

2. FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

2.1 Objectives

2.1.1 The Committee recognized that achieving full participation of the developing countries in the IPCC process is a necessary but difficult goal: it embraces a number of related objectives. These objectives are both quantitative and qualitative. With respect to quantitative objectives, the Committee acknowledged the need to:

(i) increase the number of developing countries taking part in IPCC meetings and actions arising therefrom; these include seminars, meetings of the Working Groups and their subgroups etc.;

(ii) expand the travel support so as to enable a number of experts from each developing country to attend meetings on climate change and related issues to provide for meaningful participation particularly when meetings consider different but related issues simultaneously;

(iii) expand the opportunities for developing countries to increase their knowledge of the science on climate change and policy-making (e.g., energy policy), impacts, and response options appropriate to them, with respect to climate change;

(iv) expand the opportunities for developing countries to train and enhance the skills of experts in climate-related and climate change-related research.

2.1.2 With respect to qualitative objectives, the Committee acknowledged the need to:

(i) provide for continuity of

participation from developing countries in the IPCC process to further their involvement;

(ii) encourage dissemination within the developing countries of information and data on climate issues to increase awareness and knowledge;

(iii) encourage that climate issues are rationally considered in developing national policies with respect to science, economics and the environment to achieve sustainable development;

(iv) promote effective co-operation within developing countries among those responsible for the different aspects of climate issues to foster informed decision-making.

2.2 Factors inhibiting full participation

2.2.1 The factors identified by the Special Committee which inhibit the active participation of the developing countries in IPCC activities can be grouped into the following categories:

- (i) insufficient information;
- (ii) insufficient communication;
- (iii) limited human resources;
- (iv) institutional difficulties;
- (v) limited financial resources.

2.2.2 The above factors have been elaborated at length in the paragraphs below. Without prejudice to their generality, the Committee also took note of the fact that most of the developing countries faced the dilemma of deciding allocation of priorities between environmental issues and economic development. While the global environment has assumed today greater significance for the industrialized countries, the priority for the alleviation of poverty continues to be the overriding concern of the developing countries; they rather conserve their financial and technical resources for tackling their immediate economic problems than make investments to avert a global