

Report: SBSTA and SBI sessions on Climate Change, Bonn, July 28 - August 5, 1997

---The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) of the Climate Change Convention focussed its session on transfer of technologies, national communications, cooperation with relevant organizations, Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ), and methodological issues. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) focussed on financial and technical cooperation, review process for national communications, review of the financial mechanism and determination of the status of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and administrative and financial matters. The issue of division of labour was taken up by both subsidiary bodies.

SBI

2. Budget: A budget for the Convention Secretariat for the years 97/98 and 98/99 was approved. The budget will represent an increase of 10-15% from last year, in line with expanding duties for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. The Secretariat suggests that this would reduce staff funded from the core budget, but overall staffing appears to increase. Additional resources will be needed for expanded technical work on projections and inventories as well as reviews of national communications. Contingencies are also included for budgeting to cover a negotiation process after Kyoto (focusing on developing world commitments) and reviews of non-Annex national communications.

3. Review of GEF: No progress was made on the review of the GEF as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the FCCC. There was too little time to negotiate anything of substance during this period, so both G-77 and Annex 2 Parties agreed to return to the issue of the GEF review at the next negotiating session in late October.

4. Agenda for CoP 3 and Timing and Location of CoP 4: On Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings, for CoP3 the SBI requested the Executive Secretary along with the CoP2 Bureau to make arrangements that would allow Ministers to make statements. At the request of the Group of 77 and China, the High Level Segment of Ministers and other Heads of Delegation December 8 to 10 (to conclude its work on the 10th) will not include a roundtable as previously proposed. SBI recommended decisions regarding a review of the Annexes to the Convention (lists of developed countries) be taken at CoP3 and a review of the adequacy of commitments of developed countries commence at CoP3 to be completed at CoP4.

5. In addition, the SBI recommended that CoP4 take place in November 1998 in Bonn, unless a proposal of a Party to host the Conference is received. The SBI requested that any proposals to host CoP4 be received by September 30, 1997. (For reference, the