

Report on AGBM sessions on Climate Change, Bonn, Mar 3 - 7, 1997:

Report: AGBM Chairman Estrada (Argentina) sensing many Parties were not ready to negotiate text, opted for a streamlining of existing compilation of submissions by Parties. However having been adopted, it will become the negotiating text to be circulated to Parties by June 1, 1997, as required six months in advance of expected adoption of a legal instrument in December 1997 at CoP3 in Kyoto. In his press conference after the meeting, the Chairman said that wide differences remain and a great effort of negotiation and compromise would be needed in the months ahead but in his view there was a 99 per cent probability that an agreement would be reached.

2. AGBM sessions involved combining similar proposals by Parties and streamlining text and to a limited degree the inclusion of new proposals. Smaller non-groups were formed to produce a consolidated text on Art 4.1 (developing country commitments) and on institutions, mechanisms and other clauses which along with policies and measures, quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (qelro's) and other elements including review of commitments, evolution and annexes were adopted in plenary. Parties can make additional submissions in legal language by April 1, 1997 to be included in the negotiating text to be circulated June 1, 1997. Unlike the current chairman's draft text, the negotiating text will not include attribution to Parties. The chairman stated that it would be difficult to introduce new proposals unrelated to the elements in the negotiating text after June 1. He intends to have informal consultations on policies and measures, qelro's and Art 4.1 with the "trattoria group" (a representative group of developed (including Canada) and developing countries and economies in transition) likely surrounding the UN Special Session June 23 to 25, 1997.

3. As expected the EU presented a proposed negotiating target of a 15 per cent reduction in CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O by the year 2010 with other greenhouse gases and a target for 2005 to be added later. An accompanying table to the announcement by Ministers in Brussels, not to be included in the EU submission of legal text, indicated members states projected emissions would range from a reduction of 30 per cent to an increase of 40 per cent. The agreement reached on March 3, 1997 covered only 10 of the 15 per cent proposed reduction, with the rest still to be negotiated. Developing countries are expected to submit a proposal for reductions by developed countries (which would be a major accomplishment given divergent views within the G-77) and Peru proposed a 15 per cent reduction in emissions by developed countries by 2005. Other submissions included a proposal by Russia which involves setting an objective to return emissions to 1990 levels (or other agreed base year) for all developed countries by 2010 with enhanced reduction commitments for OECD countries to be negotiated and legally binding qelros for each Annex 1 party was submitted by Switzerland, which is a direct contradiction to the EU bubble approach.

4. On elaboration of Policies and Measures, Canada submitted its proposal for coordinated policies and measures which was received positively by many Parties particularly Eastern European countries and will be included in the draft negotiating text. Our proposal regarding countries with their economies in transition, calls for lending institutions, such as the World Bank and the EBRD, to reprofile their lending practices so that more focus is paid to energy efficiency and renewables. The United States and Australia made clear their preference