

DECISION ON NEW EMISSION SCENARIOS

Following the recommendations from the “Workshop on New Emissions Scenarios” held in Laxenburg, Austria, during June 29 to July 1, 2005 where the general consensus of the workshop was

- that there is a strong need for scientifically sound and widely supported new emission scenarios for research, policy analysis and for helping to produce assessments of climate change; as far as IPCC is concerned it would be important to have new emission scenarios for use after the AR4, particularly for use during a possible AR5;
- that it is important for emission scenarios to span a wide range of socio-economic and emissions outcomes and have the underpinning socio-economic drivers, which would make them suitable for impacts, vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation assessment;
- to have the IPCC facilitate or coordinate the development of new emission scenarios by the scientific community rather than the IPCC developing new scenarios itself, as was carried out in the past;

and with a view to defining further work and elaboration of future steps the Panel decided:

1. There is a need for new emissions scenarios, to be produced by the scientific community, with facilitation or coordination by the IPCC, to be available well before the completion of a possible AR5.
2. A Task Group (with a lifetime up to IPCC-25) be set up for the purpose of further defining:
 - 2.1 The kind of facilitation or coordination that needs to be undertaken by IPCC with the scientific community for development of scenarios.
 - 2.2 The deliverables of the emission scenarios development process, drawing on the user needs and scenario characteristics as outlined in the Laxenburg Workshop Report in Table I, IPCC-XXIV/INF. 1.
 - 2.3 The process and timeline that should be followed for the development and use of the new emission scenarios.
 - 2.4 The organizational arrangements and a timetable for IPCC’s own activities related to facilitation or coordination, assessment and use of scenarios in a possible AR5.
 - 2.5 To consider the possibility of encouraging, but not itself facilitating, a wider family of non-climate scenarios within which emissions scenarios might sit. This could be achieved by having members of the Task Force and participants of its expert meeting include those experts, for example, in other international organisations such as World Bank and the FAO, who are concerned with characterisation of world futures in a wider context than the IPCC.

The Task Group, the membership of which will be finalized by the Chair in consultation with the Co-chairs, will be chaired by the WGIII Co-chairs, and technical support would be provided by the WGIII TSU and the IPCC Secretariat. The composition of the Task Group would aim to cover a range of views, expertise and geographical representation while limiting the number of members of the Task Group to 15 including the Co-chairs. It would be composed of experts in climate modelling, impacts and adaptation assessments, emission mitigation scenarios and modelling, development of broader socio-economic scenarios, and the Co-chairs of the three IPCC Working Groups (or their designates), as well as persons from the policy community. The Task Group would prepare proposals, which will be discussed at an expert meeting. Based on the results of the expert meeting, the Task Group would formulate a plan of work and present this to IPCC-25 for decision-making. The Task Group would have a limited lifetime and would complete its task at the end of IPCC-25.