

Decision 4/CP.1

Methodological issues

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 4.2(c), 7.2(d), 9.2(e) and 12.1(a) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having considered recommendation 7 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

1. *Decides:*

(a) That the Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should be used by Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications^{1/} pursuant to the Convention. Parties that already have an established and comparable methodology could continue to use that methodology, provided that they include sufficient documentation to back up the data presented. Standard tables and formats recommended in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines should be used for the presentation of that data;

(b) That the Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations or the simplified default methodologies adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should be used by non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate and to the extent possible, in the fulfilment of their commitments under the Convention;

(c) That Parties may use global warming potentials to reflect their inventories and projections in carbon-dioxide-equivalent terms. In such cases, the 100-year time-horizon values provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 1994 Special Report should be used. Parties may also make use of at least one of the other time-horizons provided by the Panel in its 1994 Special Report;

(d) That the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, drawing upon existing competent international bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and taking account of decision 2/CP.1 on the process for reviewing first national communications and decision 6/CP.1 on the subsidiary bodies, should:

^{1/} In this recommendation, the term "national communications" includes communications from the regional economic integration organization included in Annex I to the Convention.

- (i) Consider the methodological issues arising from the review of national communications, including those identified in the compilation and synthesis of national communications and in available in-depth review reports, and make recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;
- (ii) Provide advice to the Conference of the Parties and to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, taking account of the outcome of subparagraph (i) above, on further development, refinement, improvement and use of comparable methodologies for:
 - a. National inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;
 - b. Projecting national emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and comparing the respective contributions of different gases to climate change;
 - c. Evaluating the individual and aggregate effects of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention;
 - d. Conducting impact/sensitivity analyses and assessing adaptation responses;
- (iii) Propose a work plan and timetable for longer-term activities relating to methodological questions (including inventory methodologies and methodologies for analysing impacts and mitigation options) and the establishment of working relationships with other bodies (in particular, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its working groups and programmes);
- (iv) Report on the work specified above to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;
- (e) To consider at a future session, in the light of the scientific, technical and practical information provided by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the issues covered by the decisions contained in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above;
- (f) That the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, taking fully into account ongoing work in Governments and international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, address the issue of the allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels, and report on this work to the Conference of the Parties at its second session;

2. *Invites* the relevant international organizations and bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to contribute to the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, especially on the scientific aspects of methodologies, particularly those relating to inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, global warming potentials of those greenhouse gases, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, projections of emissions by sources and removals by sinks, the evaluation of the effects of measures undertaken pursuant to the provisions of the Convention and the allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels.

*10th plenary meeting
7 April 1995*