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ELABORATION AND SCHEDULING OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1996-1997

Contribution by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Note by the secretariat

The attached document is circulated at the request of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Prof. Bert Bolin.

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UPDATE ON  
IPCC GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

by the  
Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Introduction

1. The Phase I IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, developed jointly by the IPCC, the OECD and the IEA, (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines) have been approved by COP as an agreed methodology and have been used by Annex I countries in their national communications. However, the Guidelines will continue to evolve in the light of experience and new research results. The Guidelines will benefit from improvements in such areas as changing land use, new industrial gases and updated emission factors. Thus, there are developmental and operational aspects to the Guidelines. It is suggested that the former be the responsibility of the IPCC and the latter of the SBSTA.

2. Operational aspects would include activities such as approval of the methodology for application by Parties, training in and implementation of the methodology, translation and dissemination of the methodology and receiving, collating and reviewing national communications. The details of the handover to SBSTA of some parts of the operational aspects, now handled by the IPCC, need to be jointly worked out.

Ongoing developmental efforts

3. Expert Groups have been formed to complete the Guidelines for CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> and to develop estimation methods for new industrial gases such as SF<sub>6</sub>, HCFs and PCFs. Estimation methods for other gases (e.g. CO, NMVOC, NO<sub>x</sub>) are also being developed by some of the groups.

4. Five of the Expert Groups correspond to the five emission sources listed below:

Fuel Combustion (with emphasis on non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases)  
Industrial Processes and New Gases  
Land Use Change and Forestry and Biomass Burning  
Agricultural Soils  
Solid Waste Disposal.

Land Use Change and Forestry and Biomass Burning, and Agricultural Soils continue to be the two most difficult areas because of the complexity of the underlying scientific issues and paucity of observational data.

5. A sixth Expert Group is responsible for technical editing and updating of the Guidelines (e.g. incorporation of new activity and emission data, correction of errors notified by users in the Guidelines). Since the completion of the Guidelines, because there has been no provision for new regional workshops, the experience of countries using the Guidelines is kept track of wherever possible through participation by the IPCC/OECD/IEA experts in relevant meetings and workshops organized by other bodies. The regional workshops organized under the auspices of the US Country Studies Program have been particularly helpful in this respect.

6. Discussions have taken place with the UN ECE/EMEP Task Force on Emission Inventories for European Community with the specific objective of harmonising the IPCC and the CORINAIR methodologies. Considerable progress has recently been made by establishing a time-frame for the systematic harmonisation of the two methodologies.

7. As part of the continuing IPCC capacity-building efforts and with funding through the GEF grant to IPCC, a scientist from Congo, Ms. Isabelle Mamaty, has recently been taken on board for three months as a Visiting Scientist at the OECD to work on the Guidelines. Current plans call for making this position sequentially available to two more scientists from other regions of the developing world for similar periods.

8. This current phase of the developmental work is expected to be completed by mid-1996.

#### Possible future tasks

9. Other tasks have been identified that need to be pursued: accounting for emissions from bunkers, accounting for import/export of products with embedded carbon (e.g., timber products), aerosols and their precursors and comparison of aggregated national emission totals with independent "top-down" emission estimates. Undertaking these would require human and financial resources.

10. Methane emissions from rice fields are of particular concern to a number of developing countries and some have established systematic observational programmes to collect and analyze data. Methane emissions depend on such factors as soil and ambient temperatures, water depth and the time in the growing season. If funds become available and subject to IPCC approval, a review could be undertaken to update the methodology for methane inventories in the Guidelines.

#### Calendars and funding

11. The calendars of SBSTA (and the COP) and the IPCC need to be coordinated and funding continues to be a recurring worry. Perhaps one way to overcome the latter is for GEF to provide funding for IPCC for developing methodologies.