

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE
IPCC BUREAU

Bad Münstereifel, Germany, 2 July 1998

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Dr Robert T. Watson, the Chairman of the IPCC, at 0940 hours. The agenda as adopted is attached in Annex A.

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

COP	Conference of the Parties to the UN FCCC
GCM	General Circulation Model
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
JWG	IPCC/UN FCCC Joint Working Group
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the COP
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UN FCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

The Bureau adopted the draft Report with the following amendments to paragraphs 3.1, 3.3, 4.4 and 8.2:

2a. Paragraph 3.1 to read “The Bureau noted that the IPCC technical inputs in the context of such issues as the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading are already implicit in the TAR outline and covered well in the Special Report on the Methodological and Technological Issues in Technology Transfer. One way of developing additional inputs would be through workshops and/or expert group meetings.”

2b. Paragraph 3.3 to read “With respect to the issue of vulnerable countries, as coming within the meaning of paragraph 8 of Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, the IPCC could attempt better treatments of the questions of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and could continue to examine the implications of response measures.”

2c. Paragraph 4.4 to read “The following agenda items were suggested for the next JWG meeting:

- a) Identification of the policy-relevant scientific/technical questions for inclusion in the TAR;
- b) Sinks of greenhouse gases;
- c) Issues of interest to the UN FCCC related to the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;
- d) The new gases under the Kyoto Protocol, namely, SF₆, HFCs and PFCs;
- e) Long-term observations of the climate system.

Another possible topic would be adaptation priorities. In this connection, the IPCC could write to SBSTA or prepare a Technical Paper describing adaptation-related findings in the

First and Second Assessment Reports. It was also suggested that the need for improved co-ordination between the IPCC and the UN FCCC constituencies in countries be raised informally.”

2d. Paragraph 8.2 with “Seventeenth Session” replacing “Sixteenth Session”.

3. BUREAU ACTIONS

While noting the progress made under other agenda items:

a. Task Group on Climate Scenarios for Impact Assessment (TG CIA)

3a. The Bureau agreed with the continuing work programme of the TG CIA (see Annex B). It noted the need for close collaboration between the Group’s activities and the preparation of the TAR. It further noted that work programme was not cast in concrete and would be adjusted as the technical requirements become better defined.

b. Use of new emissions scenarios

3b. The Bureau agreed that the GCM modelling community should use, where possible, three of the new (as yet unapproved) emissions scenarios from the team working on the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (high, medium and low, the last stabilizing eventually at a CO₂ concentration of 550 ppmv). It noted that these scenarios were based on an assessment of the literature by six teams and that the modelers needed to start using them within the next few weeks in order for some results to be available in the TAR; there would not be sufficient time to run the scenarios in the models after the approval of the scenarios, expected to occur around mid-1999. The Bureau further agreed that simple climate models should be run with these three unapproved scenarios as well as the full range of emissions scenarios that would be approved in 1999.

c. IPCC Third Assessment Report (TAR)

3c. The Bureau reaffirmed that the current (1991-1998) principles and procedures assign the responsibility for the selection of Lead Authors to the Bureaux of the Working Groups. It noted that specific co-ordination roles have been assigned to the IPCC Vice-Chairs on a number of cross-cutting issues.

d. Synthesis Report in the TAR

3d. The Bureau requested the Chairman to prepare an options paper for adopting the Synthesis Report, building upon the options presented at IPCC-XIII (Maldives, 22 & 25-28 September 1997). The paper would be revised in the light of comments received and submitted to IPCC-XIV (Vienna, 1-3 October 1998) for decision.

e. JWG Meeting

3e. The Bureau was informed that the next meeting of the IPCC/UN FCCC Joint Working Group would take place in Vienna on 1 October 1998 in conjunction with IPCC-XIV.

f. Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

3f. The Bureau was informed that the SBSTA had requested the IPCC to prepare a special report on “land use, land use change and forestry, in order to enable the COP to take decisions on recommendations on these issues to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its first session”. The Secretary would send out letters to governments and organizations by 8 July seeking nominations for Lead Authors, Contributing Authors and Review Editors for the Special Report. The draft outline for the Special Report prepared by the Chairman would be attached to the letter. The Chairman of the IPCC would be the Chairman for the Special Report. In consultation with the Working Group Co-Chairs, he would select the experts to attend a Scoping Meeting for the Special Report to be convened in September 1998 prior to a SBSTA meeting on the subject of land use, land use change and forestry. The scope of the Special Report would be submitted to IPCC-XIV for agreement while the list of Lead Authors/Review Editors would be agreed by the Bureau. The list of Lead Authors would be developed by the Chairman in consultation with the Working Group Co-Chairs to assure co-ordination with the TAR.

g. Methodologies/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories

3g. Letters would be written to governments seeking

- * their views on the future aims and objectives of the Inventories Programme;
- * proposed institutional structure (e.g., Task Group, a Technical Support Unit, JWG policy oversight);
- * interest of governments in hosting the Programme and financially supporting the TSU and the Task Group activities; interested governments would also be requested to nominate a potential chairman of the Task Group;
- * informing governments that a decision on relocating the current Unit would be made at IPCC-XIV.

h. Financial Task Team

3h. The Bureau recalled its decision made at the last session on naming Mr D. Reifsnyder (USA) and Dr L.G. Meira Filho (Brazil) as the Co-Chairmen of the Financial Task Team (FiTT). It agreed that FiTT should be open-ended but named a minimum Team composed of Australia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, UK and the three Co-Chairmen of the IPCC Working Groups who are from the developing world. The other members of the Bureau, and indeed other Members of the IPCC, are welcome to participate in FiTT.

i. IPCC Budget

3i. The Bureau was informed that the IPCC budget for 1999-2001 would be finalized and forwarded to governments within the mandatory time requirement of 60 days prior to the IPCC session. Mr D. Reifsnyder, a Co-Chairman of FiTT, observed that the end-of-the-year carry over was essential given that the contributions were purely voluntary.

j. Amendments to the principles and procedures

3j. The Bureau suggested that the IPCC Principles be placed ahead of the procedures as a re-ordering measure in the proposed amendments. The proposals were in circulation for government comments and a revised version of the proposals would be submitted to the IPCC-XIV for adoption.

k. Non-peer-reviewed literature

3k. The Bureau agreed that Working Group II should revise its proposal for handling non-peer-reviewed literature in the TAR. The proposal should be forwarded to Mr David Warrilow, the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group on Procedures for inclusion in the proposed amendments to the IPCC principles and procedures. The Bureau was informed that the proposal would suggest that (i) non-peer-reviewed literature should be resorted to only in exceptional cases as, for example, case study material from business and industry, (ii) Lead Author Teams should critically assess all such literature before its inclusion and (iii) all non-English literature used should have a translated executive summary.

l. Crosscutting issues

3l. The Bureau discussed a number of issues having common application to many chapters in the reports of Working Groups II and III in the TAR. It recalled that Dr. Pachauri, Prof. Odingo and the late Dr. Seiki had been working on them. It requested Dr. Pachauri and Prof. Taniguchi to continue to work on the plan to address these issues (see table 1 below) in the TAR.

m. Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

3m. The Bureau reviewed the outcome of the SBSTA consideration of GCOS and agreed that there should be a further review by the IPCC at its Fourteenth Session (Vienna, 1-3 October 1998), on the basis of the revised GCOS document, which should be available by then.

4. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Seventeenth Session of the Bureau would take place on 28 September 1998 at the UN facilities in Vienna.

5. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The session closed at 1810 hours on 2 July 1998. The list of attendees is attached as Annex C.

IPCC BUREAU
Sixteenth Session
Bad Münstereifel, 2 July 1998

BUR-XVI/Doc.1, Rev.
(2.VII.1998)
ENGLISH ONLY

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Doc. 1)

Dr Robert T. Watson, the Chairman of the IPCC, will open the session at 0930 hours.

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

The provisional agenda will be submitted for adoption. The agenda may be amended at any time during the session.

It is suggested that the working hours be from 0930 to 1230 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours with appropriate breaks.

Participants will eat lunch together from 1230 to 1430 hours.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK GROUP ON CLIMATE SCENARIOS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT (TG CIA)

The TG CIA Chairman, Prof. Martin Parry, will brief the Bureau on the activities of the Group and their recommendations for future actions.

3. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION (Doc. 2)

4. REPORTS/PROGRESS REPORTS ON ONGOING IPCC ACTIVITIES

- a. Special Report on Emission Scenarios
- b. Adaptation Workshop (San Jose, Costa Rica, 29 March to 1 April 1998)
- c. Selection of Lead Authors, Contributing Authors, Review Editors for the TAR.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE TAR SCOPING MEETING (Bad Münstereifel, 29 June - 1 July 1998)

The Chairman will introduce the results of the TAR Scoping Meeting for discussion by the Bureau.

6. REPORT ON THE SESSION OF THE IPCC/UN FCCC JOINT WORKING GROUP (Bonn, 6 June 1998) AND ON THE EIGHTH SESSION OF SBSTA (Bonn, 2-12 June 1998)

The Chairman will report on the outcome of the Joint Working Group and SBSTA sessions. He will invite statement from the representative of the UN FCCC Secretariat.

Discussion is expected to focus on the preparation of the IPCC Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, requested by SBSTA.

7. MANAGEMENT ISSUES: IPCC/OECD/IEA PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

The Chairman will brief the session for discussion on the management issues related to the management of the IPCC/OECD/IEA Programme on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

8. FINANCIAL TASK TEAM

It may be recalled that action on the membership of the IPCC Financial task Team was deferred at the last session. The Bureau may wish to complete its consideration of the team.

9. AMENDMENTS TO IPCC PROCEDURES AND IPCC PRINCIPLES

The Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group on Procedures will brief the session on the progress of the effort underway for possible amendments to the procedures and principles of work of the IPCC.

10. TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

It may be recalled that the Bureau had decided at its last session that it would meet in its Seventeenth Session on 28 September 1998. The session will take place in the UN facilities in Vienna.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Non-peer-reviewed literature

12. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The session is expected to conclude at 1730 hours on Thursday, 2 July 1998.

Annex C

The list of participants is not attached here to save bulk.
The list can be obtained from the IPCC Secretariat upon request.