

# **The IPCC Third Assessment Report**

## **Decision Paper**

## **Decisions**

### **1. Scope of the Third Assessment Report**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Third Assessment Report will be comprehensive and cover the complete range of scientific, technical, economic and social issues associated with the climate system and climate change deemed important by the expert or policy-making communities;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Third Assessment Report will summarize the state of knowledge covered in previous IPCC reports, but will primarily assess information generated since the Second Assessment Report, recognizing that climate change is a global issue, but emphasizing the assessment of the regional aspects of climate change.

### **2. Structure of the Third Assessment Report**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Third Assessment Report will consist of reports of the three IPCC Working Groups (each with a brief Summary for Policymakers, a technical summary, and a series of chapters, each with an executive summary) and a Synthesis Report.

- (ii) The IPCC agrees that:

Working Group I will assess the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change;

Working Group II will assess the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change of, and the negative and positive consequences (impacts) for, ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional sectoral and cross-sectoral issues;

Working Group III will assess the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the mitigation of climate change, and through a task group (multidisciplinary team), will assess the methodological aspects of cross-cutting issues (e.g., equity, discount rates and decision making frameworks);

The Synthesis Report will provide a policy-relevant synthesis and integration of the three Working Group Reports (see issue number 4).

**3. Scope of the Working Groups and Nomination of Lead Authors**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the proposed scope of each of the three Working Groups (outlined in the Background section) is adequate for the IPCC Secretary to promptly request governments and IPCC focal points, as well as organizations and experts to propose lead authors for the Third Assessment Report;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Working Group Bureaus will meet early in 1998 to provisionally identify lead authors for the Third Assessment report primarily based on written proposals received from governments, organizations and experts (curriculum vitae should accompany nominations to assist the Bureaus select the most appropriate experts);
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that the chapter structures of each Working Group will be developed at a scoping meeting that will be attended by the Working Group Bureaus and the provisionally identified lead authors, and later approved by the IPCC Working Groups in mid-1998.

**4. Scope and Structure of the Synthesis Report**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Third Assessment Report should include a Synthesis Report that will be written in a non-technical style suitable for policymakers and will address a broad range of key policy-relevant questions;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the IPCC Chairman and the Working Group Co-chairs will develop a list of key policy-relevant scientific questions in consultation with the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the chairs of the subsidiary, and other, bodies of the COP, using the mechanism of the IPCC/FCC Joint Working Group. The list will be circulated to governments for comment and the IPCC will approve the list at its Fourteenth Session. This list can be revised at a later date under the responsibility of the IPCC Chair, and with the approval of the IPCC;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that the Working Groups will be asked to include assessment information relevant to those key policy-relevant scientific questions in their contributions to the TAR and to bring forward the key points in their summaries for policy-makers;
- (iv) The IPCC agrees that the Synthesis Report should synthesize/integrate material contained within the assessment reports of the three Working Groups;
- (v) The IPCC agrees that the Synthesis Report should consist of a short SPM and a longer report;

- (vi) The IPCC agrees that the SPM of the Synthesis Report will undergo a simultaneous expert/government review, and then be approved line by line by the IPCC;
- (vii) The IPCC agrees that the IPCC Chair will chair a geographically balanced the writing team for the Synthesis Report, with the writing team composition being agreed by the IPCC Bureau.

#### **5. Responsibility for ongoing special reports**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Special Report entitled “Aviation and the Global Atmosphere” will continue to be developed under the Co-chairs and TSUs of the past (1992-1997) Working Groups I and II, but in close collaboration with the new co-chairs and TSUs of Working Groups I and III, and will be submitted for approval/acceptance to a joint session of the new Working Groups I and III;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Special Report entitled “Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Opportunities for Technology Cooperation” will continue to be developed under the Co-chairs and TSU of the past (1992-1997) Working Group II, but in close collaboration with the new Working Group III Co-chairs and TSU, and will be submitted for approval/acceptance to a session of the new Working Group III;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that the Special Report entitled “Emissions Scenarios” will be transferred for further development to the new Working Group III after the Thirteenth session of the IPCC ( Maldives, 22 and 25-28 September, 1997) and will be submitted for approval/acceptance to a session of the new Working Group III.

#### **6. Peer-review process for the Working Group Reports of the Third Assessment Report**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that Working Group reports (chapters, chapter executive summaries, and technical summaries) should undergo sequential open expert and expert/government peer reviews and then be accepted by the Working Groups;
- (ii) The Summaries for Policymakers will undergo simultaneous expert/government reviews and then be approved line-by-line by the Working Groups.

#### **7. The Editorial Review Process**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that review editor(s) should be selected for the chapters (including their executive summaries) and technical summary of each Working Group report;

- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the review editors should be selected from both members of the Working Group Bureaus and independent experts. Review editors should not be involved in the preparation or review of material for which they are an review editor;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that there should be one or two review editors per chapter and per technical summary;
- (iv) The IPCC agrees that the Working Group Bureaus are responsible for the selection of the review editors, ensuring appropriate representation from developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (v) The IPCC agrees that the primary responsibilities of the review editors include: (i) assisting the Working Group Bureaus in identifying reviewers for the “expert” review process; (ii) ensuring that all substantive expert and government review comments are afforded appropriate consideration; (iii) advising lead authors on how to handle contentious/controversial issues; and (iv) ensuring genuine scientific controversies are reflected adequately in the text.
- (vi) The IPCC agrees that the review editors communicate their findings to the Working Group sessions.
- (vii) The IPCC agrees that responsibility for the final text is that of the lead authors. Where significant differences of opinion remain unresolved, the review editors should ensure that such differences are described in an Annex to the report.

## **8. Timing of the Third Assessment Report**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the three Working Group Reports of the Third Assessment Report should be approved/accepted by late 2000/ early 2001;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Synthesis Report should be completed during the second quarter of the year 2001.

## **9. Promoting Enhanced participation of experts from Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the IPCC Vice-chairs and Working Group Bureau members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition work with IPCC focal points within their regions to identify appropriate review editors, lead authors, contributing authors and peer-reviewers: in addition, all members of the Bureaus are encouraged to assist in this process;

- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Working Group Bureaus should ensure balanced representation of lead authors (experts from developed and developing countries, and countries with economies in transition);
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that the Working Group Bureaus should be encouraged to increase the number of expert meetings and workshops in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, thus contributing to enhancing the networks of scientists and other experts in these regions.

**10. Promoting the participation of experts from Business/Industry/Finance, Development and Environmental Organizations**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that non-government experts, including those from business, industry, finance and development and environmental organizations, with relevant expertise, should be involved in the preparation and review of the Third Assessment Report;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that it's Bureau and the TSUs, assist the IPCC Secretary, in identifying those experts;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that it will be critical to have balance, including geographic balance, within and between experts from various non-governmental organizations.. These experts will act in their personnel capacity, bring to bear their scientific, technological and economic expertise.

**11. Utilization of the non-English Language Literature**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Working Group Bureaus, in conjunction with the chapter lead authors, should make every effort to assess the non-English language literature.

**12. Publication Procedures**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that it's Secretary, in conjunction with the Working Group TSUs, should examine the potential of placing IPCC publications on Internet while using a commercial publisher.

**13. Translation Procedures**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the IPCC Secretary should invite all governments (developed, developing and countries with economies in transition) to contribute to the work of the IPCC by translating accepted Working Group reports into non-English languages, in particular the official UN languages.

**14. Structure of the IPCC Bureau**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the Bureau should consist of thirty members: the IPCC Chairman, the five IPCC Vice-chairmen, and the Bureaus of the three Working Groups;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the Bureau should be balanced, i.e., between developed countries, countries with economies in transition and developing countries; and between regions;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that there will be five IPCC Vice-chairs: two developed countries, one being a country with an economy in transition; and three from developing countries (one each from WMO regions 1, 2 or 5, 3 or 4);
- (vi) The IPCC agrees that each Working Group has two Co-chairs (one from a developed country and one from a developing country);
- (v) The IPCC agrees that there is one developing country Working Group Co-chair from each of Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean;
- (vi) The IPCC agrees that each Working Group Bureau will consist of two Co-chairs and six Vice-chairs (one from each of the WMO regions not covered by the co-chairs, wherever possible);
- (vii) The IPCC agrees that each WMO region may nominate their candidates for the IPCC Vice-chairs and its representatives on each Working Group Bureau (co-chairs and vice-chairs), taking into account the relevant expertise/qualifications needed to perform the roles and responsibilities assigned to the IPCC Vice-chairs and Working Group Bureaus.

**15. Funding for technical support units**

- (i) The IPCC agrees that the traditional approach be largely continued, whereby the government of the developed country Co-chair assumes the primary responsibility for funding the TSU (office space, equipment, postage, communications, publications, travel, expert meeting facilities, and 1-2 professional and 3-4 support staff);
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the IPCC trust fund should fund, to the extent needed and financially feasible, the agreed costs to assist the developing country Co-chairs perform their duties;
- (iii) The IPCC agrees that the secondments and/or financial assistance to the TSUs from the developed country Vice-chairs is highly desirable.

**16. Financial task team**

- (i) The IPCC agrees to establish a small financial task team to review income and expenditures, to assist in preparing the annual budget and to develop other recommendations on matters related to finance and administration for consideration by the IPCC;
- (ii) The IPCC agrees that the team should be co-chaired by two government representatives from countries represented on the IPCC Bureau: one from a developed country, and one from either a developing country or country with an economy in transition. The co-chairs, and other members of the team (about four government representatives from countries represented on the Bureau), will be selected by the Bureau.