

18. Inventory submissions will now consist of a **National Inventory Report** that includes a Common Reporting Framework. This report will be provided annually to the CoP. It will provide a record of greenhouse gas inventory data and associated information from the 1990 base year to the year being reported and include full documentation of the methods and assumptions used in generating inventory estimates. Countries will supply background calculations as well as information on references, uncertainties, and QA/QC procedures. Complete documentation of changes in methodologies are required, as well as recalculations of emission trends if methodologies change. The Common Reporting Framework (CRF) provides a consistent structure for electronic reporting of inventory information. It consists of over 40 tables that provide summary information, sectoral level detail, and background data.

19. Given the significance of the changes in the inventory guidelines, Parties agreed to a two-year trial period, followed by a formal review of the guidelines. In addition, given the volume and complexity of the tables agreed to at this meeting, Parties will have the opportunity to provide the secretariat with technical comments on the CRF tables by July 15, 1999.

20. **Part II: Guidelines for National Communications, Policies and Measures and Related Issues:** Work continued to elaborate guidelines for use by Annex I Parties for their National Communications. Due to extended work on Part I (inventories), contact group meetings on Part II did not produce a completed draft text. Instead, a *working document* that specifically indicates unresolved issues (including outstanding issues and specific comments by Parties) will provide the basis for continuity and further work at SBSTA 11. The group proposed to shorten the name of Part II to read "UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national reports." Discussions on Part II were characterized by extensive debate between those Annex I Parties seeking tighter language and broader scope (European Union and Switzerland) and those seeking more flexibility to reflect national circumstances, data availability and reporting feasibility (USA, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Canada, etc.). The issue of the mandatory language of "shall" (European Union) versus the non-mandatory of "should" (USA, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Canada, etc.) remains unresolved. This status is reflected in the working document and will be addressed at SBSTA 11. A group of ENGOs made a concerted statement in the contact group to the effect that mandatory language was necessary to ensure the integrity of the Convention and Protocol. There remain strong concerns that the guidelines will not be ready for decision by CoP5. A strong editorial hand is needed in the Secretariat, to prepare a draft revised paper with much clearer definitions of what will be expected of Annex I Parties in the third set of National Communications. Overall, despite a number of unsettled issues, progress to date on the document reflects Canada's objective to retain flexibility in the development of these guidelines and avoid an EU push for greater international policy co-ordination.

21. **Review Process Related to Greenhouse Gas Inventories:** SBSTA adopted draft conclusions for the technical review process related to greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties. The technical review process will contain the following elements: Annual initial checks, Annual synthesis and assessment, and Individual reviews. In addition, the SBI prepared a preliminary document specifying elements of a draft decision on a technical review process for greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties. The enhanced review process will contain elements that were previously discussed at a SBSTA Workshop on Inventories and summarized in a SBSTA document prepared by the