

AGBM, there was a lengthy debate at the Plenary sessions, followed by the formation of a contact group which worked through the weekend to resolve the issue. Canada, along with the other JUSCANZ members participated actively to defend the key findings of the IPCC. The strongest objections came from the Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Venezuela, joined by China and India, in claiming that they had not had enough time to review the report, while stating that they found the key findings identified by other Parties to be unbalanced, etc. (see SBSTA conclusions). In the end, the SBSTA managed to include the key findings of the SAR in the report but not in the conclusions. In this context, the IPCC chair in his speech to the AGBM emphasized that uncertainty does not reduce the risk and like several delegations underscored a key finding of the SAR that a number of no regrets opportunities were available at little or no cost to reduce GHG emissions and that there was sufficient rationale for actions beyond no regrets.

The SBSTA also approved a list of activities to be undertaken by the IPCC. This list includes special reports, technical papers, and workshops on a range of topics including regional impact and scenarios, adaptation, methodologies for inventories as well as technology transfer. In addition, the AGBM asked the IPCC to prepare a technical paper on policies and measures for consideration at the 5th session of the AGBM. The SBSTA also invited the Parties to submit their views on the SAR by 30 April, 1996 for its full consideration at its next session. The secretariat was requested to prepare a summary report on quote research and observation unquote issues. Parties were requested to submit their views on this item by 15 April.

Non-Annex 1 National Communications

Most of the discussion on this item took place in the SBSTA. G 77 and China introduced a position paper on guidelines and format for preparing their initial National Communications (developed on the basis of the workshop held a day before the SBSTA session) and attempted to have it adopted by the SBSTA. However, while recognizing that it was a significant step forward, Annex 1 Parties wanted a full discussion and further consideration of guidelines. After a full day's discussions SBSTA concluded that the position paper of G 77 and China would be the principal basis for the development of guidelines for non-Annex 1 Parties and it would continue consideration of the guidelines at its next session. The expectation is to have these guidelines approved by the Second Conference of the Parties, as many non-Annex 1 Communications are due by April 1997. There was general agreement that these guidelines should ensure consistency and comparability, and enhance transparency.

There was a general support for another follow-up workshop on this issue. The SBI requested the Secretariat to facilitate assistance in this regard. The SBI also requested the non-Annex 1 Parties to nominate national focal points for the facilitation