

IPCC Presentation to Joint SBSTA/SBI Session
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IPCC Chair

First, let me say it is a real pleasure to have the opportunity to address you today and further improve the coordination and collaboration between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). While IPCC is an independent scientific and technical body under the sponsorship of UNEP and WMO, it values its close collaboration with the FCCC and its subsidiary bodies, and prides itself on being responsive to the needs of the FCCC as evidenced by the inventories and methodological work, the technical papers, the special reports and a number of workshops that have been prepared in response to FCCC requests.

It is also a particular pleasure to address you at the first meeting of the Parties to the FCCC after the historic meeting in Kyoto.

The agreements reached in Kyoto were a significant first step towards limiting the unbridled growth in greenhouse gas emissions globally. While it is clear that numerous scientific, technical and economic uncertainties still exist in our understanding of the climate system and the subsequent implications for human health, ecological systems, and socio-economic sectors, the governments of the industrialized nations demonstrated a willingness to act, consistent with Article 3 of the Convention that states that "... scientific uncertainties should not be used as an excuse for inaction ...". The agreements reached in Kyoto, even if fully implemented after ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, will not result in a stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere -- the goal of Article 2 of the Convention. Hence, if the Parties to the FCCC do want to achieve the goals of Article 2 further actions will be required beyond those negotiated in Kyoto.

The IPCC stands ready to assist the Parties to the Convention, its Secretariat and its Subsidiary Bodies by not only providing comprehensive assessments at regular intervals, but, subject to the availability of funding, by producing technical papers and special reports on particular topics that will assist you in your further deliberations on how to operationalize the Kyoto Protocol.

At present the IPCC is continuing its preparation of three special reports requested by SBSTA: (i) aviation and the global atmosphere; (ii) methodological and technological aspects of technology transfer: opportunities for technology cooperation; and (iii) emissions scenarios of greenhouse gases and aerosol precursors. The first two reports will be completed in 1999, whilst the third report will be finalized in early 2000. These reports will significantly advance the debate on a number of critical issues. For example, the technology cooperation report will discuss the implications of each of the flexibility instruments mentioned in Articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol (i.e., project-based carbon offsets and emissions trading) on technology