

USSR

1. Position

The USSR is active in both the INC and the IPCC and chairs the IPCC's Working Group II on socio-economic impacts. The Soviet Union is represented by the USSR Committee of Hydrometeorology and the Global Climate and Ecology Institute. The Soviet Union has consistently stated that more scientific study needs to be undertaken on the extent and timing of global climate changes before specific targets are set.

At the second session of the INC, the Soviet Union, along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, provided a paper which stated: "The specific difficulties of those countries, particularly developing countries, whose economies are highly dependent on fossil fuel production and exportation, as a consequence of action taken on limiting greenhouse gas emissions, should be taken into account." -

2. Factors Influencing Decisions

The USSR ranks second in total energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. The Soviet Union is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of oil, coal and natural gas for both domestic consumption and export. Production levels are difficult to maintain because of the lack of capital. Western countries are currently negotiating over a European Energy Charter which should help long-term energy development. The share of natural gas in total primary fuel production will continue to rise.

The country is currently in the midst of political, administrative and economic restructuring and the final outcome of the new federal system is still to be determined.

A number of studies indicate that there would be a significant scope for improving energy efficiency and fuel switching once the political and economic situation has stabilised and energy prices will have risen closer to world market levels.