

INVOLVEMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE WORK OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(Submitted by Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Brazil and Zimbabwe)

The issue of closely involving the developing countries in the work of the Panel is discussed and suggestions are made on steps that might be taken by UNEP and WMO to facilitate greater involvement

## INTRODUCTION

1. At the first session of the Bureau of the IPCC held in Geneva 6-7 February, considerable attention was given to the issue of strengthening the participation of scientists from developing countries in the work of the Panel and its Working Groups.
2. This will be essential to the work of the Panel and its Working Groups because in each of the three main areas of work – the scientific aspects, the impacts, and the policies, the work to be done is truly global
3. Among the most widely accepted scenarios for climate change, areas of the globe occupied by developing countries would be most seriously affected. At the same time, the developing countries are not economically or technologically equipped to implement some of the practical and policy measures that are necessary to address the problems.
4. It would be unreasonable to ask developing countries to forego all of the benefits of economic and industrial development already enjoyed by the developed world. Nor should they have to pay directly or indirectly for the repair of damage caused by the scale of industrial development in the developed countries. It is essential that the developing countries be fully involved in a global action plan to address the scientific, social, economic, and policy aspects of climate change.
5. This paper addresses the short-term practical steps that might be taken during the life of the IPCC as well as some medium to long-term measures that might be considered by UNEP and WMO for incorporation into their medium and long-term plans.

## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE SHORT TERM

### Involvement in IPCC Activities

6. A simple and essential measure for ensuring the full participation of developing countries in the work of the panel is through financial support for the attendance of representatives from developing countries at meetings of the Panel and its Working Groups and for involvement in other IPCC activities. This is already being accommodated to some extent through the allocation of the funds from the IPCC Trust Fund. Some contributing countries have specified additional amounts expressly for this purpose.
7. Further donations from IPCC Member States should be encouraged as well as contributions from all WMO and UNEP Members. A regular report on the status of contributions to the fund should be made.
8. WMO and UNEP should examine the possibility of increasing their regular budget support to the IPCC to enable the use of Trust Fund monies exclusively for the support of developing countries.

9. Because the work of the IPCC requires the involvement of disciplines beyond the scope usually involved in WMO and UNEP work, especially in relation to Working Group III, the Working Groups, with the support of the WMO and UNEP Secretaries, should seek to identify possible funding sources beyond those traditionally associated with the work of WMO and UNEP.
10. In response to a request from the IPCC Bureau in February 1989, other funding sources including UNDP, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and other multilateral financial institutions are being explored by the Executive Heads of WMO and UNEP.
11. It is recommended that WMO and UNEP explore the possibilities of support from private foundations and research-oriented companies.
12. As well as seeking more support through increased donations to the Trust Fund, efforts should be made to give priority to support of IPCC activities in existing technical cooperation programmes. The use of a portion of funds available for short-term fellowships under UNDP and agency regular budget sources is recommended.

#### List of Experts Contributing to the IPCC Activities

13. The actions already being taken by Working Groups to identify expertise required in various disciplines and geographic regions should be supported and encouraged further. It would be helpful if, at the time of nominating people, Working Groups would identify those individuals likely to need support and consider possible funding sources.
14. The lists of actual and potential contributors, whether individuals or organisations, should be made available to governments so that they become resource lists for any actions that may be started at the national level.

#### Establishment of National Committee

15. A way of assisting more effective participation in the work of the Panel by developing countries would be through the formation of national committees or the inclusion of the Panel's work in the agenda of existing relevant national committees. This would also help marshalling of resources for national action programmes.
16. WMO and UNEP should jointly recommend this course to their Members. They should provide guidance on the formation, terms of reference and constitution of national committees as well as information on existing committees.

#### Conferences and Seminars

17. IPCC should consider the possibilities for arranging conferences and seminars in developing countries to help mobilise national and regional action.

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18. For example, a conference to heighten the awareness of developing country scientists on climate change matters would contribute to the objectives of the IPCC.

19. Roving seminars held on a regional basis have proven to be a cost-effective method of reaching a wide audience and stimulating valuable national action in developing countries. At least one series of roving seminars on a regional basis should be held during the course of the IPCC.

#### ACTIONS TO ASSIST MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

20. While the work of the IPCC must be accomplished in a short period and it is essential that urgent measures be taken to fully involve the developing countries, the opportunity exists to identify measures that will assist developing countries to address climate change issues and implement response strategies in the medium to long term.

##### Existing Technical Cooperation Programmes

21. The work of the IPCC is a valuable opportunity to inject new ideas and emphasis into existing technical cooperation programmes. The work of the Panel even in its early stages has served to indicate already that the size and scope of the task facing the world in addressing climate change issues is substantial. It is logical that steps can be taken now or will be identified as an outcome of the work of the Panel, that will contribute to the ability of the developing countries to address these issues in the medium to long term.

22. This process can take place as part of the normal review of technical cooperation programmes.

23. It is valuable to note, however, that special opportunities already exist in relation to plans for new regional centres or the upgrade of existing facilities. The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) is a good example where it should be possible to incorporate a small climate research and service group as part of the operations of the centre. In a similar way, plans to establish or upgrade existing Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres might with small modification include specific provision for climate research.

24. It is recommended that this matter be taken up by WMO and UNEP with the UNDP and that it be the subject of reports to the respective governing bodies of UNEP and WMO.

##### Emphasis on Climate in Existing International Programmes

25. Apart from specific technical cooperation activities, the Panel might ask the Executive Directors of UNEP and WMO to identify activities under other existing programmes that would contribute directly to the transfer of relevant information, technology and expertise to developing countries.

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26. Examples of this include actions under WMO's World Climate Programme and World Weather Watch Programme, and under UNEP's Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) and its GRID system.

27. A relevant example under WMO programmes is the development of the personal-computer-based climate database and analysis system known as CLICOM. This successfully uses affordable, maintainable technology to enhance the capacity of the national meteorological services to handle and analyse climatological data.

28. Another example is the transmission of the climatological summary data over the WMO Global Telecommunication System as part of the World Weather Watch. This system also presently carries analysis and computer model outputs of expected atmospheric behaviour over 1-10 days. The question needs to be addressed of the possibility of using this facility in the future to disseminate climate model outputs.

#### Emphasis on Climate in National Development Plans

29. The capacity of developing countries to address the climate change issue in the medium and long term will only increase if the countries themselves give this priority in development plans. It is important then that national planning agencies have available to them information and decision-making tools and accord climate change issues appropriate priority.

30. In this respect, emphasis should be placed on linkages between climate-related issues and other issues of vital interest to developing countries. Deforestation, for example, is not only a negative development from the point of view of local and global climatic change but also a serious form of destruction to many developing nations' economic and genetic resources. Assisting developing countries in enhancing their own capability for cost-benefit analysis of climate-related strategies, policies and programmes in the context of their own development objectives is vitally important.

31. In this respect, the Panel need not generate significant new material. Rather it would be valuable to draw attention to the concepts in documents such as the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, UNEP's Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and to the decision of the UN itself in affording the climate change issue high priority.

### Developing the Intellectual and Scientific Resources

32. Problems arising from climate change are global in nature. These problems demand concerted action by all countries based on a common understanding on the potential impacts of climate change and the measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts. This common understanding will not emerge except under condition of free exchange of information and know-how and full participation in assessment and analysis by all countries. It is recognised that the developing countries lack the scientific resources to fully participate in the scientific assessment and policy analysis. Therefore, a massive sustained flow of scientific and technological expertise towards the development of the intellectual resources of the developing countries is a necessary pre-requisite.

33. A critical issue for the medium to long-term capacity of developing countries to participate fully in international programs on climate change issues is the development of an indigenous intellectual and scientific base backed up by appropriate technologies.

34. Special emphasis needs to be placed on developing the capacity and infrastructure from within as far as possible using appropriate technology rather than the importation of technology and solutions that only increase dependence on aid from developed countries. This idea needs to be linked with the comments on development of centres such as ACMAD and WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres and systems such as CLICOM and GRID-GIS.

35. A specific example would be in the development of climate models for national application. It is realized that the development of the larger sophisticated models capable of studying the global situation must take place in major centres with powerful computing power and large teams of scientists and programmer. However, the development or at least local adaptation of smaller-scale, national and regional models might well take place in developing countries with modest computing power and using local scientists perhaps led by a more experienced scientists from a development country.

36. This aspect places special emphasis on the need for increased training. The panel is invited to request the Executive Heads of UNEP and WMO to study this aspect in consultation with UNDP to identify existing and possible new opportunities for training and education activities for developing countries that will increase the pool of suitably qualified scientists. At the same time, they should consider how best to involve other agencies with responsibility for other topics such as agriculture, water resources, and economics so that training programmes in these areas might reflect the increased importance of climate change from the impacts of response aspects.

### CONCLUSION

37. This paper identifies some options for actions to increase the involvement of developing countries in the work of the IPCC and, in the medium to long term, to enhance their capacity to deal with the climate change issue. The Panel is invited to discuss these options and decide on the specific steps to be taken.  
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