



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



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CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE IPCC AR4 PROGRESS REPORT ON TWO PROPOSED EXPERT MEETINGS

(Submitted by IPCC Vice-Chair Mohan Munasinghe)

The Panel is invited to note this progress report on activities related to climate change and sustainable development. the Panel is also invited to consider how best this topic and related issues might be dealt with in the Fourth Assessment.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE IPCC AR4

PROGRESS REPORT ON TWO PROPOSED EXPERT MEETINGS

Background

The linkages between climate change (CC) and sustainable development (SD) were highlighted in the TAR, inter-alia, based on a crosscutting “guidance paper” and two expert meetings on the subject, organized by WG2 and WG3. Nevertheless, there was general agreement that the potential synergies and trade-offs between climate change response options and wider development objectives were still incompletely covered in the TAR. The importance of the issue was re-confirmed during the April 2002 IPCC Plenary, which supported a fresh proposal to pursue the issue of climate change and sustainable development in the context of the 4th Assessment Report (AR4), through the organization of one or more expert meetings. The first such meeting has already been incorporated into the 2003 IPCC budget, and the second is planned for mid-2004. This report provides an update on the status of planning for these two expert meetings, as approved by the Bureau.

Objectives

The overall objective of the sequence of the two expert meetings would be to systematically develop a plan on how to fully integrate the linkages between climate change and development (including poverty and equity issues) into the structure and contents of the AR4. The plan will take into account the earlier proposals for an IPCC Special Report and Technical Paper, and build on the material in the TAR – using as a starting point, the framework presented in the Synthesis Report (e.g., Figures 1.1 and 8.3). The plan would specify, especially:

- Which key (two-way) linkages between CC and SD should be covered in the AR4;
- Which report structure would best allow for an adequate assessment of these linkages, within and across the Working Groups;
- What kinds of expertise would be needed for optimal coverage of the linkages, and which specific LAs could potentially provide this expertise.

The first expert meeting will seek to determine the key CC-SD linkages in detail, while broadly identifying both a potential AR4 report structure and the lead author skills necessary to best capture such linkages in the report. The AR4 scoping meetings (April and September 2003) should take the recommendations of the first CC-SD expert meeting into account. Correspondingly, it is suggested that the draft outline of the AR4 resulting from these scoping meetings be circulated to the participants of the first expert meeting for comments, before it is submitted to the IPCC Plenary.

Key objectives of the second expert meeting will be the identification of the relevant CC-SD literature that would need to be covered, and details of how the SD theme might be fully incorporated in the AR4. This meeting could be held by mid-2004, after the outline of the AR4 would have been approved (foreseen at the November 2003 Plenary) and the author teams assembled. This second expert meeting will help to further work out details of the coverage of CC-SD linkages in the draft AR4, by bringing together both external experts and the LAs already assigned responsibility for ensuring that SD issues are appropriately addressed in the relevant AR4 chapters. It is recommended that this meeting be held in conjunction with an LA meeting (in mid-2004), designed to develop the first order drafts of the WG2 and WG3 components of AR4. This could be facilitated by holding the WG2 and WG3 meetings in one location back to back. Such an arrangement would also facilitate crosscutting contacts in other important areas, such as the integration of adaptation and mitigation.

Meeting Details

Arrangements are well advanced for the first meeting to be held Colombo, Sri Lanka on 5-7 March 2003. Highlights of the proposed 2-day programme include:

- Introduction and points of departure based on lessons learned from TAR
- Regional viewpoints: climate change and sustainable development viewed from both the developing and developed world -- including coverage of poverty and equity issues, with focus on which SD paths and policies might worsen (improve) CC prospects, and vice versa.
- Sectoral viewpoints: climate change and sustainable development in relation to food security, water, human health, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, governance, etc.
- Discussion Groups on identifying key CC-SD linkages and issues
- Discussion Groups on recommendations for the AR4 structure and content
- Discussion Groups on recommendations for the AR4 regarding author expertise and selection
- Plenary review of results and final recommendations

A major outreach event would also be organised to sensitize senior decision makers from the host country government, private sector and civil society, on key CC-SD issues -- thus taking advantage of this gathering of world experts on the subject.

About 35 participants are expected, including

- 8-9 IPCC Bureau members: Chair, one vice Chair, the co-chairs and selected Bureau members from the Working Groups;
- IPCC Deputy Secretary, heads of TSUs of WG2 and WG3
- 12-14 scientific technical experts from relevant areas, with greater preference for those from the development community
- 8-10 other representatives from the stakeholder community (bi- and multi-lateral agencies, development banks, development NGOs, private sector, etc.)

This would ensure the appropriate balance between scientific experts (20-23, including the Bureau members) and other stakeholders (8-10). The presenters will include some world-renowned experts on SD. The scientific technical experts from the climate change community would be encouraged to make their contributions within the wider context of development.

The second expert meeting will involve LAs dealing with SD issues in the relevant chapters of the WG2 and WG3 reports, selected external experts, and a limited number of Bureau members.

Expected outputs

The expected output of the first expert meeting would be a draft document, including the key recommendations and collated presentations made at the meeting -- for consideration by the two AR4 scoping meetings to be held later in 2003. The IPCC Secretariat in collaboration with the local host organization and the WG2 and WG3 TSUs would be responsible for preparing this document, to be reviewed by the WG2 and WG3 co-chairs before the first AR4 scoping meeting.

The expected output of the second expert meeting would be a detailed review of the adequacy of the proposed AR4 chapter structure, LAs, and writing process, in order to fully capture the linkages between climate change and sustainable development. Relevant literature to be assessed in AR4 would also be identified.

Budgetary Implications

The approved budget for the first meeting in Colombo is SFR 126,280. As usual with IPCC expert meetings, it is assumed that participants from developed countries, private sector, development NGOs, and other stakeholders cover their own costs.

The costs for the second meeting proposed for mid-2004 would be lower if organized in conjunction with the WG2 and WG3 1st LA meetings.