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May 31, 1999

Synthesis Report

In addition to the three Working Group reports of the TAR, the IPCC Plenary in Costa Rica approved the scope, structure, approval/adoption process, and the specific Policy-Relevant Scientific Questions for the Synthesis Report. The Synthesis Report will consist of a 3-5 page Summary for Policymakers and a longer (30-50 pages) report. It will synthesize and integrate materials contained within the Assessments Reports and Special Reports and will be written in a non-technical style suitable for policymakers and address a broad-range of policy-relevant, but policy-neutral questions that were submitted by governments through SBSTA. The Synthesis Report will be completed by mid-summer 2001. The Policy-Relevant Scientific Questions (abbreviated), include:

- ✓ 1. What can scientific, technical and socio-economic analyses contribute to the determination of what constitutes dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system as referred to in Article 2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change?
2. What is the evidence for, causes of, and consequences of changes in the Earth's climate since the pre-industrial era?
3. What is known about the influence of the increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols, and the projected human-induced change in climate regionally and globally?
- ✓ 4. What is known about the inertia and time-scales associated with the changes in the climate system, ecological systems, and socio-economic sectors and their interactions?
- ✓ 5. What is known about the regional and global climatic, environmental, and socio-economic consequences in the next 25, 50 and 100 years associated with a range of greenhouse gas emissions arising from scenarios used in the TAR (projections which involve no climate policy interventions)?
- ✓ 6. How does the extent and timing of the introduction of a range of emissions reduction actions determine and affect the rate, magnitude, and impacts of climate change, and affect the global and regional economy, taking into account the historical and current emissions?
- ✓ 7. What is known from sensitivity studies about the regional and global climatic, environmental and socio-economic consequences of stabilizing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (in carbon dioxide equivalents), at a range of levels from today's to double that or more, taking into account to the extent possible the effects of aerosols. For each stabilization scenario, including different pathways to stabilization, evaluate the range of costs and benefits, relative to the range of scenarios considered in question 5.
8. What is known about the interactions between projected human-induced changes in climate and other environmental issues, e.g., urban air pollution, regional acid deposition, loss of