

REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE
IPCC BUREAU

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

GENEVA, 18-19 SEPTEMBER 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Prof. B. Bolin, Chairman of the IPCC, opened the session at 1005 hours on Monday, 18 September 1995 in Sir Arthur Davies Hall of the World Meteorological Organization. The agenda and the list of participants are attached in Appendices A and B respectively to this report.
2. The Bureau adopted the draft report of its eighth session (Nairobi, 9 November 1994).

COOPERATION WITH THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTA) OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (FCCC)

3. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the IPCC that the IPCC Chairman and the Co-Chairmen of the Working Groups be authorized to meet to the extent required with the SBSTA Bureau to work out details such as the topics, schedule for completion and other relevant matters in order for IPCC to provide the best possible scientific and technical information to SBSTA for the latter's needs. An iterative process could thus be set in motion for agreements between the IPCC and the COP. The Bureau expressed the view that the requirements of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) of the COP should also be considered in this context.
4. The Chairman brought these points to the attention of the Chairmen of SBSTA and of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the COP, who attended part of the session by invitation. The latter Chairmen concurred with the view that joint meetings of the kind held between the IPCC and the INC (Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change) should be of help. Also, from the COP side, the members of the Bureaux of SBSTA and SBI, and some members of the COP Bureau could attend these meetings.
5. The SBSTA would be the main interface between IPCC and the FCCC. Its programme of work for 1996-1997, which contains a preliminary list of areas in which it could draw upon the assistance of the IPCC, is to be found in appendix C. The Chairman of SBSTA indicated that there was no particular priority attached to the areas on the list and that the SBSTA had recognized that some of them might be the focus of near-term efforts while others might require more time. The list was the subject of some discussion by the Bureau (see last part of paragraph 8 below). The representative of the FCCC Secretariat pointed to the decisions from the AGBM that any specialized inputs it would need from the IPCC, should be obtained through the SBSTA or SBI and through the Secretariat.
6. It was agreed that a first meeting of the Joint Working Group of the IPCC and the FCCC would be scheduled for the afternoon of 27 October 1995 in Geneva.

IPCC WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1996-2000

7. The Bureau agreed that the Chairman should recommend to the IPCC that the Third Assessment Report (TAR) be completed towards the end of the year 2000. Planning for the same should begin in late 1997 or early 1998.

8. In the interim, the Bureau envisaged two kinds of reports that IPCC could complete that would (i) satisfy the requirements of SBSTA, SBI and AGBM, and (ii) serve to prepare for the TAR:

i. Clarifications or elaborations of the material in the Second Assessment Report to serve specific purposes. It should be possible to complete these in about 9 months. They would take the form of a series of IPCC Technical Papers¹. They would be written by either the Bureaux of the Working Groups² or by writing teams specially commissioned, depending on the subject matter, and would be reviewed by small numbers of other experts in the relevant fields. The IPCC rule of including at least one expert from the developing world in each writing team would be adhered to. Also, experts selected to review should include experts from the developing world.

Examples of topics for the Papers might be

- * documentation on the uncertainties in the calculations of climate models;
- * evaluation of the potential effectiveness and implications of measures proposed to fulfill the objective of the Convention using models and approaches already available in the IPCC process;
- * further information about the latest and future technologies for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), enhancing sinks of GHGs, and adapting to climate change, including evaluation of existing case studies of the feasibility of using technologies in different circumstances and information on related international initiatives and programmes.
- * inventory and evaluation of impacts models.

ii. A series of IPCC Special Reports that would be helpful for the third assessment and, in a general way, to COP. These would take 12 to 18 months to complete and could follow IPCC Procedures as amended for Working Group I (Report of the Tenth Session of the IPCC, Nairobi, 10-12 November 1995).

¹ The name discussed at the session was Chairman's Reports. IPCC Technical Papers is suggested instead since the papers would be written and reviewed by small groups of experts (under the overall direction of the IPCC Chairman).

² The Bureau of a Working Group consists of its Co-chairs and Vice-chairs. In the case of Working Group II, it may be recalled, the Vice-chairs are also the Co-chairs of its four Sub-groups.

Examples of topics for the Special Reports might be:

- * simple climate models including carbon cycle models;
- * detection of climate change;
- * assessment and provision of regional climate scenarios for impact analyses;
- * Integrated Assessment of land-use implications of climate change;

The SBSTA list of requests to the IPCC (appendix C) also contains a number of potential topics for both the Technical Papers and the Special Reports.

9. The completion of these tasks would require quick turnaround in all phases of the work, particularly in the early phases such as the selection of the writing teams. The number and content of the Technical Papers and the Special Reports would be regularly reported to the IPCC.

10. The Bureau agreed that the above hierarchy of IPCC outputs should be proposed to the IPCC.

11. The Chairmen of SBSTA and SBI were briefed with respect to the above.

12. The Bureau was unanimous in endorsing further work to improve the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The Chairman of SBSTA pointed out the need to include a reexamination of methane emissions from rice fields as the developing countries had raised the issue at the first SBSTA session (Geneva, 28-30 August 1995).

13. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the IPCC that the Chairman of the IPCC and the Co-Chairmen of the Working Groups be authorized to formulate a proposed programme of work, based on the approvals reached at the Eleventh Session of the IPCC, to be communicated to SBSTA for its concurrence at its next meeting in February 1996.

EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BUREAU

14. The Bureau agreed that the IPCC Chairman recommend to the IPCC that the term of office of the Bureau, which would expire three years after its election in November 1992, be extended until elections could be held to elect a new Bureau in time to plan and complete the Third Assessment Report.

STATUS OF THE IPCC TRUST FUND AND THE IPCC BUDGET FOR 1996-1997

15. The Secretary reported that no serious shortfall in funds was projected through the end of the year but funds were needed for 1996 and beyond.

16. The representative of the FCCC Secretariat stated that contributions from the COP to the IPCC Trust Fund would be possible only if sufficient funds were contributed to COP. Also,

whatever was allocated for IPCC in the COP budget was for services rendered, including further development of the Guidelines for National GHG Inventories.

17. The preliminary IPCC work programme for 1996-1997 that resulted from the foregoing discussions is shown in Table 1. It does not include the preparation of the IPCC Technical Papers since their undertaking is subject to IPCC approval. Moreover, their number and topics would be subject to discussion between the SBSTA and the IPCC.

18. A budget proposal would be submitted to the IPCC at its Eleventh Session based on the preliminary work programme outlined in Table 1. The proposal made by the Ad Hoc IPCC Financial Task Group at the Tenth Session of the IPCC on long term IPCC funding would be revised in the light of the discussions at the Tenth Session and within the Bureau (at this ninth session), the IPCC Working Groups and the COP in the past year, and would also be submitted to the IPCC.

TABLE 1

	1996	1997	1998
IPCC	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	4th Qtr.
IPCC Bureau	3rd Qtr.	TBD	TBD
Working Group I: 1. Workshop for top down-bottom up comparison of national inventories of GHGs 2. Workshop on methane emission factors from rice fields 3. Special Report on detection of climate change 4. Workshop on Simple Climate Models incl. carbon cycle models (Special Report)	2nd Qtr.	1st Qtr. 2nd Qtr.	1st Qtr.

5. Plenary to approve Phase II Guidelines		1st Qtr.	
6. Plenary to approve 3 & 4 above			3rd Qtr.
Working Group II: 1. Workshop on Regional Climate Scenarios (jointly with other WGs) - Special Report 2. Workshop on Land Use and Land Use Modelling, jointly with other WGs (Special Report) 3. Plenary	2nd Qtr.	1st Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
Working Group III: 1. Workshop on Integrated Assessment Models (jointly with WG II) (Special Report) 2. Workshop on Estimation of Climate Change Damages (Special Report)	TBD	TBD	

OTHER MATTERS

19. The Bureau expressed the view that the IPCC should try to establish liaison with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure that both are kept apprised of each other's work and to promote cooperation between them, as appropriate.

20. The Bureau agreed that the Principles Governing IPCC Work and the IPCC Procedures be reviewed by the IPCC as soon as possible.

21. The Bureau pointed out the desirability of disseminating the information contained in the Second Assessment Report through information exchange seminars as was done with the First Assessment Report and through news bulletins. The budgetary implications of such dissemination of information would be included in the budget proposal to be made to IPCC-XI (see para 18 above).

NEXT SESSION OF THE BUREAU

22. A session of the Bureau had been tentatively proposed for 8 December 1995 (before the Eleventh Session of the IPCC). The Bureau decided that it would not meet on that day. Instead, the timing for the next session was suggested to be around late September/early October 1996.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

23. The session closed at 1740 hours on Tuesday, 19 September 1995.