

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING IPCC WORK

Approved at the Fourteenth Session (Vienna, 1-3 October 1998) on 1 October 1998

INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as the IPCC or, synonymously, the Panel) shall concentrate its activities on the tasks allotted to it by the relevant WMO Executive Council and UNEP Governing Council resolutions and decisions as well as on actions in support of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

ROLE

2. The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies.

3. Review is an essential part of the IPCC process. Since the IPCC is an intergovernmental body, review of IPCC documents should involve both peer review by experts and review by governments.

ORGANIZATION

4. Major decisions of the IPCC will be taken by the Panel in Plenary meetings.

5. The IPCC Bureau, the IPCC Working Group Bureaux and any Task Forces of the IPCC shall reflect balanced geographic representation with due consideration for scientific and technical requirements.

6. IPCC Working Groups and any Task Forces constituted by the IPCC shall have clearly defined and approved mandates and work plans as established by the Panel, and shall be open-ended.

PARTICIPATION

7. Participation in the work of the IPCC is open to all UNEP and WMO Member countries.

8. Invitations to participate in the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups, Task Forces and IPCC workshops shall be extended to Governments and other bodies by the Chairman of the IPCC.

9. Experts from WMO/UNEP Member countries or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations may be invited in their own right to contribute to the work of the IPCC Working Groups and Task Forces. Governments should be informed in advance of invitations extended to experts from their countries and they may nominate additional experts.

PROCEDURES

10. In taking decisions, and approving, adopting and accepting reports, the Panel and its Working Groups shall use all best endeavours to reach consensus. If consensus is judged by the relevant body not possible: (a) for decisions on procedural issues, these shall be decided according to the General Regulations of the WMO; (b) for approval, adoption and acceptance of reports, differing views shall be explained and, upon request, recorded. Differing views on matters of a scientific, technical or socio-economic nature shall, as appropriate in the context, be represented in the scientific, technical or socio-economic document concerned. Differences of views on matters of policy or procedure shall, as appropriate in the context, be recorded in the Report of the Session.

11. Conclusions drawn by IPCC Working Groups or Task Forces are not official IPCC views until they have been accepted by the Panel in a plenary meeting.

12. Invitations to participate in the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups, Task Forces and IPCC workshops should be extended at least six weeks in advance of the opening of the session.

13. Major reports, including Assessment Reports, Special Reports and Methodological Reports, basic documentation and other available reports for consideration at the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups shall normally be made available by the IPCC Secretariat at least four weeks in advance of the session and, to the extent possible, in all official UN languages.

14. Interpretation into all official UN languages shall be provided for all sessions of the IPCC meeting in Plenary, of its Bureau and its Working Groups.

15. The scheduling of the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups and Task Forces shall be co-ordinated, to the extent possible, with other related international meetings.

16. These Principles shall be reviewed at least every five years and amended as appropriate.

17. Procedures for the preparation, review, acceptance, approval, adoption and publication of IPCC reports are given in Appendix A.

18. Financial procedures for the IPCC are given in Appendix B.