

REPORT OF THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE IPCC BUREAU
GENEVA, 30 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 1999

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

CLA	Co-ordinating Lead Author
COP	Conference of the Parties to the UN FCCC
EIT	Country with Economy in Transition
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LA	Lead Author
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the COP
SPM	Summary for Policymakers
TAR	Third Assessment Report
TEAP	Technology and Economic Assessment Panel under the Montreal Protocol
TFI	Task Force for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the IPCC
TGCIA	Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessments of the IPCC
TS	Technical Summary
TSU	Technical Support Unit of a WG
UN	United Nations Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
FCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WG	Working Group of the IPCC
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 The Chairman of the IPCC, Dr Robert T. Watson, opened the session at 1110 hours on Tuesday, 30 November 1999 in Salle A on the ground floor of the new WMO Headquarters Building at 7 bis Avenue de la Paix, Geneva.

1.2 Dr Michael Coughlan, the Director of the World Climate Programme in WMO, welcomed the participants on behalf of Prof. G.O.P. Obasi, the Secretary-General of WMO, as this was the first time the IPCC was holding any of its meetings in the new WMO Building.

1.3 The agenda as approved is attached in Appendix A.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

2.1 It was suggested that the report be made to correspond with the agenda items, as was the practice at times in the past. It was further suggested that a footnote be added to paragraphs 4 and 5 (paragraphs to be renumbered 3 and 4 in the final report of the session) that the IPCC had made decisions at its Fifteenth Session (San José, Costa Rica, 15-18 April 1999) with respect to certain agenda items.

2.2 It was also suggested that the draft report of the Nineteenth Session be circulated as early as possible - preferably within 3-4 weeks. It may be recalled that the draft report of the Eighteenth Session was circulated within 4-5 weeks of the session.

2.3 With these suggestions, the draft report was adopted without amendments. The final report is available from the Secretariat.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT (TAR) AND THE SPECIAL REPORTS (SRs), AND OF THE TASK FORCE/TASK GROUP

The following points were made during the respective presentations and discussions:

3.1 Working Group I/Third Assessment Report (WGI/TAR): With respect to policy-relevant scientific/technical/socio-economic questions, some chapters were dealing with them explicitly while some others did so implicitly. The major cross-cutting issue, uncertainties, was being considered in all the chapters but not to the same degree of detail. Particular attention was being paid in the draft WGI/TAR on extreme events, stabilization of greenhouse gases and climate scenarios arising from the draft emissions scenarios. A remark was made that stabilization scenarios are in reality quasi-stabilization scenarios since model calculations indicate that actual stabilization takes 2 or more centuries to achieve.

3.2 Working Group II/Third Assessment Report (WGII/TAR): With respect to policy-relevant scientific/technical/socio-economic questions, a questionnaire had been circulated and the responses were being collated for inclusion in chapter 19. The cross-cutting issue, uncertainties, was already being included in the draft. The Working Group was of assistance to the UN FCCC process with regard to discussions of Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Climate Change Convention. During the SBSTA meeting in June 1999, a side event was mounted by organizations other than the IPCC on adaptation. The question of identifying the scientific criteria for the determination of dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system (Article 2 of the Convention) was raised. A remark was made that the draft WGII/TAR had a good discussion on impacts but not on adaptation. Another remark was made that training, particularly in the developing world, was needed in the use of the climate scenarios archived in the IPCC Data Distribution Centres.

3.3 (i) Working Group III/Third Assessment Report (WGIII/TAR) including co-operation on hydrofluorocarbons with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol: The draft WGIII/TAR had been sent to about 500 reviewers about 300 of whom were those nominated for consideration as Lead Authors by governments/organizations. The Working Group was in touch with the World Energy Assessment, World Energy Conference, and others. The regional expert meeting on integrated assessment modelling planned for Lima (Peru) would take place in April 2000. Policy-relevant scientific/technical/socio-economic questions were highlighted in chapter 1 and to a lesser degree in chapter 2. There was a mechanism in place to treat them in the rest of the draft. The question of uncertainty required additional attention. In response to a query, it was stated that nuclear energy was included in chapter 3. The writing team for chapter 8 would look into multiple benefits for mitigation/adaptation and "no regrets" actions. A remark was made that ozone depletion, biodiversity, desertification and climate change need to be considered as a whole package and just not individually.

(ii) With respect to Technical Summaries for WGII/TAR and WGIII/TAR, it was stated that the Lead Author meetings in Canberra (Working Group II, December 1999) and Eisenach (Working Group III, February 2000) would discuss the issue.

3.4 Cross-cutting Issues: They would increase the policy relevance of the subject matter dealt with in the TAR. The users' guide, in the process of completion, should be ready by January 2000. Bureau members considered the guidance papers very useful and it was suggested that they be published. They could be reviewed in a few weeks' time. The question was raised on how to deal with the four additional cross cutting issues identified in the Scoping Meeting for the TAR. The importance

of cross-cutting issues was chapter-dependent. The authors of the guidance papers could comment on the draft TAR.

3.5 Special Report on the Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Following the government review, the SPM was substantially revised. Together with a newly drafted Technical Summary, it was sent out for another government/expert review. Comments indicated increasing acceptance of the report.

3.6 Special Report on Emissions Scenarios: A stronger emphasis should be put on the range of scenarios rather than on the markers and it needed to be clear that scenarios do not represent probabilities. It was decided to keep the emissions scenarios website open till the completion of the Synthesis Report, but to make clear that the information was provisional until the approval/acceptance of the Special Report. The full scenarios should be published either as IPCC Supporting Material or in the peer-reviewed literature. Working Group III was requested to consider a way of fully documenting the provisional and the final (accepted) scenarios.

3.7 Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry: The IPCC chairman reported about the special side event organized upon invitation by SBSTA (Eleventh Session, Bonn, 25 October – 5 November 1999) and the positive response to it by delegates. Regarding the Technical Summary, the Bureau agreed that the current IPCC procedures provided sufficient guidance on its acceptance, which requires that consistency be achieved between the SPM and the main Report, which contains the Technical Summary. Implications of changes in the SPM on chapters and the Technical Summary would be carefully noted and taken into account.

3.8 IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Considering the fact that in 2005 negotiations on the next commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol would start, revised guidelines were planned for 2006. Regarding the Terms of Reference for the Task Force Bureau, members expressed the view that the Task Force was in the nature of a transitional arrangement, until consistency with the rest of the IPCC was achieved. However, any change should be considered only at the time of the election of a new Bureau. The Chairman asked the Co-Chairs to prepare an options paper on whether or not the TFI should become a Working Group and if so why and when. The options should include other alternatives.

3.9 IPCC Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessments (TGCIA): The TGCIA is a critical interface between Working Groups I and II. Training partnerships were being explored. A specific proposal on training would be forwarded to UNEP. The UNFCCC representative drew attention to the collection of information on tools and methods for climate impacts assessment on the UNFCCC website and suggested closer co-operation to enhance the information flow. The question of further work on guidelines for climate impacts assessment would be considered by Working Group II.

4. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2001-2003

4.1 The Secretary presented the preliminary estimates for 2001 to 2003 and the approved budget for 2000 (B-XIX/Doc. 4).

4.2 Mr Daniel Reifsnyder, Co-chairman of the IPCC Financial Task Team (FiTT), drew the attention of the Bureau to the fact that in 1999 only 14 out of 39 Annex I countries contributed to the Trust Fund (13 OECD countries out of 26 and one EIT). Two developing countries had also contributed. One government contributed the bulk of the total receipts. It was suggested that, in the future, letters soliciting funds include a suggested “target” amount for each Annex I country based on the indicative UN scale, while pointing out that the contribution is voluntary. Dr L.G. Meira Filho, the other Co-Chairman of FiTT, suggested that similar letters, with modified text, be sent to developing countries also. Explicit reference to in-kind contributions by developing countries should be made.

4.3 Mr Reifsnyder was requested to draft a paper on the use of the indicative UN scale for consideration at IPCC-XVI.

4.4 It was agreed to further pursue the possibility of GEF funding, in particular for the planned outreach activities, and to explore whether funding was possible from regional banks.

4.5 The IPCC Secretariat was requested to develop criteria for the acceptance of money from sources other than government entities.

4.6 It was suggested to reflect in future budget proposals the costs of a full IPCC activity cycle. Float-through money, such as the amount used for the TFI/TSU, should be indicated in budget documents below the line showing the status of contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund in order to avoid misinterpretation.

5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

5.1 Dr R.K. Pachauri, Vice-Chairman of the IPCC, and the Secretary reported on the recent activities and the Secretariat proposal respectively.

5.2 The IPCC presence at UNFCCC meetings and the new IPCC website were appreciated. The development of model seminars, in particular presentation kits, would be useful and the LAs could be involved in outreach activities in their respective regions. Co-operation with other UN or GEF activities such as the GEF country dialogues workshops should be explored. UNEP mentioned its intention to organize UNFCCC seminars in partnership with IPCC. UNEP and WMO could also play a role in “popularising” IPCC findings, targeted for specific user groups.

5.3 The Bureau agreed that the fourth volume of the TAR should contain the Synthesis Report and its SPM, and the three SPMs and Technical Summaries of the Working Groups. Commercial distribution of the English version needed to be further explored. The volume could be published in the other UN languages by WMO. The required funds needed to be included in the 2001 budget. The TAR should be put on the IPCC website in its entirety and CD-ROMs produced.

5.4 The Bureau agreed that the Ad-hoc Task Group on Information continue its work.

5.5 The WMO representative informed the Bureau that a book about the climate of the 20th Century would be published just prior to the TAR and that six hours of TV series were planned on the issue.

6. IPCC PROCEDURES

6.1 The Chairman informed the Bureau of the plans for the selection of Lead Authors and reviewers for the Synthesis Report and the responsibility for the technical support for the Synthesis Report. He suggested that the writing team, lead by the IPCC chairman, be composed of one of the Co-chairmen, one of the Vice-chairman and 4 Lead Authors from each Working Group. It was agreed that the Chairman would select the four Lead Authors from each Working Group in consultation with the Co-chairmen of the Working Groups and the Bureau. The Review Editors could be non-drafting members of the Bureau and non-drafting Lead Authors.

6.2 Heads of the TSUs would be ex-officio members of the team. The responsibility for technical support would be with the IPCC Secretariat. The requirement of additional staff or assistance for the Secretariat needed to be explored. The Bureau would be informed of the final list writing and managerial teams.

7. ISSUES REQUIRING BUREAU GUIDANCE

7.1 The use of the marker emissions scenarios for climate projections was already underway and would continue. Appropriate comment would be included in the relevant SPMs/reports on such use and the results.

7.2 On the question of Scenario Evaluation Tool for use by policymakers, Working Group I would further explain the purpose and propose specifications for consideration by the Bureau.

7.3 On Glossaries and Indexes, the Glossaries were being included in the Working Group Reports. Indexes required further consideration in view of the time factor, expense and the provision of search engines for the website/CD-ROM.

7.4 The Secretary raised the question of shielding the Lead Authors from liability for their contribution to IPCC assessments. The Bureau noted that the institution of Review Editors would act as an interface between authors and government/expert reviewers; also, the Lead Authors would sign copyrights over to the IPCC. There was no clear indication of the Bureau view.

7.5 The Secretariat was asked to keep a list of invitations extended to IPCC Bureau members and Lead Authors to speak on behalf of the IPCC. Guidelines needed to be drafted for dealing with the press. The TSU of WG II would circulate their suggestions to the Bureau members for comment, after which the Secretariat would finalize the guidelines.

7.6 On the question of CLAs/LAs accepting employment in a policy-making organization, after their nomination as CLA/LA, the Bureau considered this not to be a problem at present. The question, however, may have to be reconsidered in the future depending on individual circumstances.

8. IPCC - UNFCCC RELATIONSHIP

8.1 The Chairman briefed the Bureau on the IPCC presence and side events during COP-5 (Bonn, 25 October – 5 November 1999) and emphasised the excellent interaction between IPCC and UNFCCC. The UNFCCC representative informed the Bureau that the new SBSTA Chairman was Mr Harald Dovland, who agreed with the continuation of the JWG.

8.2 The UNFCCC representative mentioned that the next round of national communications (GHG inventories; emissions projections, policies and measures; and climate observing system) was due in 2001 and the report on Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories was thus welcome at this juncture.

8.3 Regarding side events on draft reports, it was concluded that they were consistent with the IPCC procedures. For future events, the Chairman suggested that they be considered when there was a request from the UNFCCC, e.g., arising from SBSTA conclusions, the JWG or the Chairman of SBSTA, or when the Bureau felt that it was appropriate.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 There was none.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION

10.1 The draft report would be submitted to the Bureau for approval at the next session.

11. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

11.1 The Secretary would announce the time and place of the next session after consultations.

12. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

12.1 The session closed at 1940 hours on Wednesday, 1 December 1999.

12.2 The list of participants is attached in Appendix B.

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Registration will begin at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 30 November in front of the meeting room on the ground floor of the new WMO Headquarters building at 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva.

There will be a cocktail reception for all attendees at 1800 hours in the WMO Cafeteria on the top floor (floor A for Attique).

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (B-XIX/Doc. 1)

The Chairman of the IPCC, Dr Robert T. Watson, will open the session at 1100 hours. The provisional agenda will be submitted for approval. It may be amended at any time during the session.

Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided during the plenary meetings of the session.

It is suggested that the working hours be:

- a. From 1100 to 1300 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours with appropriate breaks for the morning and afternoon plenary meetings respectively on Tuesday, 30 November 1999 (with the reception at 1800 hours) and
- b. From 1000 to 1300 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours with appropriate breaks for the morning and afternoon plenary meetings respectively on Wednesday, 1 December 1999.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE BUREAU (B-XIX/Doc.2)

3. PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT (TAR) AND THE SPECIAL REPORTS (SRs), AND OF THE TASK FORCE/TASK GROUP

- 3.1 Working Group I: Sir John Houghton and Prof. Ding Yihui, Co-chairmen
- 3.2 Working Group II: Prof. James McCarthy and Dr Osvaldo Canziani, Co-chairmen
- 3.3 Working Group III: Dr Bert Metz and Prof. Ogunlade Davidson, Co-chairmen. The report will include progress on: co-operation on HFCs between the IPCC and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol; possible additional Expert Meeting
- 3.4 Cross-cutting Issues: Prof. Tomihiro Taniguchi and Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri, Vice-chairmen of the IPCC

- 3.5 Special Report on the Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Prof. Ogunlade Davidson and Dr Bert Metz, Co-chairmen of Working Group III
- 3.6 Special Report on Emissions Scenarios: Dr Bert Metz and Prof. Ogunlade Davidson, Co-chairmen of Working Group III
- 3.7 Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry: Dr Robert Watson, Chairman of the IPCC
- 3.8 IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Dr Taka Hiraishi and Dr Buruhani Nyenzi, Co-chairmen of the Task Force; draft Terms of Reference for TFI to be included
- 3.9 IPCC Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessments: Sir John Houghton, Prof. Ding Yihui, Co-chairmen of Working Group I and Prof. James McCarthy and Dr Osvaldo Canziani, Co-chairmen of Working Group II.

4. WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2001-2003

The Secretary will present the preliminary estimates for discussion and guidance by the Bureau.

The approved budget for 2000 will also be presented.

The Chairman will invite the views of Mr Daniel Reifsnyder and Dr Luiz Gylvan Meira Filho, Co-chairmen of the IPCC Financial Task Team, on the budget, funding and other related issues. He will then invite the Bureau to discuss the estimates for guidance in preparing the document for IPCC-XVI.

The Bureau's views will be invited on accepting cash contributions to the Trust Fund from non-governmental organizations.

5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Chairman of the IPCC Group on Communication Strategy, Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri will brief the Bureau on the activities of the Group. The Secretary will present the Secretariat proposal on outreach.

The Chairman will invite the views of the Bureau.

6. IPCC PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Distribution of final Working Group drafts to governments prior to approval/acceptance

The IPCC Procedures are silent on the time allowed for governments to review the final drafts. The Bureau may wish to consider this issue.

- 6.2 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

The Chairman will invite Dr Taka Hiraishi and Dr Buruhani Nyenzi, the Co-chairmen of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, to present their views on the procedure for finalizing and adopting the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

- 6.3 Synthesis Report of the TAR

The Chairman will inform the Bureau of the plans for the selection of Lead Authors and reviewers for the Synthesis Report, and the responsibility for the technical support for the Synthesis Report.

7. ISSUES REQUIRING BUREAU GUIDANCE

- a. Use of emissions scenarios in the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios for climate, impacts and mitigation studies before approval/acceptance of the Report (Working Groups I and III)
- b. Scenario Evaluation Tool for use by policymakers (Working Group I)
- c. Glossar(y)(ies)/Index(es) in the Third Assessment Report
- d. Shielding the Lead Authors from liability for their contribution to IPCC assessments
- e. Designees who can speak on behalf of the IPCC including dealings with the press
- f. Travel difficulties of IPCC experts including per diem for visas.
- g. The question of keeping open the website for emissions scenarios
- h. The question of continuation of CLAs/LAs as such should they accept employment subsequently in a policy-making organization

8. IPCC-UNFCCC RELATIONSHIP

The Chairman will brief the Bureau on the status of the relationship. He will invite the views of the Bureau on what and what may not be addressed during IPCC side-events at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

The Chairman will invite the views of the Bureau and of the representative of UNFCCC on the timing and agenda for the next meeting of the IPCC/FCCC Joint working Group.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION

11. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

12. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The session is expected to close at 1730 hours on Wednesday, 1 December 1999.

APPENDIX B
(not attached here)

The list of participants can be obtained from the IPCC Secretariat.