



**SBSTA-23 Agenda Item 11 (b) Cooperation with relevant international organisations
Progress Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Presented by the Secretary of the IPCC Dr. Renate Christ**

Montreal, Canada, 29 November 2005

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to provide you with an update of IPCC activities since the last Session of SBSTA in May this year.

Main achievements of the IPCC this year were the completion of two Special Reports. The IPCC/TEAP Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons was already present at the 22nd Session of SBSTA. The published report was distributed to delegations this morning.

The Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage was approved and accepted by the 8th Session of IPCC Working Group 3 and the 24th Session of the Panel in September this year here in Montreal. The report will be considered by this session later today. A detailed presentation about content and findings of the reports will be given at a special side event on 30 November at 1 p.m. Copies of the published report will be distributed to delegations later this week. Summaries of the reports in UN languages are available at the IPCC stand.

At its 24th Session in September 2005 the IPCC discussed possible future roles of IPCC in developing new scenarios. To prepare for this discussion a workshop on new emission scenarios was organized from 29 June – 1 July 2005 in Laxenburg, Austria. The general consensus of the workshop was that there is a strong need for scientifically sound and widely supported new emission scenarios for research, policy analysis and for helping to produce assessments of climate change, that it is important for emission scenarios to span a wide range of socio-economic and emissions outcomes and to have the underpinning socio-economic drivers, which would make them suitable for impacts, vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation assessment. The general view was that the IPCC should facilitate or coordinate the development of new emission scenarios by the scientific community rather than the IPCC developing new scenarios itself.

Following the recommendations from the workshop the Panel decided that there is a need for new emissions scenarios to be available well before the completion of a possible AR5 and it set up a Task Group for further defining the kind of facilitation or coordination that needs to be undertaken by IPCC, to specify deliverables, process, timeline and organizational arrangements and to consider the possibility of encouraging a wider family of non-climate scenarios within which emissions scenarios might sit. The Task Group will prepare proposals, which will be discussed at an expert meeting and present a plan of work to IPCC-25 for decision-making.

Work on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is progressing and the report is scheduled for adoption by IPCC-25 in April 2006. The second of the IPCC mandated reviews has been carried out and the Lead Authors will consider the review comments as well as change in the structure of the report in two weeks at their last meeting in Sydney, Australia. The Emission Factor Database is being further developed and it is expected that it will become an important tool in the context of the 2006 Guidelines.

In May this year an expert meeting on aerosols was organized by the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, which recommended further action address this matter. The Panel at its 24th session considered that proposal but in the light of the complexity of the issue and ongoing assessment work in the AR4 it agreed not to take any further action on emission estimation of aerosols relevant to climate change before the AR4 is completed and to revisit the item after completion of the AR4.

Following discussions about challenges to research on climate change impacts and adaptation, in particular data needs, the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Assessment (TGICA) presented to IPCC-24 proposals for enhancing capacity in developing and transition-economy countries. TGICA urges governments and organizations to be proactive in promoting data access, such as through mentorship and guidance, dissemination of CDs, DVDs, and other simple media forms containing data products relevant to targeted sectors and regions, facilitation of access to trans-national regional historical data, and assistance in data rescue. TGICA would be pleased to serve as resource and information clearinghouse for such activities.

Finally let me inform you that the writing and review process for IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) is advancing according to schedule and the arrangements for the preparation of the AR4 Synthesis Report are progressing well. All three Working Groups have prepared their first order drafts. The Expert Review for the contributions of Working Groups 1 and 2 has been completed and the Lead Authors will meet to consider the review comments in December 2005 and January 2006 respectively.

The Expert Review of the contribution of Working Group 3 has just started and will end on 20 January 2006. The second review by governments and experts will take place in the course of the year 2006 in the following order: Working Group 1 from 10 April to 2 June 2006; Working Group 2 from 26 May to 21 July 2006, and Working Group 3 from 24 July 2006 to 15 September 2006. We encourage all governments to actively participate in this second review, which is an essential element in the IPCC assessment process. The Panel at its 24th session agreed also to develop a broad information strategy for the dissemination of the AR4. In this context we would seek efforts and partnership from other organisations and governments.

Thank you Mr. Chairman