

Report to the 11th Session of SBSTA on the Status of the IPCC

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Distinguished delegates, it is a real pleasure and honor for me to be invited to address you today. All of us associated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), appreciate the close collaboration that exists between the IPCC and the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC, and the Secretariat to the UNFCCC.

Since I last had the opportunity to address you here in Bonn four months ago the IPCC has continued to make significant progress on the preparation of the Third Assessment Report (TAR) and the three Special Reports: (i) Methodological and Technological Aspects of Technology Transfer: Opportunities for Technology Cooperation; (ii) Emissions Scenarios of Greenhouse Gases and Aerosol Precursors; and (iii) Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

In my presentation today I would like to update you on the status of each of these reports and on the potentially dire situation of the IPCC budget. Later in this same SBSTA session, I am scheduled to present some of the "provisional findings" from the Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. These "provisional findings" will be presented in much greater detail by some of the lead authors of the Special Report tomorrow at a special side-event that was requested by SBSTA in June. I must stress that these findings are provisional and subject to change following the government and expert review process, which began late last week.

Let me briefly summarize the current situation regarding the Third Assessment Report and the other Special Reports.

Third Assessment Report

While we are still in the early phase of the preparation of the TAR we are making excellent progress. Each of the three Working Reports will be sent for expert review early next year followed later by a government/expert review. As I noted in June, the philosophy of the TAR will:

- emphasize the regional dimensions of climate change, cross-sectoral issues and adaptation;
- place the issue of climate change more centrally within the evolving socio-economic context; and embrace the concept of sustainable development; and
- identify the synergies and trade-offs between local, regional and global environmental issues.

In addition, the TAR is emphasizing four key cross-cutting issues for which papers have already been prepared to guide each of the Working Groups in their treatment of these issues:

- uncertainties;
- development, sustainability and equity;