

2000 will be significantly affected by their national circumstances. In capturing the diversity of national circumstances in some detail, the report underlines the extent to which they must be taken into account in assessing performance. Both the convention and the Berlin mandate emphasise the significance of national circumstances. While analysis of these issues is complex, all parties have individual circumstances that bear on their ability to meet the aim of the convention. In this context, Mr Chairman, the Australian delegation registers its concern at some aspects of the report that oversimplify the situation. There are, for example, many more factors that contribute to emission levels *per capita* or *per* unit of GDP than reflected in the report. Important factors include underlying emissions growth trends, production and trade patterns, and the availability of alternative energy sources. It is misleading to avoid these complexities by attempting to group parties according to very general criteria, as is done in section II of the report; and then to infer common circumstances among the parties. This would be misleading in reporting to AGBM and the COP plenary; and restrict their capacity to realistically consider the applicability of common policies and measures.

Another issue that has caused some confusion in drawing conclusions from the report is the manner in which parties have addressed the different main greenhouse gases. Some, for example, have given special emphasis to carbon dioxide - and many exclusively to energy related emissions of CO₂. Most of the comparative statistics factor out 'land use change and forestry.' In Australia's case this has been identified in our national communication as a substantial source of CO₂ emissions. We would note that the first national communication guidelines, as well as the IPCC inventory guidelines, require reporting on the land use change and forestry sector. Therefore, to ensure consistency with both the convention's comprehensive approach, as well as the reporting guidelines, Australia considers that it would be preferable for related analysis to include land use change and forestry sector figures.

Less attention has been given by many parties to methane and nitrous oxide, despite their high global warming potentials and the consequent significant contribution that they may make to climate change. It is noteworthy in this context, however, that the report draws attention to the 'significant reductions' relating to PFC emissions in the aluminium industry. The comprehensive approach - dealing with all gases and all sectors - is a fundamental tenet of the convention and needs to be the basis of both communications and their reviews and assessments.

The issues we have mentioned carry over into the report's attempts to deal with projections and overall effects of policies and measures. The difficulties in drawing conclusions from this section of the report are compounded by the lack of timely information from some parties.

The Australian delegation notes that the European Community had not submitted its communication until just a few days ago, when, as pointed out in the report, it was due on 21 September 1994. Australia notes that the convention, in specifically recognising the role of regional integration organisations in meeting commitments under the convention, provides an particular status to the European Community as an Annex I party. Australia is concerned about the negative effect that its long delay in meeting its reporting obligations may have on wider convention implementation.

One message that clearly comes from the assessments of projections and overall effects of policies and measures is the difficulties that many Annex I parties are having in meeting the convention aim of returning emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. We suspect that these difficulties will be further borne out from the information in the European Community report. We say 'suspect' because the report does not seem to be readily available to SBI at this stage.