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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Eighth session
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Maciej SADOWSKI (Poland)

Addendum

Chapter : MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS:

METHODOLOGIES FOR CALCULATIONS/INVENTORIES OF
EMISSIONS AND REMOVALS OF GREENHOUSE GASES

Draft conclusions of Working Group I

1. Working Group I held preliminary discussions on task A.1, "Methodologies for calculations/inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases", adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change at its sixth session (see A/AC.237/24, para. 44). Document A/AC.237/34, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject. It included a progress report by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (see A/AC.237/34, paras. 11-28). He supplemented the report orally and provided delegations with comments and advice throughout the discussions. The following draft conclusions on the item drawn from the Convention, the debate

and background documents are recommended by the Working Group I for adoption by the Committee.

2. A number of delegations offered comments on the background documents and views expressed during the debate. Given the importance and complexity of this item it was proposed that Governments should be encouraged to offer further comments to the interim secretariat by 15 October 1993 for consideration of the Committee at its ninth session.

3. The Committee expressed its thanks to Professor Bolin and to IPCC technical experts for the contribution they provided to the Committee. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen its relationship with the IPCC. Therefore, it was recommended that IPCC members be present to brief delegations and demonstrate work under way to the Committee and the Conference of the Parties (COP) at their future sessions, and vice-versa officers of the Committee and later the COP to attend the meetings of IPCC. The Committee also expressed the hope that the concerns raised during the discussions be given consideration by IPCC in its ongoing work on methodologies for inventories. General appreciation was expressed of the work conducted by IPCC Programme on inventory methodologies. IPCC was urged to continue its efforts to refine and further develop methodologies for all sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in all economic sectors, in conformity with the comprehensive approach contained in the Convention. Efforts by IPCC and other organizations to ensure that developing countries were involved in the development of methodologies were acknowledged and should be strengthened. It was suggested that an early priority for bilateral and multilateral assistance and cooperation programmes should be technical and financial cooperation, including training and capacity-building.

4. The Committee recognized that fully tested comparable methodologies for all greenhouse gas sources and sinks, agreed upon by IPCC, may not be available on time for the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP I), and that some of the available ones would produce results with different degrees of uncertainty. However, it was agreed that all greenhouse gas emissions and removals by sinks should be included in national inventories, with due indication of the range of uncertainty within which results should be assessed. In this respect, work on inventories in other frameworks (Montreal Protocol, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and other available

methods (in particular CORINAIR) should be taken into account. Lack of methodologies agreed by the Parties would be no reason for delaying the development of national inventories.

5. Emphasis was placed on the need to maintain and strengthen close cooperation and exchange of information between the Committee and IPCC. Close cooperation between the head of the interim secretariat and IPCC is requested in Article 21, paragraph 2, of the Convention. In this regard, the Working Group welcomed the suggestion of the Chairman of IPCC to establish a small joint working party to analyze issues on which advice from IPCC to the Committee is needed. Therefore, the Committee requested its Chairman, assisted by the Executive Secretary, to consult with the Chairman of the IPCC on the establishment of arrangements as may be needed to ensure harmonization of work in the interest of the Convention. The competence and composition of that small joint working party should also be the subject of these consultations between the Committee and the IPCC.

6. It was suggested that the first IPCC guidelines be considered as a first generation of methodologies. Moreover, the proposed IPCC guidelines for national inventories were considered as a useful contribution to the methodologies to be agreed upon by the COP. It was agreed that to ensure transparency, comparability and consistency of inventory data, countries using their own methodology should provide sufficient documentation to back up the data presented in case an agreed methodology is not available. There was general consensus that the Committee at its ninth session would review the draft IPCC methodologies, and recommend that Annex I Parties use them in preparing their national communications probably due in the second half of 1994. Acknowledging that methodologies for all sources and sinks of greenhouse gases will not be available in December of 1993 or even for COP I, Annex I Parties would use non-IPCC methodologies for certain categories of sources and sinks, provided they are backed up by adequate and transparent documentation. In addition, Annex I Parties should try to coordinate and ensure comparability among non-IPCC methodologies to the extent possible and as appropriate. The meshing of the IPCC's inventory methodology timetable with the INC's schedule was noted with appreciation. The IPCC draft methodologies will be released in December 1993, followed by an international review during January to April 1994. The Chairman of the IPCC said that he would seek to arrange that, shortly before the tenth session of the Committee,

the Working Group I of the IPCC would review and approve these methodologies, followed by final approval at the IPCC Plenary to be held in October/November 1994. In this regard, IPCC was invited to provide the Committee with minimum requirements for Annex I Parties inventories, in advance of COP I, which will consider these inventories. IPCC was also invited to inform the Committee at its ninth session on its plans to move beyond the first generation of methodologies, indicating priorities, time line and resources required.

7. The Committee, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 2, further requested the IPCC to identify policy issues stemming directly from its scientific and technical work. These policy issues would then be addressed by the Committee and/or the COP. Moreover, the IPCC was requested to assist the Committee and provide scientific and technical advice on a number of issues. These could include: definition of anthropogenic activities, desirable reporting characteristics to ensure transparency, comparability and consistency, scientific and technical aspects of greenhouse gas emissions related to feedstocks and waste treatment, technical aspects of the accounting of imports and exports relevant to the Convention, recommendations for inclusion of additional gases in national inventories, [and methods for dealing with scientific, technical and economic uncertainties].

8. In this connection, the allocation of emissions from bunker fuels emerged as being a potentially difficult issue and different options for the treatment of these emissions were advanced. In light of the insufficient information provided on that subject, the Committee requested the interim secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to provide it with policy options for emission allocation and control for consideration at its next session.

9. The year 1990 was recognized as being an appropriate base year for inventories. For some sectors, averaging over a number of years could be considered as part of the agreed methodology. The Committee agreed that the frequency for submitting inventories would depend on the capacities of Parties. Several options were presented, ranging from yearly submissions for Annex I Parties to three or more yearly intervals for Annex I and other Parties. Frequency for inventories will be recommended at a future session,

in order to take advantage of a decision regarding the performance of the functions of the subsidiary bodies.

10. Although the issue was not on the agenda of the present session, the Committee also touched upon needs for methodologies as referred to in Article 4.2(c) to calculate emissions by sources and removals by sinks, to evaluate the effectiveness of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention. The Committee also considered the issue of how to calculate the contributions of different gases to climate change, taking into consideration the concept of global warming potentials. It was pointed out that these methodologies as far as they deal with calculations of emissions by sources and removals by sinks are not identical to those used for preparation of inventories as referred to in Article 12.1. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare a compendium of existing studies. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on such methodologies, with references to the work of Annex I countries and the OECD secretariat on the methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness of measures and to the roles of IPCC and the subsidiary body for scientific and technological advice, for consideration by the Committee at its ninth session.

11. The Committee recognized the value of a system for central collection, management and reporting of inventory data and requested the interim secretariat to prepare a paper with suggestions on the scope, development, organization, management of such a system and the implications of resource needs to develop and maintain such a system taking into account existing activities in this area.

12. The interim secretariat was requested to prepare further documentation for discussion by the Committee at its ninth session, as a basis for recommendations to the COP regarding decisions to be taken by the COP on methodologies.

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