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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



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Agenda item: 5
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POST-TAR WORK PROGRAMME

(Submitted by the Chairman)

Proposal submitted for consideration regarding:

- (i) A Special Report on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Key Interactions
- (ii) A Scoping/Expert Meeting to Prepare the Ground for this Special Report

Agenda Item 5. Post-TAR Work Programme

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A. Importance of Incorporating Sustainable Development Issues into IPCC Work

Previous IPCC plenaries have repeatedly and overwhelmingly endorsed the importance of more comprehensive coverage of sustainable development concerns in the work of the IPCC. Both WMO and UNEP have stressed the importance of this linkage. Article 2 of the UNFCCC clearly recognizes the same point. Accordingly, the TAR process included a Guidance Paper on Development, Equity and Sustainability (DES), two expert meetings on these issues, and a systematic attempt to incorporate them into relevant chapters in the WGII and WGIII reports.

B. Lessons Learned from the TAR Process

At the twenty first session of the IPCC Bureau, there was a review of the treatment of development, equity and sustainability (DES), and sustainable development (SD) issues within the TAR, and both successes and failures were noted. On the positive side, the TAR has addressed sustainable development issues better than the SAR. However, the actual incorporation of such issues into the TAR fell short of the high initial expectations. Several key reasons for this outcome, were identified:

1. The late start of the process for introducing sustainable development issues into the TAR ultimately limited the impact of this exercise on the TAR itself. The TAR chapters were already quite advanced when the DES Guidance Paper was finalized. Thus, lead authors were often too pre-occupied with meeting tight deadlines for revising existing drafts, to pay sufficient attention to sustainable development concerns.
2. The selection of lead authors took place too early, to take into account the mix of skills and expertise required to address many of the sustainable development concerns identified during the preparation of the Guidance Paper.
3. The DES Guidance Paper was restricted to about 40 pages, and had to cover the full range of sustainable development issues, thereby limiting the specificity of the guidance it was able to offer to lead authors.

C. Urgent Follow-up Action Required in the Post-TAR Work Programme and in Preparation for Further IPCC Activities

One clear conclusion at the twenty first IPCC Bureau meeting was that the treatment of sustainable development issues should be further strengthened in subsequent IPCC work. To achieve this goal, two key steps were identified; they are submitted for consideration by the IPCC Plenary as an important element of the post-TAR work programme:

1. A *Special Report on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Key Interactions* (SRCCSD).
2. A *Scoping/Expert Meeting* to prepare the ground for this Special Report.

The timetable envisaged for this process is to have the scoping/expert meeting in July/August 2001, and complete the SRCCSD by mid-2003. This schedule is advisable in order to maintain momentum on such an important issue; make use of the relative availability of key experts during a period when there are fewer competing IPCC activities; and enable the SRCCSD to influence subsequent IPCC work, as much as possible.

D. Objectives of SRCCSD

The special report will build on the TAR work, and feed into future IPCC activities. It will seek to provide helpful information and guidance, by focusing on key issues arising from the interactions of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, with all relevant aspects of sustainable development (especially its economic, social and environmental dimensions). It would also provide practical applications and case studies, relating to adaptation and mitigation responses. Important topics to be addressed in SRCCSD might include:

1. Specific sustainable development criteria that are relevant for climate change.
2. Climate change impacts on poverty and equity in the context of sustainable development.
3. Sustainability of most important and vulnerable environmental and socio-economic systems.
4. Interlinkages with critical productive sectors (eg., food and agriculture, energy, transport, water, and industry).
5. Implications for region-specific sustainable development prospects.

In summary, the earlier preparation; tighter focus on key interactions between climate change and sustainable development; increased writing time; and greater length; would enable this Special Report to provide more detailed and helpful information for future IPCC work. The SRCCSD would be a robust and useful cornerstone of whatever work program that emerges, because of the increasing policy relevance of the interactions between climate change and sustainable development.

E. Outline of Scoping/Expert Meeting

1. **Timing:** July/August 2001.
2. **Venue:** Colombo, Sri Lanka, or elsewhere convenient.
3. **Format:** 2-3 day workshop with invited papers and breakout discussion groups.
4. **Key themes and objectives:** To identify and scope out key issues arising from the nexus of climate change and sustainable development, as preparation for future IPCC work. Specific workshop goals include:
 - Review lessons learned from TAR
 - Identify main issues linking CC and SD, especially policy relevant scientific questions
 - Determine gaps in scientific knowledge that need to be filled
 - Prepare preliminary drafts of a TOR and chapter outline for SRCCSD
 - Identify potential SRCCSD writing team members, with necessary expertise
5. **Steering Committee:** Mainly drawn from IPCC Working Groups 2 and 3.
6. **Local Organizers:** Govt. of Sri Lanka (Centre for Climate Change Studies), in association with LIFE
7. **Participants:** About 25-30 international experts on climate change for the scoping/expert meeting.