the Beijing Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development (see excerpts at the end of Annex III.)

2. More on Treatment of CO_2 from Biomass

Certain countries would like to see their CO_2 emissions data, such as that presented in Table 1, reported minus the CO_2 resulting from the burning of biomass in a sustainable way (i.e. where carbon is in fact recycled in reforestation actions, etc.). This is still not yet possible to do with accuracy, even for OECD countries. Annex 2 provides the percentage of emissions that "other solid fuels" contribute to total energy-related CO_2 emissions in each OECD country. This gives some indication of the relative importance of "other solid fuels" but cannot exactly be treated as being equivalent to CO_2 from biomass burning, depending on the country in question. This is because "other solid fuels" includes wood, wood waste, vegetal waste and black liquor which are possibly sustainably produced as well as industrial waste, municipal waste, peat and other non-specified solid fuels which are either not considered to be sustainably produced (peat) or are a mixture of possibly sustainable and not sustainable components.

But the importance of obtaining this further precision can be illustrated by four examples for which the data are laid out in Table 5. For the case of Sweden, about 92 per cent of the CO_2 from combustion of "other solid fuels" could possibly be sustainably produced and therefore considered as recyclable CO_2 and subtracted from Sweden's total CO_2. This amount is significant as it represents just over 10 per cent of Sweden's total energy-related CO_2 emissions. For Greece, "other solid fuels" is reported to the IEA as virtually all wood combustion and, if sustainably produced, would represent 100 per cent recyclable carbon from "other solid fuels" combustion or slightly over 2 per cent of its total CO_2 emissions. This is perhaps not so significant. Ireland's "other solid fuels" are reported to be virtually all peat, representing 100 per cent non-recyclable CO2. Hence, reporting emissions for Ireland including "other solid fuels" probably accurately represents its net energy-related CO_2 emissions. Alternatively, Switzerland's "other solid fuels" are a mixture of wood, woodwaste, municipal and industrial waste of which approximately 35 per cent is possibly sustainable but again which is less than 2 per cent of its total energy-related CO_2 emissions and not so significant.

Unfortunately the IEA energy balances are not complete for all countries at this level of disaggregation for "other solid fuels". Furthermore, emission factors for some of these fuels are highly uncertain or unavailable. Even for the examples provided above, some assumptions on emission factors were necessary. The subject of "other solid fuels" and their treatment in greenhouse gas emissions inventories will be further discussed at the 5-6 December 1991 IPCC workshop on national emissions inventories to be held in Geneva.