CLIMATE CHANGE

The IPCC Response Strategies

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World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Program

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Note to the Reader

The report of the Response Strategies Working Group (RSWG) was compiled through an unprecedented international cooperative effort to deal with the many climate change response strategies. The chairs of the four RSWG subgroups and the coordinators of the five RSWG topic areas took the responsibility for completing their individual reports. Along with their respective governments, they contributed generously of their time and resources to that end.

It was not possible or intended to review each subgroup report and topic paper in plenary session. The RSWG report thus constitutes a series of independently prepared underlying documents which attempt to analyze as thoroughly as possible the issues addressed in each subgroup or topic area. The synthesis of the concepts from these underlying reports is the RSWG Policymakers Summary, on which consensus was reached at the RSWG's Third Plenary Session in Geneva on June 9, 1990.

—F. M. B.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was jointly established by us in 1988. Prof. B. Bolin is the Chairman of the Panel. The Panel's charge was to:

- a) assess the scientific information that is related to the various components of the climate change issue, such as emissions of major greenhouse gases and modification of the Earth's radiation balance resulting therefrom, and that is needed to enable the environmental and socio-economic consequences of climate change to be evaluated; and
- b) formulate realistic response strategies for the management of the climate change issue.

The Panel began its task by establishing its Working Goups I, II, and III respectively to:

- a) assess available scientific information on climate change;
- b) assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change; and
- c) formulate response strategies.

The Panel also established a Special Committee on the Participation of Developing Countries to promote, as quickly as possible, the full participation of the developing countries in its activities.

The Panel has completed its First Assessment Report (FAR). The FAR consists of

- the Overview;
- the policymakers summaries of the IPCC Working Groups and the Special Committee;
- the reports of the IPCC Working Groups.

The Overview and the policymakers summaries are to be found in a single volume. The reports of the Working Groups are being published individually.

The present volume is based upon the findings of Working Group III. In order to appreciate the linkages among the various aspects of the climate change issue, it is recommended that it be read in the context of the full IPCC First Assessment Report.

The Chairman of Working Group III, Dr. F. M. Bernthal, and his Secretariat have succeeded beyond measure in mobilizing the cooperation and enthusiasm of literally hundreds of experts from all over the world. They have produced a volume of remarkable depth and breadth and a policymakers summary that is a model of writing aiming at explaining complex issues to the non-specialist.

We take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Dr. Bernthal for a job well done.

G. O. P. Obasi	M. K. Tolba
Secretary-General, WMO	Executive Director, UNEP

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-FREDERICK M. BERNTHAL

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