



AD HOC GROUP ON THE BERLIN MANDATE
Third session
Geneva, 5-8 March 1996
Agenda item 7

REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON THE BERLIN MANDATE

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate
on its third session

[Chairman: Raúl ESTRADA-OYUELA (Argentina)]
[Rapporteur: (.....), Vice-Chairman]

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. OPENING OF THE SESSION		3
II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS		
A. Adoption of the agenda		
B. Organization of work of the session		
C. Organization of the work of future sessions		
D. Attendance		
E. Documentation		

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN THE CHAIRMAN		
IV. STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENTS IN ARTICLE 4.2(A) and (B)		
A. Inputs from the subsidiary bodies		
B. Policies and measures		
C. Quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames		
V. CONTINUING TO ADVANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4.1		
VI. POSSIBLE FEATURES OF A PROTOCOL OR ANOTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENT		
VII. REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION		

Annexes

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

(Agenda item 1)

1. The third session of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (hereinafter referred to as "the AGBM") was held at Geneva from 5 to 8 March 1996. The session was convened in accordance with the schedule confirmed at the first session (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 15).
2. The Chairman of the AGBM, Ambassador Raúl Estrada-Oyuela, opened the session at the 1st meeting, on 5 March 1996. He stated that 154 States had ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and indicated that this was a clear testimony to the increasing commitment by the international community to the Convention. He further underlined that the third session would benefit from the inputs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He added that the AGBM would also benefit from the results of two informal workshops, one on policies and measures and one on quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs). He expressed his intention to overcome obstacles, avoid procedural traps and facilitate the way forward to fulfilling the Berlin Mandate.
3. The Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to the session. Referring to the presentation to the SBSTA of the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC, he observed that the future stabilization of global greenhouse gas emissions implied the redistribution of those emissions in response to the need for sustainable development in developing countries. The establishment of QELROs would have to take this into account. He urged delegations to evaluate carefully the utility of any major new document that may be requested, bearing in mind that only two months were available for the secretariat to prepare documents for the fourth session. He added that, as work proceeds on the Berlin Mandate, it is the input of Parties and not that of the secretariat which is increasingly vital.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

(Agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 2 (a))

4. The AGBM, at its 1st meeting, on 5 March, adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;

- (b) Organization of work of the session;
 - (c) Organization of the work of future sessions.
3. Election of officers other than the Chairman.
 4. Strengthening the commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b):
 - (a) Inputs from the subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Policies and measures;
 - (c) Quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames.
 5. Continuing to advance the implementation of Article 4.1.
 6. Possible features of a protocol or another legal instrument.
 7. Report on the session.

B. Organization of work of the session

(Agenda item 2 (b))

5. At the 1st meeting of the AGBM, on 5 March, the Chairman recalled that there would be services available for one morning and one afternoon meeting with interpretation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The AGBM agreed to proceed on the basis of the proposed schedule of work contained in annex II of document FCCC/AGBM/1996/1/Add.1.
6. On the subject of applications for accreditation to sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, the AGBM agreed to admit new applicant organizations that had been screened by the secretariat, on the basis of the provisions of Article 7.6 of the Convention, without prejudice to subsequent action by the Conference of the Parties (COP).
7. Further, the Chairman recalled that non-governmental organizations would be admitted onto the floor before and after meetings only.
8. The AGBM, at its second session, had decided to convene informal workshops on policies and measures and quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, in conjunction with the third session (see FCCC/AGBM/1995/7, paras. 29 and 38). The workshop on quantified objectives was held on Wednesday, 28 February 1996 and the workshop on policies and measures on 4 and 5 March 1996.

C. Organization of the work of future sessions

(Agenda item 2 (c))

9. At the 1st meeting of the AGBM, on 5 March, the Chairman reported on the results of the deliberations by the Bureau of the COP on the schedule of meetings of Convention bodies. The subsequent sessions of the AGBM will be as follows:

4th session	during COP 2, 8-19 July 1996	Geneva
5th session	9-13 December 1996	Geneva
6th session	3-7 March 1997	Bonn
7th session	3rd quarter 1997	Bonn
COP 3/8th session	4th quarter 1997	To be determined

The representative of Japan made a statement regarding the current situation of his Government's offer to host the third or a subsequent session of the COP.

[to be completed]

D. Attendance

10. The lists of attendance at the third session of the AGBM are given in annex I.

E. Documentation

11. The documents prepared for the AGBM at its third session are listed in annex II.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN THE CHAIRMAN

(Agenda item 3)

12. At the 1st meeting of the AGBM, on 5 March, the Chairman reported on his consultations with regional groups in respect of nominations for the Bureau of the AGBM. He recalled that he had been authorized by the COP at its first session to undertake such consultations and indicated that the results of his consultations had, until then, been inconclusive. He stated that four of the five regional groups had agreed to the formula he had proposed at the second session. This formula comprised two Vice-Chairmen, with one serving also as Rapporteur, and the Chairmen of the SBSTA and the SBI as ex-officio members. Six "advisers" would be invited by the Chairman to participate in Bureau meetings on an equal footing with the elected and ex-officio members. The Chairman indicated that one regional group was not yet in a position to accept the proposal.

13. The Chairman recalled that there was consensus that one of the Vice-Chairmen should come from the Western European and Others Group and that this group had submitted a nomination some time ago. In view of the general support for the nomination, and without prejudice to the election of the second Vice-Chairman at the earliest opportunity, he proposed that the Group elect Mr. Daniel Reifsnnyder (United States of America) as one of its Vice-Chairmen. It was so decided.

14. The Chairman invited a representative group of delegates to assist him as "ad interim advisers", until consultations on the nominations for the second Vice-Chairman and the advisers were concluded.

[to be completed]

IV. STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENTS IN ARTICLE 4.2(A) and (B) (Agenda item 4)

A. Inputs from the subsidiary bodies (Agenda item 4 (a))

1. Proceedings

15. At its first meeting, on 5 March 1996, the AGBM considered the inputs from the subsidiary bodies. Statements were made by the Chairmen of the SBSTA, the SBI and the IPCC.

16. In his statement, the Chairman of the SBSTA highlighted four items of relevance to the AGBM. First, with regard to the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC, he noted that the SBSTA had commended the report to all Convention bodies. In this context, he noted that some delegations had highlighted a number of the IPCC's conclusions, including that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols were increasing largely because of human activities, and that the balance of evidence suggested a discernible human influence on climate while others pointed to areas of uncertainty and opposed selecting particular conclusions (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/L.1/Add.1). He mentioned that the SBSTA would continue its consideration of the Second Assessment Report, and had also concluded on a list of items on which the IPCC would provide input to the SBSTA. Secondly, based on the SBSTA's conclusions on communications from Annex I Parties, he reiterated that the latter would have to make additional efforts beyond those included in projections in order to fulfil their aim of returning greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000 (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/L.1/Add.2). Further information would be available for the next session of the AGBM in the form of the second compilation and synthesis of information from Annex I Party communications. Thirdly, he noted that the SBSTA would resume consideration of the item on non-Annex I Party communications, at its next session,

considering the position paper of the Group of 77 and China regarding communications from non-Annex I Parties as the principal basis. Finally, he added that while much information on technology exists, further work on technology inventory and assessment would be undertaken.

17. The Chairman of the SBI drew the attention of the AGBM to the conclusions of the SBI contained in document FCCC/SBI/1996/L.1/Add.1 and especially with reference to the need for Annex I Parties to make additional efforts beyond those included in projections in order to return emissions to base year levels by 2000. He added that further discussion in the SBI on communications from non-Annex I Parties would be suspended until the guidelines had been refined and agreed upon.

18. Professor Bert Bolin, the Chairman of the IPCC, referred to his earlier statement to the SBSTA on the Second Assessment Report and offered some supplementary observations. He explained the inputs that contributed to the IPCC's conclusion that there is a discernible human influence on climate. While reiterating the uncertainties in the IPCC report, he noted that it would be proper to take into account in the policy debate the entire range of the uncertainties, from their lower to their upper bounds. In this context, he referred to the SBSTA's request to the IPCC to prepare a technical paper which would examine a large variety of emissions profiles for all greenhouse gases and that this would be ready for the fifth session of the AGBM. He cited the IPCC conclusion that a number of "no-regrets" opportunities were available that could result in a 10 to 30 per cent reduction in emissions at little or no cost and that there was sufficient rationale for action beyond "no regrets". A prudent strategy addressing mitigation, adaptation and research, which could be adjusted over time, was needed. The IPCC could, if requested, provide, by the fifth session, a technical paper on possible policies and measures. Furthermore, he reiterated that the IPCC does not recommend specific measures. He concluded by stating that the economies of all countries could benefit from the implementation of policies and measures to mitigate climate change.

19. Statements were also made by the representatives of 6 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and another speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

2. Conclusions

20. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the AGBM, at its ...th meeting, on ... March, adopted the following conclusions.

[to be completed]

B. Policies and measures

(Agenda item 4 (b))

[to be completed]

C. Quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames

(Agenda item 4 (c))

[to be completed]

V. CONTINUING TO ADVANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4.1

(Agenda item 5)

[to be completed]

VI. POSSIBLE FEATURES OF A PROTOCOL OR ANOTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENT

(Agenda item 6)

1. Proceedings

27. The AGBM considered this matter at its 1st and ... meetings on 5 and .. March. It had before it two documents, FCCC/AGBM/1996/4 and FCCC/AGBM/1996/MISC.1.

28. Statements were made by the representatives of ... Parties

[to be completed]

2. Conclusions

29. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the AGBM adopted the following conclusions.

[to be completed]

VII. REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION

(Agenda item 7)

30. At the ... meeting, on ... March, the [Chairman, in the absence of an elected Rapporteur], presented the first part of the draft report of the session (FCCC/AGBM/1996/L.1). The AGBM considered and adopted the first part of the draft report. It also requested the [Rapporteur] [under the guidance of the] Chairman and with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, taking into account the discussions of the AGBM, the conclusions on agenda items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the need for editorial adjustments.

31. The Chairman, after thanking all participants for their constructive cooperation, declared the third session of the AGBM closed.

[to be completed]

- - - -