

that the effects of some types of aircraft emissions are well understood, while the effects of others are not because of the many scientific uncertainties, and that aircraft emissions can be reduced through technological advances, infrastructure improvements, and regulatory or market-based measures. However, further work is required to reduce scientific and other uncertainties, to understand better the options for reducing emissions, to better inform decision-makers, and to improve the understanding of the social and economic issues associated with the demand for air transport.

Third Assessment Report

At our Plenary in Vienna, October 1998, the IPCC approved the scope, structure, time-table and lead authors for the three Working Group Reports for the TAR, which will be approved/accepted between late January and late February 2001.

- ❖ Working Group I will assess the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change;
- ❖ Working Group II will assess the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change of, and the negative and positive consequences (impacts) for, ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional sectoral and cross-sectoral issues;
- ❖ Working Group III will assess the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the mitigation of climate change.

The philosophy of the TAR will emphasize the regional dimensions of climate change, embrace the concept of sustainable development, and place the issue of climate change more centrally within the evolving socio-economic context. In addition, given the emerging recognition that local, regional and global environmental issues need to be addressed in a more integrated manner, the TAR will assess the scientific and policy linkages, and the synergies and trade-offs, among these issues and their impact on sustainable development. The TAR will build upon the Second Assessment Report, the Special Reports and the Technical Papers and will involve an increased number of experts from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industry, business and environmental NGOs. It will place particular emphasis on:

- ❖ observed trends in climatic parameters and the issue of attribution;
- ❖ regional scale climate projections, non-linearities, and extreme events, natural climate variability (e.g., the El-Nino phenomenon);
- ❖ regional impacts of, and adaptation measures to, climate change;
- ❖ costs and benefits of utilizing a range of technologies, policies and practices, and timeframe for, reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- ❖ cross-cutting issues, such as uncertainties; development, sustainability and equity; costing methodologies; and decision-making frameworks; and
- ❖ linkages with other local (air pollution), regional (acid deposition), and global (loss of biodiversity, land degradation and stratospheric ozone depletion) environmental issues.