

30 April 1992

7.00 p.m.

## DEFINITIONS

Proposed by the Chairman of the informal consultations on definitions on the basis of the Revised Text under negotiation and the preliminary comments of IPCC.

"**Adverse effects of climate change**" means changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change, which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operations of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.

"**Aerosol**" means solid or liquid particles suspended in air excluding cloud droplets or crystals and precipitation.

"**Afforestation**" means forest stands established on land which previously did not carry forests.

"**Climate change**" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters land use and the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

"**Climate system**" means the totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, [including cryosphere, oceans and all seas,] biosphere and geosphere and their interactions.

"**Deforestation**" means depletion of forest by human activity to the extent where crown cover is reduced to less than 10 per cent.

"**Emissions**" means the release into the atmosphere of any gaseous, liquid or solid material including greenhouse gases and their precursors.

"**Forest**" means an ecological system with a minimum of 10 per cent crown cover of trees and/or bamboos, generally associated with wild flora, fauna, and natural soil conditions, and not subject to agricultural practices.

"**Forest degradation**" means changes within the forest which reduce its production capacity.

"**Greenhouse gases**" means those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.

"**Net emissions**" means the difference between the amount of greenhouse gas released to the atmosphere from all sources and the amount removed from the atmosphere by all sinks, the sources and sinks being those created or modified by human activities, taken over a specified area and period of time, as calculated by agreed criteria.

"**Precursors**" means compounds which react chemically in the atmosphere to produce greenhouse gases or which affect the lifetime of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"**Reforestation**" means the establishment of forest stands on land which previously carried forests.

**"Regional economic integration organization"** means an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention or its protocols and has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the instruments concerned.

**"Reservoir"** means a mass which stores greenhouse gases or their precursors.

**"Sink"** means any natural or man-made process or activity which removes a greenhouse gas, aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

**"Source"** means any process or activity which releases a greenhouse gas, aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas to the atmosphere.

**Note:**

1. The terms included in the Article on Definitions would depend upon their retention in the body of the Convention.
2. Informal consultations on Definitions will be held on 1 May 1992 in Conference room 5 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.