

REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION  
OF THE WMO/UNEP INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Washington D.C., 5-7 February 1990

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The third session of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was opened at 10:10 hours on Monday, 5 February 1990, by its Chairman, Professor B. Bolin, at the Leavey Conference Center, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The list of participants appears in Appendix A.

1.1 The President of the United States of America, Mr. George Bush, addressed the Panel. He said:

"Thank you, Dr. Bolin, and thank you for all you are doing in leading this very important effort here. To Professor Obasi and Dr. Tolba, and all the delegates of the World Meteorological Organization, and the UNEP -- the United Nations Environment Program. Let me commend all of you for coming together to examine an issue of such great importance.

I also want to salute Bill Reilly, our able EPA Administrator. He will become the next Cabinet official in the U.S. government. I want to thank Assistant Secretary Bernthal for his leadership from the U.S. side of things. And also salute my able Science Advisor who is with us today, Dr. Bromley, whom many of you know.

The recommendations that this distinguished organization makes can have a profound effect on the world's environmental and economic policy.

By being here today, I hope to underscore concern -- my country's and my own personal concern about your work, about environmental stewardship, and to reaffirm our commitment to finding responsible solutions. It is both an honor and a pleasure to be the first American President to speak to this organization, as its work takes shape.

You are called upon to deliver recommendations which strike a difficult and yet critical international bargain: a convergence between global environmental policy and global economic policy. A bargain where both perspectives benefit and neither is compromised.

As experts, you understand that economic growth and environmental integrity need not be contradictory priorities. One reinforces and complements the other. Each, a partner. Both are crucial.

A sound environment is the basis for the continuity and quality of human life and enterprise. Clearly, strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of environmental stewardship. Where there is economic strength, such protection is possible. But where there is poverty, the competition for resources gets much tougher. Stewardship suffers.