REPORT OF THE 32nd SESSION
OF THE IPCC BUREAU

New Delhi, 8 November 2004
1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 The session was opened by the Chairman, Mr Rajendra K. Pachauri.

1.2 The agenda, as approved, is attached as Appendix 1. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 31st SESSION (BUR-XXXII/Doc. 2)

Mr Yuri Izrael of the Russian Federation requested the deletion of the first sentence under item 3.1. The draft report of the 31st Session was adopted as amended.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS

3.1 As formal progress reports were to be presented to 22nd Session of the IPCC, the Co-chairs of the three Working Groups, the TFB and the TGICA were asked to report only about important issues that may require consideration by the Bureau. They presented brief statements referring to documents IPCC-XXII/Doc. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15.

3.2 With regard to Working Group III, members discussed the scope of the first expert meeting on scenarios in January 2005 in Washington, D.C. WG III Co-chair Mr Ogunlade Davidson proposed that the second meeting on scenarios in June 2005 be held as a workshop. It would address issues that would have a wider impact on the IPCC work programme beyond the AR4 and therefore should be attended with a wider participation. The Chair proposed that a small team be set up to prepare for the 2nd meeting. Mr Davidson agreed that this would be possible.

3.3 The NGGIP progress report was presented by TFB Co-chair Mr Taka Hiraishi. It discussed the 2006 Guidelines and the Emission Factors Database. Some issues were identified where more interaction between the NGGIP work and the work of the Working Group III would be desirable, i.e. on harvested wood products. The importance of giving guidance in the 2006 Guidelines to avoid inconsistencies, for example on reporting of CO₂, was emphasized. The Emission Factors Database work is progressing as planned. Concerning the issue of aerosols in the 2006 Guidelines Mr Hiraishi recalled the decision of IPCC-21 and introduced document BUR-XXXII/Doc. 3. He outlined two options: to wait for the AR4 or to convene a small expert meeting and report back to the Panel in the second half of 2005. He suggested going ahead with an expert meeting and then reporting back to the Panel accordingly. He noted the Task Force Bureau is to consider the inventory methodology, which would be based on the definition of aerosols in the TAR, but in the first part of the meeting they have to review the science of aerosols. Working Group I was asked to recommend some experts to the meeting.

3.4 IPCC-XXII/Doc. 15 regarding progress on TGICA was presented by the IPCC Secretary. She noted that it was decided to remove controversial downscaled socioeconomic data from the Data Distribution Center (DDC) website because of inconsistencies with SRES story lines. TGICA proposed in the document to develop technical guidelines including approaches to downscaling. Some Bureau members expressed concern about a link from the DDC site to the CIESIN site where downscaled data are provided, but suggested reconsidering the situation in case further downscaled datasets become available. Others suggested adding a statement on the DDC website that some attempts for downscaling were made which are not yet satisfactory and therefore IPCC cannot recommend a method. It was decided that the views of the Bureau would be conveyed to the TGICA
for consideration and implementation, noting the Bureau’s views regarding linkage to the CIESIN website. If researchers would like to use the downscaled data from CIESIN they can do so, but it has to be clear that IPCC does not endorse or recommend them and that the IPCC will undertake more work in this area. The Bureau also commended the TGICA for its efforts and encouraged further work.

PROGRESS REPORTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS UNDER PROGRESS

3.5 The Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage are on track. The issue of anonymous expert review, which is done on a trial basis for the report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage was highlighted. The IPCC Secretary presented planning of the Joint Session for Working Group I and III in Addis Ababa 6-8 April, 2005, and the proposal for a very short Session of IPCC-23 in April 2005 to accept the SR on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer followed by a full IPCC Session in September 2005. The Bureau agreed that changes in the schedule for finalising the special reports are not advisable and that the Panel has to decide on the scope and timing of IPCC-23 and IPCC-24.

4. AR4 SYNTHESIS REPORT (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 5)

4.1 The IPCC Chair informed the Bureau about the final proposal on scope and content of an AR4 Synthesis Report (SYR). Options for a schedule for preparing an AR4 SYR and for managing the process, including resource implications, were presented for consideration by the Bureau.

4.2 The Bureau undertook a long discussion addressing the following questions: 1) basis of the Synthesis Report being the Working Group reports, and therefore whether there was enough time in the schedule to ensure a quality Synthesis Report as well as core AR4 reports by COP-13, 2) whether delivery by COP-13 is really the milestone that the scheduling should be developed around, 3) whether the process for writing the synthesis report should follow a sequential or parallel process, 4) how coordination of the synthesis report writing should be conducted, 5) human resource constraints and timing of the synthesis report preparation, and 6) appropriate length of the report. In addition, there were differences in opinion on whether the Panel should agree on the desired timeframe first or on whether it should be decided first to produce a report and then work out what the appropriate timing would be. On the management options proposed in Doc.5 it was noted that other options might exist and that there had not yet been agreement with the Working Groups as to whether the proposal was consistent with the resources they would have available. The IPCC Chair and the Working Group Co-chairs were requested to propose a schedule that could deliver the AR4 SYR report to COP-13 in the last quarter of 2007.

4.3 It was decided that the Chair would present to the Plenary the old proposal and a revised proposal for a timetable.

5. AR4 PRODUCTS and OUTREACH (IPCC-XXII/Doc.6 and IPCC-XXII/Doc. 7)

The documents and proposals prepared for the 22nd Session of the IPCC were briefly discussed. The IPCC Secretary presented an update on outreach activities. She drew the Bureau’s attention to models and visualization tools. The suggestion was to ask TGICA about experience with providing models assessed by TAR and how to ensure that the material follows quality requirements. The Bureau discussed intelligent indexing to ensure regional information could be easily obtained from the AR4 reports. It was also noted that lead authors should be involved in defining further products. The Chair emphasized the need for extra care in dealing with outreach for the AR4 and the Bureau briefly discussed human resource implications.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 4, Corr. 1)

The Bureau was briefed about the status of the IPCC Trust Fund and increased resource requirements for outreach and other activities. Matters arising from the WMO Executive Council concerning in kind
contributions were brought to the attention of the Bureau. The Bureau considered also the proposal for levelling the budget but concern was expressed about the suggestion to delay publication of reports. The Chair emphasized the need to expand the number of countries contributing and it was agreed to send another letter to governments asking for contributions.

7. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Bureau discussed the status of the document on election procedures (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 8) and the suggested next steps. Concern was expressed about rule 14 allowing individual governments to replace a representative selected for a region and it was noted that the same Chair and Bureau that worked on the AR4 should be able to work on outreach in the following year. Another Bureau member expressed concern about the lack of a fixed term for the Bureau and the limitation of the size of the Bureau. Many expressed their desire for the rules and procedures to be decided on at the session of IPCC scheduled for the second half of 2005. Experience with the anonymous review and adequacy of IPCC procedures for supporting material for new products were also on the agenda but not considered in detail.

8. MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC

IPCC presence and activities during the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties were considered briefly as the IPCC Secretary outlined the three planned special events at COP-10: one of which is to give an update on the 2006 Guidelines, one proposed by Working Group II on policy directions and impacts, and the other one following a suggestion by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC to give a presentation on what is the relationship between IPCC and the UNFCCC, as well as future directions. The Chair noted that Bureau members should inform the Secretariat if they are attending COP-10 so that all forces from the IPCC can make the most of the opportunity.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

10. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The next session will be held in April 2005 in conjunction with the Second Joint Session of Working Groups I and III in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

11. CLOSING

The meeting closed at 17:00 on 8 November 2004.
PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE 31st SESSION (BUR-XXXII/Doc. 2)

3. PROGRESS REPORTS
   
   As formal progress reports will be presented to 22nd Session of the IPCC, the Co-chairs of the three Working Groups, the TFB and the TGICA will be asked to report only about important issues that may require consideration by the Bureau.

4. AR4 SYNTHESIS REPORT (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 5)
   
   The IPCC Chair will inform the Bureau about the final proposal on scope and content of an AR4 Synthesis Report. Options for a schedule for preparing an AR4 SYR and for managing the process, including resource implications will be presented for consideration by the Bureau.

5. AR4 PRODUCTS and OUTREACH (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 6 and IPCC-XXII/Doc. 7)
   
   The documents and proposals presented to the 22nd session of the IPCC will be briefly discussed and an update on outreach activities will be presented.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 4, Corr. 1)
   
   The Bureau will be briefed about the status of the IPCC Trust Fund and increased resource requirements for outreach and other activities. Matters arising from the WMO Executive Council concerning in kind contributions will also be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

7. PROCEDURAL MATTERS
   
   The Bureau will be informed about the status of the document on election procedures (IPCC-XXII/Doc. 8) and suggested next steps. Experience with the anonymous review and adequacy of IPCC procedures for supporting material for new products will be considered as appropriate.

8. MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC
   
   IPCC presence and activities during the 10th Session of Conference of the Parties will be considered.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION
APPENDIX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU

(New Delhi, 8 November 2004)
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