

Report on the SBI Informal Workshop
“Updated information from the national communications of Annex I Parties”
Sixth session of the SBI, 31 July 1997

Chairman: Mr Alvaro Rodriguez Gómez

Rapporteur: Mr Donal Enright

The workshop had a representative participation by delegates from Annex I Parties, non-Annex I Parties and non-governmental organisations. A fruitful discussion developed from the four presentations made by the secretariat on:

- National inventories: actual trends between 1990-1995
- Methodological issues arising from submitted inventories
- Projections to 2000 and 2020
- Policies and measures and their specific effects.

In relation to inventories between 1990 and 1995, it is now clear that the reporting of inventories has improved in the light of the decisions of the COP on reporting requirements, with a clearer picture of emissions now emerging. However, it was acknowledged that the presentation and analysis of the data would be more informative and complete if more second national communications were available. The main conclusion of the presentation was that greenhouse gas emissions for most Parties have increased, apart from Parties with economies in transition, all of which show a decrease. The analysis shows that CO₂ emissions from the transport sector are increasing significantly, emissions of N₂O are decreasing and those of CH₄ are also decreasing, but to a lesser extent. Inventories of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ were reported on a mandatory basis for the first time and thus are not as complete as for other gases; it is therefore too early to identify clear trends.

Projections to 2000 have been more thoroughly prepared than previously and are now of a higher quality, although differences in methodologies used and underlying assumptions, mean that comparisons across Parties are not feasible. For the majority of Parties and in respect of the greatest proportion of emissions, the trend in CO₂ emissions and greenhouse gases generally in the period to 2000 is upwards. Projections of HFCs are upwards, PFCs downwards and SF₆ projections are generally upward.

Both the trends in emissions and projections appear to indicate that additional efforts might well be needed in the case of a number of Annex I Parties to achieve a return to 1990 levels of emissions.

The preliminary analysis of the second national communications by the secretariat, identified some methodological issues related to the recalculation of base-year inventories, changes in the global warming potentials (GWP) values used, information required to ensure the transparency of inventories and the reporting of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆. There are other methodological problems not addressed at this stage; they will be considered in the further analysis. These issues, if not given proper methodological guidance, could have important policy implications for legally