

**Third expert meeting on  
Scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil  
8-9 September 2003; Berlin, Germany**

To: Parties to the UNFCCC

Cc: Patrick Grachen, Karsten Sach, Helmut Kuehr, Martin Weiss, Enno Harders  
Gylvan Meira Filho, Thelma Krug  
David Warrilow, Cathy Johnson, Maria Nogueir, Sophia Oliver, Felicia Kemp  
IPCC Chair, Rajendra K. Pachauri  
IPCC Vice chairs: Richard Odingo, Mohan Munasinghe, Yuri A. Izrael  
IPCC WGI Co-chairs: Dahe Qin, Susan Solomon  
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IPCC WGIII co-chairs: Ogunlade Davidson, Bert Metz,  
Task Force on National Greenhouse Inventories: Taka Hiraishi  
IPCC Secretariat, Geoff Love  
WCRP, David Carson, Director  
IGBP, Will Steffen, Executive Director  
IGBP, Guy P. Brasseur, Chair  
IHDP, Barbara Göbel, Executive Director  
SBSTA, Dennis Tirpak

Dear colleagues,

It may be recalled that, as part of the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol, the delegation of Brazil made a proposal, in May 1997, to set differentiated emissions reduction targets for Parties according to the impact of their historic emissions on temperature rise (FCCC/AGBM/1997/MISC.1/Add.3).

Two previous expert meetings on the subject have been held:

- First expert meeting to review the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil (28 – 30 May 2001 in Bonn, Germany). Conclusions of that meeting can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/INF.2.
- Second expert meeting to assess the preliminary results provided by the participating research institutions, as requested by the UNFCCC secretariat, to provide new and comparable results on the issue of contributions to climate change (25 - 27 September 2002 in Bracknell, UK). Conclusions of that meeting can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.14.

During SBSTA 17 (New Delhi, October/November 2002), the SBSTA agreed that work on the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil should be continued by the scientific community and that such work should be of a standard consistent with the practices of peer-reviewed published science. It invited the scientific community, including scientific and assessment programmes, such as the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the World Climate Research Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to provide information to Parties, and each other, on their interests in the work. The original text of the conclusions on the item "Scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil" as adopted by the SBSTA are attached (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/L.24).

At SBSTA 17, the governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed their readiness to support a third expert meeting on the Brazilian proposal in 2003. The Government of Germany has also kindly offered support.

At SBSTA18 (Bonn, 4-13 June 2003), positive responses from IGBP and WCRP were disseminated and the Governments of Brazil and of the UK informed all parties about the third expert meeting on the Proposal by Brazil to be held from 8 – 9 September 2003 in Berlin.

Participants at the last expert meeting have been invited directly, but in order to allow wider participation we are informing all Parties to give them the opportunity of sending an expert if they so wish. Given the scientific and technical nature of the meeting, its focused aims and the limit on numbers of participants (up to a total of 50), it is most important that participants have the appropriate expertise and technical background. This will also facilitate fruitful discussions and a more focused work plan by the end of the meeting. Therefore we would be pleased to hear from experts on the subject and scientists that are actually working on the scientific and methodological assessment of contributions to climate change. We would be grateful if you could complete and send the attached Attendance Form to Felicia Kemp (Felicia.kemp@defra.gsi.gov.uk; Tel: +44 (0)207 944 5211; Fax: +44 (0)207 9445219) no later than 31 July 2003 if possible. If you do not wish to send an expert to the meeting, but wish to be kept informed about progress, then please also contact Felicia Kemp, as we would be happy to send relevant information and updates. More information regarding accommodation and the final programme will be sent in due course.

A scoping paper, which includes a provisional agenda for the meeting, is attached. We would like to draw your attention to items numbers 3 and 4 under which we will be discussing work that has taken place since the second expert meeting (September 2002) and plans for future work on the subject. Please convey this message to your nominees as we would like to invite them to submit proposals for relevant presentations on recent work they have done in this area. A title and short abstract would be welcome at this stage.

The purpose of the meeting is to continue the work on the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil<sup>1</sup>. The proposed aims of this Phase III, taken from the Report to the Second expert meeting (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.14), are:

- To develop a more robust attribution tool
- To study the sensitivity of the results to scientific uncertainties
- To study the sensitivity of the results to political and methodological choices
- To increase scientific participation, without the work becoming fragmented
- To increase political awareness of the methods, its advantages and disadvantages.

It might be desirable to include, among the aims of the meeting, the study of other approaches to attribution.

We are keen that there should be full participation by developing countries but no financial support will be available from the UNFCCC, as this is an ad hoc process, outside the UNFCCC work programme. We would therefore invite any offers of support for developing country experts and we would also ask developing countries to indicate where they might need some support.

Yours sincerely,

**David Warrilow**

(Head of Science Policy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK)

Enclosures: SBSTA17 decisions on methodological Issues FCCC/SBSTA/2002/L.24  
Scoping Paper, Attendance Form

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unfccc.int/issues/ccc.html>