, including changes in exposure to infectious diseases (e.g. malaria, Dengue) and death rates and illness associated with heat stress and cold weather.
- Adaptation options and capacity to protect public health.

Key regional concerns, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities in:

- Africa
- Asia
- Australia and New Zealand
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctic)
- Small Island States
