

SBSTA
Third Session
Geneva, 9-16 July, 1996

CANADA'S STATEMENT

Agenda Item 3: Scientific Assessments: consideration of the SAR of the IPCC.

On behalf of Canada, I would like to congratulate the chair on his re-election as chair of SBSTA. I would like to thank Professor Bolin for his clear statement and the clarification of the role of the IPCC.

Canada strongly supports the SAR as the most authoritative and comprehensive scientific and technical analysis of climate change to date. Canada endorses the key conclusions as being particularly relevant in the on-going negotiations at CoP2 and beyond.

In considering the SAR, Canada supports the statement that science indicates a discernible influence on global climate and that this influence represents a significant additional stress on the global ecosystem, with potential consequences for food supply, water resources and human health. While it does leave uncertainty as to the magnitude and timing of the impacts, Canada does not view this uncertainty as an excuse for inaction. In that respect, Canada also supports the SAR's finding that significant "no-regrets" opportunities are available to reduce net GHG emissions in most countries and that the risk of aggregate net damage due to climate change provides rationale for action beyond "no-regrets".

Canada thanks the Chair for his clarifying comments on the role of SBSTA. SBSTA is to use the reports of IPCC and other sources as a basis for providing advice to COP and AGBM. This is noted in FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1 which refers to the role of the SBSTA in summarizing and, where necessary, converting the latest international scientific, technical, socio-economic and other information, provided by competent bodies, including the IPCC, into forms appropriate to the needs of the COP.

This process was started at SBSTA2 and Canada supports the summary conclusions listed in paragraph 24 of FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8.

We need to move the agenda ahead. We note that Article 2 of the FCCC refers to the magnitude and rate of climate change; both are important. In this regard, we note the statement of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the EU. Other delegations have also made statements as to how to move our process forward. These approaches are worth further consideration.

SBSTA must continue to work with the IPCC to move ahead on our agenda.

Thank you.