

**Report on SBSTA, SBI and AG13 sessions on Climate Change, Bonn,
Feb 25 - Feb 28, 1997:**

SBSTA completed its work under the able chairmanship on T. Farago (Hungary). Considerable use was made of contact groups and informal meetings in order to resolve different views of delegations and advance SBSTA's agenda. IPCC chairman, B. Bolin (Sweden) presented two recently completed technical papers on simple climate models and stabilization of atmospheric ghg's. Dr. Bolin noted that the IPCC does not have sufficient funds for the publication and distribution of its report in all UN languages. The IPCC had asked SBSTA for advice on possible new emission scenarios that might be used for the 3rd Assessment Report. There was considerable confusion regarding which emissions profiles would be examined by the IPCC and this was not entirely resolved. Several countries including Canada, had submitted proposals which the IPCC will, according to the SBSTA conclusions, take into account and, where appropriate, reflect these in a new technical paper, to be completed by September.

2. SBSTA urged international organizations involved in the Climate Agenda including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to accelerate their work related to commitments under the UN FCCC. It also revisited the opportunity for future SBSTA consideration of research and systematic observations.

3. Regarding national communications, we were informed that 34 initial communications had been received, that there had been 31 in-depth national visits with 20 reports issued. The U.K informed SBSTA (and SBI) that it was submitting its second national report. SBSTA set out a process for considering new national communications (due by April 15, 1997). The Secretariat is to prepare a workplan, including a tentative schedule of in-depth reviews and a compilation and synthesis by SBSTA 7. Non-Annex 1 countries used the occasion to raise questions about GEF funding for national communications and ghg inventories.

4. A very constructive contact group considered how the UN FCCC would consider a range of methodological issues, but it focussed particularly on the division of labour between the IPCC and the UN FCCC. This issue arose because of the number of institutions tasked with addressing methodological issues and their tightening budgets. The UN FCCC Secretariat will be preparing scoping papers on a range of issues for SBSTA 6. Parties were asked to provide submissions on content, priorities and timing of methodological activities as well as proposals on reducing costs of publication and distribution, by April 15, 1997. At SBSTA 6, the specific methodological issues relating to national communications such as bunker fuels and electricity trade which were not discussed at this SBSTA session will also be addressed.

5. There were some difficult discussions on technology transfer, and this was not helped by the fact that the supporting documents were not released until the SBSTA session was well underway. Developing countries continued to use this issue to draw attention to North-South differences. This was particularly evident in discussions concerning the establishment of information centres and Technology Advisory Panels (TAPs) which the developing countries continue to press for and developed countries no longer see as viable.