

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

EIGHTEENTH SESSION  
Wembley, UK  
24-29 September 2001

IPCC-XVIII/Doc. 2  
(14.VIII.2001)

Agenda item: 2  
ENGLISH ONLY

**REPORT  
OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)**

Nairobi, 4 – 6 April, 2001

(Submitted by the Secretary)

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**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)**

1.1. Dr. Robert T. Watson, the Chairman of the IPCC, called the session to order at 10.10 hours on Wednesday, 4 April 2001 at the headquarters building of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya.

1.2 In his address to the Panel Prof. G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, congratulated the Working Group Co-chairs for completing the first parts of the Third Assessment Report, which convey a powerful message. He highlighted the importance of sound data for monitoring and predicting the climate system and noted with concern the decline in observational networks. In concluding he assured the Panel the continued support from WMO.

1.3 Dr. K. Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment congratulated the Panel for its progress in the Third Assessment Report, which shows new and clearer evidence of climate change. He appreciated the information on low cost mitigation options and noted with concern the consequences of climate change for least developed countries. In assuring the continued support of UNEP to the IPCC he referred explicitly to the recent decision 21/9 by the UNEP Governing Council.

1.4 Mr. M. Zammit Cutajar, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change mentioned that this is his last occasion to address to the Panel. He emphasised the value of the scientific information provided by the IPCC for the Convention process and called the establishment of the IPCC an act of foresight. He encouraged the continuation of a 5-year assessment cycle, and highlighted the need to integrate scientific assessments in sustainable development consideration and to communicate with a wider audience.

1.5 The agenda, as adopted, is attached in Appendix A.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION (agenda item 2)**

2.1 The draft report of the sixteenth session was adopted with the following amendments:

- a. in paragraph 6.2.3 insert “Interim” before “Terms of Reference”
- b. in paragraph 7.3 replace “Working Group II” by “Working Group III”

2.2 One delegation noted that appendices to the report are missing. Another delegation noted that the report does not adequately cover all nuances of the discussion. The approved report is attached in Appendix B.

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP I (Shanghai, 17-20 January 2001), AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP II (Geneva, 13-16 February 2001) AND AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP III (Accra, 28 February – 3 March 2001) (agenda item 3)**

**a) Acceptance of the actions taken at the Eighth Session of Working Group I**

3.1 Sir John Houghton, on behalf of the Co-Chairmen of Working Group I introduced the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Third Assessment Report comprising the Summary for Policymakers as approved and the underlying assessment as accepted by the Working Group, to the Panel.

3.2 The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) was accepted by the Panel. The accepted SPM is attached in Appendix C.

#### **b) Acceptance of the actions taken at the Sixth Session of Working Group II**

3.3 Prof. James McCarthy, on behalf of the Co-Chairmen of Working Group II introduced the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Third Assessment Report comprising the Summary for Policymakers as approved and the underlying assessment as accepted by the Working Group, to the Panel.

3.4 Several delegates noted that Working Group II did not address the level of greenhouse gas concentrations that would cause dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system (Art. 2 UNFCCC).

3.5 It was noted by Antigua and Barbuda and supported by other delegations, to explicitly mention in paragraph 2.8 of the Summary for Policymakers after particularly least developed countries “and small island developing states amongst them” and to replace in table SPM-2 Small Island States with “Small Island Developing States”. The requested change could not be accepted as the SPM was already approved by the Working Group.

3.6 The Summary for Policymakers was accepted by the Panel. The accepted SPM is attached in Appendix D.

#### **c) Acceptance of the actions taken at the Sixth Session of Working Group III**

3.7 Prof. Ogunlade Davidson on behalf of the Co-Chairmen of Working Group III introduced the Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Third Assessment Report comprising the Summary for Policymakers as approved and the underlying assessment as accepted by the Working Group, to the Panel.

3.8 The Summary for Policymakers was accepted by the Panel. The accepted SPM is attached in Appendix E.

### **4. PROGRESS OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT (agenda item 4)**

4.1 The Chairman informed the Panel that the draft Synthesis Report had been sent out for simultaneous expert/government review. He also informed delegates that translations of the draft report in the official UN languages will be sent to governments in two weeks time.

### **5. POST-TAR WORK PROGRAMME INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF THE NEW BUREAU AND THE IPCC WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002-2004 (Item 5)**

#### **a) Future Work Programme of the IPCC**

5.1 The chairman introduced document IPCC-XVII/Doc.4 about the future work programme of the IPCC and invited delegates to comment on general aspects of the future IPCC work-programme and on the specific decisions suggested in the document.

5.2 The following points emerged in the discussion on general aspects:

- a. There is a need for comprehensive, independent, credible, transparent and policy relevant assessment and therefore delegations strongly endorsed that the IPCC continues its work.
- b. An endorsement by the Governing Bodies of the IPCC parent organisations UNEP and WMO is important. The decision by the 21<sup>st</sup> UNEP Governing Council, which reaffirms its strong support for the IPCC was explicitly welcome.
- c. A sound financial basis is essential for future work.
- d. The participation of developing country experts needs to be strengthened, and the choice of lead authors should ensure global coverage.
- e. Further efforts are needed to include more non-english literature.

5.3 In the discussion about comprehensive assessments, special reports, and responses to requests from the UNFCCC and other bodies the following points emerged:

- a. There was broad agreement to continue with comprehensive assessment reports.
- b. A number of delegations supported the suggestion to aim for shorter more focused reports and to highlight emerging findings and new developments.
- c. Cross cutting issues, in particular links with sustainable development and other environmental problems deserve more attention.
- d. Special reports were considered very useful and many delegations spoke in favour of organising them under the guidance of an IPCC Working Group, which should also provide technical support. Special reports that cut across Working Groups could be prepared under the guidance of a Vice-chair or ad-hoc co-chairs, and supported by an ad-hoc technical support unit or a strengthened IPCC Secretariat.
- e. Many delegations supported five-year intervals between assessment reports, while others suggested longer intervals or greater flexibility in particular when more special reports are prepared.
- f. A range of views was expressed regarding requests from the UNFCCC and other organisations. Most delegations were of the opinion that priority should be given to requests from the UNFCCC, but that the IPCC should also be responsive to other requests, in particular from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, provided that the topic lies within the mandate of the IPCC.
- g. Many delegations emphasised that the IPCC needs to remain independent in defining its priorities and work programme. In defining the future work programme a feasible timeline and financial implications need careful consideration.

5.4 Regarding Working Group structure, size of the Bureau and procedures the following views emerged:

- a. There was strong support to maintain the structure and scope of the present three IPCC Working Groups.
- b. A number of delegations recommended stronger emphasis on economic aspects and social dimensions in Working Group II and a better coverage of technical aspects in Working Group III.
- c. Many delegations expressed the view that the Task Force on Inventories shall become a fourth Working Group. A range of views was expressed about the scope and terms of references of such a Working Group.
- d. Most delegations considered the size of the Bureau appropriate. However, Saudi Arabia suggested that the size of the Bureau be increased and that the actions of the Bureau become more transparent. Several delegations reiterated the role of Bureau Members as representatives of their region.
- e. Many delegates noted that the role of the IPCC Vice-chairmen needs further clarification. A range of vies was expressed on whether to limit the number of Vice-chairs or to assign specific tasks.
- f. There was an overwhelming support for maintaining the existing principles and procedures.

- g. Specific procedures for acceptance of methodology work and a clarification of the interaction between Panel and Bureau may be considered as addenda to the existing procedures.

5.5 Regarding priorities for the future work programme the evaluation of observational data and of the probability of emissions scenarios was highlighted. Furthermore delegates mentioned topics such as improved understanding of regional impacts and adaptation costs, extreme events and critical thresholds, reduction of uncertainties in climate projections, and further assessment of technical aspects of mitigation options and promising technology paths.

5.6 Delegations were invited to submit further comments within four weeks. The Chairman will revise the paper on the future work programme of the IPCC within about one month, send it to governments for review and then further revise it for consideration at IPCC-XVIII.

#### **b) Inter linkages between biological diversity and climate change**

5.7 The Chairman introduced document IPCC-XVII/Doc.4, Add. 2 about the outcome of discussions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity on a wider assessment of the inter linkages between biological diversity and climate change. The IPCC is invited to contribute to this assessment process by preparing a technical paper and identifying experts.

5.8 The Panel agreed to prepare a technical paper and decided to set up a scoping team, selected by the Working Group Co-chairmen and the IPCC Chairman, which will prepare a scoping paper and outline for the technical paper in time for SBSTA-14. A final decision on scope, outline and selection of authors will be taken at IPCC-XVIII.

5.9 Russia objected to this decision and expressed the view that the IPCC needs to define its priorities before it can respond to this request.

#### **c) Proposal for a special report on climate change and sustainable development**

5.10 A proposal was submitted for consideration by the Panel regarding a special report on the key interactions between climate change and sustainable development. A scoping meeting was proposed to prepare the ground for such a report (see document IPCC-XVII/CRP.1).

5.11 While many delegations expressed support for a special report others disagreed. All delegations agreed that if a scoping meeting were to be agreed careful consideration of the scope of such an activity and co-ordination with other processes addressing sustainable development issues are required.

5.12 The panel decided to approve a scoping meeting to be held in August 2001. The scoping team would comprise of 30 experts, among them 15 from developing countries. The scoping paper shall outline options on how to proceed further, a timetable and budgetary implications, and address the links with other relevant ongoing processes. The focus needs to be on environmental dimensions, including social components. The scoping paper shall be available four weeks before IPCC-XVIII to enable the Panel to take a decision on that matter.

#### **d) IPCC Work Programme and Budget for 2002-2004**

5.13 Mr. L. Meyer, Co-chairman of the Financial Task Team introduced the proposal by the task team. He noted that the proposed budget for the year 2002 does not contain any provisions for IPCC programme activities and is for information only. It will be considered further at IPCC-XVIII in the light of decisions taken about the future IPCC work programme. He mentioned that the question of a financial reserve needs to be discussed in the future.

5.14 The decision taken by the Panel on the IPCC Work Programme and Budget is attached in Appendix F.

#### **e) Terms of Reference for the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories**

5.15 The Panel requested the Task Force Bureau (TFB) to develop within the next two months an options paper on Terms of References for the NGGIP including options on the future status of the NGGIP and appropriate procedures for approval of its products.

5.16 Regarding further work on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – Land-use Change and Forestry the Panel concurred with the following recommendation submitted by the TFB Co-chairs on behalf of the TFB:

5.17 The Panel:

- a. noted the previous requests by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the UNFCCC to progress activities related to good practice guidance and uncertainty management for the Land Use Change and Forestry Sector of National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;
- b. noted that the report on Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, which had been accepted by the Panel at its XVIth Session, had covered all Inventory Sectors other than Land Use Change and Forestry;
- c. decided to pursue further work on the elaboration of Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management to meet the Inventory reporting requirements of the Parties under the UNFCCC related to Land Use Change and Forestry;
- d. noted that the IPCC will need to take into account any further decisions or guidance from meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC;
- e. requests the Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories to organise the work on Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management for the Land Use Change and Forestry Sector, beginning with an Expert Group Planning Meeting to be held in advance of the XVIIIth meeting of the Panel;
- f. requests the Secretary of the IPCC to write to governments inviting nominations for participants in the Planning Meeting and nominations for Lead Authors;
- g. decides to consider the report of the Planning Meeting and proposed work programme at the XVIIIth session of the Panel.

#### **f) IPCC Communication Strategy**

5.18 The Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group on Communication Strategy of the Bureau, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, presented a report on information and outreach activities contained in document IPCC-XVII/Doc.6. He focused on progress on development and use of the IPCC website and introduced plans for further outreach. In the discussions delegates asked for more documents and information in all UN languages.

#### **g) IPCC – UNFCCC Interaction**

5.19 The chairman informed the Panel about the recent meeting of the IPCC-UNFCCC-Joint Working Group and plans for IPCC side events at the reconvened session of COP6 in Bonn in July.

5.20 The representative of the UNFCCC informed the Panel about the ongoing technical review of national greenhouse gas inventories which will be shared with the NGGIP and about a planned expert meeting to consider the so called “Bazilian Proposal”.

**6. ISSUES RELATED TO THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OTHER THAN THE SYNTHESIS REPORT (agenda item 6)**

6.1 The Panel agreed to address at the first meeting of its 18<sup>th</sup> session decisions on the future of the IPCC work programme, the scoping paper on biological diversity and climate change, the scoping paper climate change and sustainable development, and matters related to Land-use, Land-use Change and Forestry. Based on decisions taken on these matters further considerations of the IPCC Work Programme and Budget for 2002 to 2004 will take place. After approval and adoption of the Synthesis Report the Panel will take a decision on the IPCC Work Programme and Budget for 2002 to 2004 and address any further outstanding issues.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 7)**

7.1 A report of the IPCC Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessment (TGCIA) was presented. The Panel noted the progress achieved and expressed its appreciation for the German and the UK support for the Data Distribution Center. In their comments delegates urged the TGCIA to cover in its future work the full range of SRES scenarios and stabilisation levels, and to addresses uncertainties.

7.2 The representative of the Ozone Secretariat Mr. N. Sabogal reported about the ongoing good collaboration with the IPCC on matters related to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

7.3 The Chairman informed the Panel on progress in the preparation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

7.4 The Panel agreed that the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) reports in the Earth Negotiating Bulletin about this session of the IPCC. The report will not mention individuals, countries or groups of countries. This agreement does not set a precedent for future sessions.

**8. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (agenda item 8)**

8.1 The Panel will meet in Wembley near London, UK on 24 – 29 September 2001 in its Eighteenth Session.

**9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION (agenda item 9)**

9.1 It was agreed that the draft report of this session will be posted on the IPCC website within three weeks after closure of the session. In commenting on the draft report governments are invited to indicate the period of attendance at this session.

**10. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 10)**

10.1 The session closed at 17.00 hours on Friday, 6 April 2001.

**The following abbreviations are normally used in current IPCC documents:**

4-R	Fourth Assessment Report
CLA	Co-ordinating Lead Author
COP	Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
DC	Developing Country
EIT	Country with Economy in Transition
F&B Division	Finance and Budget Division of the WMO
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICS	International Council of Science (formerly ICSU)
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme of ICS
IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme of ICS
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
LA	Lead Author
LUCF	Land-use and Forestry
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
NGGIP	National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme of the IPCC
RE	Review Editor
SAR	Second Assessment Report
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the COP
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the COP
SFR	Swiss Franc
SPM	Summary for Policymakers
SR	Special Report of the IPCC
SRES	Special Report on Emissions Scenarios
SYR	Synthesis Report
TAR	Third Assessment Report
TBD	To Be Determined
TF	Task Force of the IPCC
TFB	Interim Bureau of the TFI
TFI	Task Force for NGGIP
TGCI	Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessments of the IPCC
TOR	Terms of Reference
TS	Technical Summary
UN	United Nations Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme (WMO/IOC/ICS)
WG	Working Group of the IPCC
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Agenda as adopted, attached

Appendix B - Report of the Sixteenth Session of the as approved

Appendix C - SPM of the Working Group I contribution to the TAR as accepted

Appendix D - SPM of the Working Group II contribution to the TAR as accepted

Appendix E - SPM of the Working Group III contribution to the TAR as accepted

Appendix F – Decision on the IPCC Work Programme and Budget for 2002

Appendix G – List of Participants

## **AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION (Montreal, 1-8 May 2000) (Doc. 2)**
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP I (Shanghai, 17-20 January 2001), AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP II (Geneva, 13-16 February 2001) AND AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP III (Accra, 28 February – 3 March 2001) (Docs. 3)**
  - a. Acceptance of the Actions Taken at the Eighth Session of Working Group I**
  - b. Acceptance of the Actions Taken at the Sixth Session of Working Group II**
  - c. Acceptance of the Actions Taken at the Sixth Session of Working Group III**
- 4. PROGRESS OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT**
- 5. POST-TAR WORK PROGRAMME INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF THE NEW BUREAU (Doc. 4) AND THE IPCC WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002-2004 (Doc. 5)**
  - a. Future Work Programme of the IPCC**
  - b. Inter linkages between biological diversity and climate change**
  - c. Proposal for a special report on climate change and sustainable development**
  - d. IPCC Work Programme and Budget for 2002-2004 (Doc. 5)**
  - e. Terms of Reference for the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories**
  - f. IPCC Communication Strategy**
  - g. IPCC – UNFCCC Interaction**
- 6. ISSUES RELATED TO THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OTHER THAN THE SYNTHESIS REPORT**
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 7.1 IPCC Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessment (TGCIA)**
  - 7.2 Matters related to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol**
  - 7.3 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**
  - 7.4 Reports in the Earth Negotiating Bulletin**
- 8. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION**
- 10. CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

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