

NOTE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AGBM

MEETING OF THE COP BUREAU

8 December 1996

Geneva Executive Centre

3:00 p.m.

- The agenda of the COP Bureau meeting is devoted in large measure to the AGBM and the process for getting to a successful result at Kyoto. You will be expected to take the lead in the discussion.

Calendar

- The issue of shifting the **February-March session** to a somewhat later date may come up. No facilities are available in Bonn at any other time in the spring. (Conference services could be provided in the period 17-27 March.) While any delay would allow more time for preparation, it would reduce the amount of time available to work on the "6-month" text.
- Up-to-date information will be provided at the Bureau meeting on the availability of facilities and services for subsequent sessions. We have assumed there will be an additional session in 1997 but this should be confirmed by the Bureau. The periods in question are:
 - > end July/early August, Bonn
 - > last 2 weeks of October, Bonn
 - > 1-12 December, COP 3, Kyoto
- Is this sequence of meetings the most appropriate one? The dates must be decided so that facilities can be reserved.
- Once the dates have been agreed, there is the issue of **parallel meetings**. For the AGBM we are making provision for 2 teams of interpreters for the July/August and October and sessions (and COP 3). Is this agreeable? With the additional session it will be very difficult to remain within the limit of 12 weeks of interpretation time, as provided free by the United Nations. Hence careful planning is essential.

Structure

- If there are to be **parallel meetings** in the AGBM, the issue of structure must be addressed. Would such meetings take place in Working Groups? If so, terms of reference would need to be agreed and officers elected (or designated).
- An **alternative** would be to use the approach employed at the second part of INC V when the Convention was adopted - members of the Bureau (or advisers) could be invited to lead a number of consultation groups on specific elements of the text and report back to the plenary. While there could be several such groups, only two would meet at any one time.

Supporting process

- It may be useful to have intersessional informal consultations.
- You should be aware that the President of COP 2 may be interested in convening informal consultations. There may also be interest in the Japanese delegation. These have the potential to involve Ministers.
- This raises issues of:
 - > whom to invite: the AGBM Bureau and advisers?
the COP Bureau?
others?
 - > when: before or after finalization of the "6-month" text?

between the August and October sessions?
before COP 3?

more than one session?
 - > where: Bonn? Beijing? Harare? Tokyo? other?
- The UN General Assembly Special Session in June 1997 may present an opportunity for high-level discussions on the margins of the meeting. However, this would need to be very carefully prepared. If this is to be pursued, a decision at the Bureau meeting would be important.

Scenario for COP 3

- One issue is whether the AGBM should meet during the COP 3 period before handing the results to the Conference or whether it should conclude its work in October and let the work be completed by a Committee of the Whole. The latter option might be kept in reserve in case the AGBM is completely deadlocked and a "jolt" is required.
- When is the best time to involve Ministers at COP 3? If there is to be a signing ceremony at the close, Ministers will want to be involved. Moreover, it is likely that negotiations at the ministerial level will be required to complete the final agreement. It has also been suggested that Ministers participate at the outset to give impetus to the negotiations. However, it is hard to see how this would work in practice.