

2.6 Institutional difficulties

2.6.1 The Committee noted that in many developing countries the manpower engaged in co-ordinating receiving, transmitting, disseminating and effectively using information on climate change and related activities was not sufficiently supported by institutional infrastructure.

2.6.2 While this requirement for national infrastructure has been met successfully in some of the developing nations, such is not the general case. It is often not clear which ministry or agency is responsible or should have responsibility for a particular climate issue or decision. In addition, co-ordination mechanisms among ministries and agencies in many developing countries are not as well established or effective as climate issues may demand.

2.7 Limited financial resources

2.7.1 For the reasons stated elsewhere in the policymakers summary, the Committee did not consider in detail topics such as financial assistance, economic incentives/disincentives, formulation of legal instruments, and development of, and access to, environmentally-benign and energy-efficient technologies. These are being dealt with by Working Group III and are likely to form the substance of future negotiations among governments. However, the Committee expressed the view that actions to promote the full participation of the developing countries in climate change issues should not await the outcome of such negotiations. Some of them could be taken now.

2.7.2 Limited financial resources are intimately tied to a general

lack of access to new and better technologies. In addition, survival needs have to be satisfied first. Means of meeting the incremental costs of ensuring a viable environment frequently cannot be found. Also, local, immediate environmental concerns generally receive political priority over impersonal, invisible, somewhat remote, global concerns.

2.7.3 While the root causes of the problem of lack of financial resources may lie in the past patterns of economic development, there are simpler but nonetheless indispensable needs such as travel funds, so that a nation can keep itself informed of activities elsewhere in climate change and related fields.

2.7.4 Developing countries require support for the attendance of their experts at IPCC meetings. Travel needs compete with other national priorities for funds. Without travel support, many developing countries simply would not be able to attend even a single meeting; for others, adequate and effective representation would not be possible. Here, as elsewhere, the issue is not so much an absolute lack of financial resources as the absolute necessity of establishing spending priorities amid a large and growing number of international environmental and other meetings and conferences. This is particularly problematic for the least developed countries as well as for smaller developing countries, particularly those in the Southern Hemisphere since the majority of these meetings are held in the Northern Hemisphere.

2.7.5 The Committee noted that the attendance of the developing countries in IPCC meetings has shown a steady improvement (see sub-section 2.8 below). Ironically, as the IPCC succeeds in increasing the participation of developing countries, the problem becomes more complex unless funding assistance