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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Second session
Geneva, 27 February - 4 March 1996
Item 10 of the agenda

**REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Draft report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice on its second session**

Addendum

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS

**Agenda item 4 (a): Consideration of the Second Assessment Report
of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

**Agenda item 4 (b): Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change**

Draft conclusions proposed by the Officers of the SBSTA

**Agenda item 4 (a): Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) expressed its warm appreciation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and to the Chairman of the IPCC for the excellent work carried out in drawing up the Second Assessment Report and for the Chairman's presentation to the SBSTA on 27 February of the key points from the report. It considered the Second Assessment Report to be the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment of available scientific and technical information related to climate change, *inter alia*, on causes, impacts, scenarios, response policies and other aspects of climate change.

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2. In commending the entire Second Assessment Report to all bodies of the Convention, and particularly to the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), the SBSTA took special note of the following findings:

- atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols are increasing largely because of human activities;
- the climate is changing and is expected to change in the future;
- the balance of evidence suggests a discernable human influence on the Earth's climate;
- without specific policies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, the Earth's mean temperature is projected to increase by between 0.8 to 3.5 degrees centigrade by 2100, a rate faster than any observed during the last 10,000 years;
- sealevel is projected to rise by about 50 centimetres by 2100;
- even after stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration is achieved, global surface temperature would continue to rise for some centuries and sealevel for many centuries;
- the projected changes in climate will result in significant, often adverse, impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health;
- the impacts of climate change will be more severe in the developing countries of the world, and these may have fewer adaptation options;
- in further work to reduce existing uncertainties, there is a need, *inter alia*, to estimate future emissions, to improve understanding of special feedback mechanisms and to improve projections of rates and regional patterns of climate change;
- significant no-regrets opportunities are available in most countries and the risk of aggregate net damage due to climate change, consideration of risk aversion and the precautionary principle provide rationales for action beyond no-regrets;
- a portfolio of existing cost effective technologies and policies can be used to markedly reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases from industrial, energy supply, energy demand, and land management practices;

- flexible, cost-effective policies relying on economic incentives and instruments, as well as coordinated instruments, can considerably reduce mitigation and adaptation costs, or can increase the cost-effectiveness of emission reduction measures.

The SBSTA invited the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the AGBM to take the above findings into account in carrying out their work.

3. The SBSTA decided to include in its future work programme the key questions deriving from Article 2 of the Convention, the level of atmospheric greenhouse gases concentrations that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system and the paths to stabilization at that level, taking into account the common but differentiated responsibilities of Parties. In this context, the IPCC Second Assessment synthesis of scientific-technical information relevant to interpreting Article 2 of the Convention was considered as an important scientifically-based, comprehensive analysis. It also recognized that the IPCC would have to provide further technical inputs that would enable the SBSTA and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to face this political challenge.

4. The SBSTA also agreed that the major findings of the Second Assessment Report should be made available in a suitable form to different audiences with special attention being given to the impacts and circumstances at national and regional level. It invited Parties, organizations and institutions to give appropriate attention to this need. It requested the secretariat, and all relevant competent international organizations including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the parent bodies of the IPCC to collaborate in disseminating information from the Second Assessment Report in such a manner as to facilitate its absorption by the different audiences including the public information media.

5. The SBSTA took note of the information provided by WMO, and by a number of Parties, relevant to the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, on Research and Systematic Observation. It requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on research and monitoring issues in close collaboration with Parties and concerned international organizations, and taking into account the recommendations of the Second Assessment Report, for consideration by a future session of the SBSTA and subsequently by the COP.

Agenda item 4 (b): Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

1. The SBSTA considered the conclusions of the meetings of the Joint Working Group of officers of the UNFCCC and the IPCC. Taking into account also the statements made during the session, it accepted the IPCC proposed programme of activities in support of the SBSTA [contained in annex .. to this report]. In so doing the SBSTA stressed the need to avoid duplication of work and resources among bodies and organizations.

2. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to take this work programme of activities agreed by the Joint Working Group as the basis for making a financial contribution to the IPCC in 1996, as provided in the Convention budget and to report thereon to the third session of the SBI and the second session of the COP.

3. The SBSTA appreciated that, in addition to the programme of work [in annex ..], the IPCC was providing direct support to the evolving needs of the AGBM.

4. The SBSTA noted that, for several issues identified in the annex of document FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3, some information is available in the IPCC Special Report 1994, and the Second Assessment Report. These issues are:

- Development of methodologies for projections, effects of measures, and determination of global warming potentials;
- Information on sources and sinks;
- Reducing uncertainties related to particular matter and tropospheric ozone.

Identification of technical and socio-economic aspects of Article 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 will be addressed in the IPCC activities under the heading "Impacts of climate change and response measures" [(item 10 of annex ...)].

5. The SBSTA noted that, in addition to its parent bodies WMO and UNEP, the IPCC was cooperating with other competent international organizations including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in responding to the need for objective scientific and technical advice, and emphasize the importance of such cooperation.

6. Finally, the SBSTA requested its Chairman to continue the series of meetings of the Joint Working Group of officers of the UNFCCC and the IPCC, as and when appropriate, and to report on these meetings to future sessions of the SBSTA.

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