

Agenda item 3 (b)

*Quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives
within specified time frames*

11. The AGBM held an initial exchange of views on the establishment of quantified limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames, such as 2005, 2010 and 2020, for anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases for Annex I Parties (FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1, para. 2 (a)).

12. The AGBM reiterated the importance of such objectives. Some Parties underlined the linkages between them and the elaboration of policies and measures. The importance of the underlying considerations included in paragraph 2 (a) of the Berlin Mandate was also reaffirmed.

13. Existing approaches for quantified objectives, such as those listed in document FCCC/AGBM/1995/4, annex, section II, para. 4 were mentioned as options. A number of alternative approaches were also broached, such as cumulative, multi-Party, differentiated, or collective objectives, as well as a system of emissions budgets (that is, a certain amount of emissions over a given period, for example 5 years). Such options require further elaboration and definition; Parties were invited to do so.

14. The need for the AGBM to assess the results of available analysis of a number of such objectives was stressed. The third session of the AGBM presents an initial opportunity to make progress on assessing relevant information and narrowing the range of options taking account, inter alia, of the environmental and socio-economic costs and benefits for all Parties.

15. Concepts relating to differentiation among Annex I Parties and equitable burden sharing, including possible indicators or criteria for differentiation in the context of sustainable development and vehicles to implement this were also thought to need further study by Parties.

16. With regard to time-frames, it will be necessary to combine the time needed to achieve shifts in patterns of emissions and removals with the need for accountability and stock-taking at regular intervals. The concept of providing incentives for early action merits further elaboration and consideration by Parties.

17. The AGBM looked forward to reviewing the aspects of the IPCC second assessment report related to quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives. This was seen as a substantive source of information for its deliberations at the third session. The AGBM invited the Chairman and other concerned officers of the IPCC to present the IPCC's findings at that time.

18. The AGBM requested the secretariat to organize in conjunction with the third session, an informal meeting featuring technical presentations by Parties and intergovernmental organizations of existing analytical information on quantified objectives and time-frames and their impacts. Parties were invited to communicate to the secretariat by 30 November 1995 their views on the organization and content of such a meeting. On the basis of these views and expressions of interest, the secretariat was requested to invite Parties and organizations, including those of non-Annex I Parties, to make technical presentations, taking care to ensure an adequate balance among presenters.

19. The AGBM further requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at the fourth session, a document reviewing possible indicators that could be used to define criteria for differentiation among Annex I Parties.