

Report to the 11th Session of SBSTA on the Status of the IPCC

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Distinguished delegates, it is a real pleasure and honor for me to be invited to address you today. All of us associated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), appreciate the close collaboration that exists between the IPCC and the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC, and the Secretariat to the UNFCCC.

Since I last had the opportunity to address you here in Bonn four months ago the IPCC has continued to make significant progress on the preparation of the Third Assessment Report (TAR) and the three Special Reports: (i) Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Opportunities for Technology Cooperation; (ii) Emissions Scenarios of Greenhouse Gases and Aerosol Precursors; and (iii) Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

In my presentation today I would like to update you on the status of each of these reports and on the potentially dire situation of the IPCC budget. Later in this same SBSTA session, I am scheduled to present some of the "provisional findings" from the Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. These "provisional findings" will be presented in much greater detail by some of the lead authors of the Special Report tomorrow at a special side-event that was requested by SBSTA in June. I must stress that these findings are provisional and subject to change following the government and expert review process, which began late last week.

Let me briefly summarize the current situation regarding the Third Assessment Report and the other Special Reports.

Third Assessment Report

While we are still in the early phase of the preparation of the TAR we are making excellent progress. Each of the three Working Reports will be sent for expert review early next year followed later by a government/expert review. As I noted in June, the philosophy of the TAR will:

- emphasize the regional dimensions of climate change, cross-sectoral issues and adaptation;
- place the issue of climate change more centrally within the evolving socio-economic context; and embrace the concept of sustainable development; and
- identify the synergies and trade-offs between local, regional and global environmental issues.

In addition, the TAR is emphasizing four key cross-cutting issues for which papers have already been prepared to guide each of the Working Groups in their treatment of these issues:

- uncertainties;
- development, sustainability and equity;
- costing methodologies; and
- decision-making frameworks.

Special Reports

Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Opportunities for Technology Cooperation

The Special Report has already undergone an expert and expert/government review and is currently being revised. Given the number of important review comments on the Summary of Policymakers and the lack of a Technical Summary in the previous version which was peer-reviewed, a technical summary and a revised SPM have been prepared and have been sent out for an additional round of government/expert peer-review. The Plenary to

approve/accept this Report is scheduled for March 2000.

This Report examines the flows of knowledge, experience and equipment among governments, private sector entities, financial institutions, NGOs, and research/education institutions, and the different roles that each of these stakeholders can play in facilitating the transfer of technologies to address climate change in the context of sustainable development. The Report provisionally concludes that the current efforts and established processes will not be sufficient to meet this challenge, and assesses:

- the trends in technology transfer;
- the different pathways, stages and barriers to technology transfer and ways to increase the flow and improve the quality;
- government actions that create the enabling environment for private sector technology transfers within and across national boundaries;
- mechanisms for technology transfer; and
- key actions for the transfer of mitigation and adaptation technologies for a range of sectors.

Emissions Scenarios of Greenhouse Gases and Aerosol Precursors

The Special Report has already undergone an expert review and is currently undergoing an expert/government review. The plenary to approve/accept this Report is scheduled for March 2000.

This Report examines a wide range of plausible futures for greenhouse gas and aerosol precursor emissions over the next 100 years using four broad story-lines and a marker scenario within each story-line to illustrate the key features of that story-line. The methodology for developing these new scenarios recognized that there were interactions among the key determinants, e.g., population growth, economic growth, energy demand, energy prices and the level of research and development. The new scenarios do not include any additional climate policies but some do assume sulfur policies in developing countries in accordance with the emerging literature in this area and supported by current initiatives in a number of key developing countries.

Land-Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

The Special Report has already undergone an expert review and is currently undergoing an expert/government review. The plenary to approve/accept this Report is scheduled for April/May 2000.

It is well recognized that the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will need to make a number of key decisions with respect to definitions, the accounting system, a monitoring and reporting system, and inventory guidelines before the relevant Articles of the Protocol can be implemented. Therefore, this Special Report, from which I will present some of the provisional findings later today, provides scientific and technical information that will be useful to the Parties in making these decisions by addressing a series of questions in each of these critical areas. In addition, the Report provides an assessment of the experience to date of land use, land use change and forestry projects (largely AII projects), the future potential to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases through Articles 3.3, 3.4, 6 and 12, and a framework for assessing sustainable development issues.

Budget

When I last addressed you in June I noted that the IPCC was facing a significant budget problem because of: (i) the large number of special reports, coincident with the preparation of the TAR; (ii) the enhanced regional emphasis, and (iii) the increased participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Unfortunately I cannot report any significant response from the majority of governments. There are numerous OECD countries represented here today that actively request IPCC to undertake Special Reports and play a central role in defining the overall work program, who are contributing little to nothing towards financing the IPCC. Its even more remarkable given that a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition have already made contributions, including Peru, Mauritius, and Slovenia. This lack of financial commitment from a number of countries is rather disturbing given the incredible effort of the scientific, technical and economic experts who give so freely of their time to assist the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

If the IPCC is to continue to serve the needs of the Parties additional governments will have to contribute to the IPCC Trust Fund, and some of those who routinely contribute will have to increase their contributions. I have discussed funding with the GEF Secretariat but been told that IPCC assessments are not consistent with the work program defined by the GEF Council and do not represent capacity building in developing countries and hence, the

GEF cannot be viewed as a source of potential funding. Again I find this quite remarkable given that the inclusion of developing country experts is an essential feature of the IPCC and that so many of you argue that the work of the IPCC provides much of the scientific and technical basis for your decisions, hence the implementation of the Convention and, if ratified, the Kyoto Protocol. I sincerely hope that the IPCC can deliver the information you need in a timely manner, but if it fails it will not be the fault of the scientific community but many of the governments in this room who are taking a free ride at the expense of others. I appeal to each government representative at this meeting to discuss this serious situation with the relevant agency in your government to help resolve this situation.
