

variability in emissions of greenhouse gases, and in the factors affecting total annual emissions, sparked some discussion of methods to adjust the data (e.g. averaging emission values over 3 or 5 years; averaging temperatures over some time period; incorporating some socioeconomic indices etc.). SBSTA decided to reinforce the current practice of requiring Parties to submit unadjusted data plus, if Parties so wished, adjusted data with a clear explanation of the adjustment methodology. In response to a letter from the AGBM requesting guidance on methods used to derive values for greenhouse gas sources and sinks, and on the use of global warming potentials, considerable discussion ensued. Canadian concerns for methods to identify and calculate carbon sinks (e.g. boreal forest) were shared with some other Parties. Canada supported much of the New Zealand proposal regarding sinks. With regard to global warming potentials, Canada urged the continued use of current IPCC guidelines, but also recognized the need for such guidelines to be revised and updated. Because parties were unable to come to consensus on these two issues, the draft decision paper was abandoned and SBSTA chair Tibor Farago decided to respond to the AGBM letter with a letter of his own.

5. Annex 1 National Communications: SBI took note of the first compilation and synthesis report on the second national communications; only 18 Parties had submitted by August. Others were urged to submit their communication as soon as possible. It was also noted that additional efforts would be needed by many Parties to return their GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. Secretariat will make available each Party's annual emission inventories on the Convention Web site. Decision is put forward to CoP3 referring to publication of inventory data and a streamlined in-depth review process. SBSTA 9 will consider, the need for and the nature of additions/amendments to the revised FCCC guidelines for the preparation of Annex 1 communications, taking into account methodological issues.

6. National Communications from Non-Annex 1 Parties: No substantive progress was made on the process for consideration of the National Communications of non-Annex 1 Parties. Due to significant divergence in positions, availability of only 3 national reports, and insufficient time, Annex 1 Parties did not push for a decision at COP 3. The SBI decided to continue its deliberations on this issue with a view to coming up with a decision at COP 4 on the basis that the effort might have improved prospects in the less politically charged atmosphere post-Kyoto. It was also agreed that the SBI will hold a workshop before its 8th session. Parties were invited to submit comments on the draft compilation of the non-group prior to 21 March 1997.

7. Transfer of Technology. Items discussed under this heading included a report on adaptation technology; the technology information "needs survey", and the development of a plan for technology information centres and networks. The Secretariat will interact with the University of Amsterdam to expand the survey to include all non-Annex I Parties. The IEA will be