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IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change]

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To: Nancy Maynard
From: Bob Watson
Subject: IPCC

Please share this memo with those you consider appropriate, e.g., Jack Gibbons, Katy McGinty, Eileen Claassen.

Structure of IPCC

IPCC has three working groups.

- WG #1 Science
- WG #2 Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation
- WG #3 Economics and Cross-Cutting Issues

Key issues that need to be resolved include:

- who chairs the US delegations to WG #1, WG #2, WG #3, and IPCC Plenary sessions
- what coordination mechanisms are needed to ensure US input into each of the WGs and Plenary

The head of USG delegations for WG #1, WG #2, WG #3 and the Plenary should be technically competent in the appropriate scientific, technical or economic areas covered by the different WGs and/or have significant experience at interagency coordination and in heading US delegations to international meetings. Ideally the individual would be internationally renowned.

WG #1. Historical Context

The USG has coordinated its input and peer-review process through the CEES, which has an established assessment working group co-chaired by Dr's Watson (NASA) and Evans (USDA). The CEES assessment working group will provide secretariat functions for the US input to WG #1. USG delegations at WG #1 plenary sessions have been chaired by Dr. Watson of NASA.

Recommendations for Future Approach

The CEES assessment working group should continue to provide the coordination mechanism and head of USG delegation for WG #1.

WG #2 Historical Context

The USG has successfully co-ordinated its input and peer-review process through the PCC (the chair and secretariat have been provided by the State Department). The State Department has also chaired the USG delegations.

Recommendations for Future Approach

The USG is the co-chair of WG #2---Dr. Watson has just been asked to assume the role of USG co-chair

The co-chair of WG #2 (Dr. Watson) should not head the USG at WG #2 meetings as it is essential that he is viewed to be an impartial chair. If

should be noted that Dr. Watson will require secretariat support to perform his functions as chair of WG #2.

The State Department or OSTP could provide the coordination (similar to that provided previously by the State Department) for USG input to WG #2 and provide the head of delegation. While an individual agency could perform these functions it is probably preferable to utilize either State department or OSTP (both of these agencies are neutral). Independent of who chairs the USG delegation, the key to success will be strong support by scientific, technical and economics experts from the agencies (possibly augmented by non-agency experts).

- While State Department normally heads USG delegations for negotiating policies, a key question is whether the State Department is the appropriate agency to head a delegation to the IPCC. The focus of the IPCC is essentially scientific, technical and economic assessment, but there are significant policy aspects and implications.

The head of the USG delegation will require secretariat support to coordinate the agency input (this capability currently exists within the State Department).

WG #3

Historical Context

This is a new working group.

Recommendations for Future Approach

The head of the USG delegation at WG #3 meetings should ideally be a highly competent social scientist or economist (e.g., CEA). The coordinating mechanism for WG #3 could either be colocated with WG #2 or could be done by another interagency group (perhaps CEA). This working group should be linked with the economic research of CEFS.



United States Department of State

Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

Pl. file -
IPCC

Pl call
Bob & tell
him it
looks
great!

DATE 2/3/93 TIME _____TELEFAX COVER SHEETNUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 2

TO: Katie McGinty TEL #: 456-6224
OFFICE: White House FAX #: 456-6231

FROM: Bob Reinstein TEL #: 647-2232
OFFICE: OES/E FAX #: 647-0217

MESSAGE: Katie - This is the IPCC intervention we discussed. Tim has seen it and it incorporates his comments. Buff has cleared it. Comments?

Bob

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Before commenting specifically on the issue of our workplan and the organization of the Working Group II contribution to the Second Assessment Report, I would like to make a brief statement of the U.S. view on the importance of the IPCC's work.

The United States is strongly committed to continued support of the IPCC and its activities. We believe this work will improve the effectiveness and precision of international actions taken to combat the threat of global climate change. In this regard, the report of this working group can assist all nations in identifying appropriate response strategies.

Our work in the IPCC, and in other fora, is most timely. We are at a turning point in history -- in terms of our relationship to the planet and its natural systems, and in terms of the important relationships building between the nations of the South and those of the North. Together, we can seize this historic opportunity to integrate the twin imperatives of environmental protection and economic well-being. This strategy is good for the global commons and good for the global environment. To achieve our objectives, we must bring the best science and the best technology to bear in developing adaptation and mitigation response strategies for sustainable development.

We want to be sure that all options are identified so that this science and these technologies are shared on a global basis. Our meetings here in Geneva will contribute greatly to that process.

The United States views the possibility of global climate change as an urgent challenge to which we must respond. My country will be examining the full range of options available to us to meet this challenge, and we will be working closely with others, here in the IPCC and in other fora, to build a true partnership for a global response. We view the IPCC's scientific and technical work as a vital component of our partnership. The new Administration of the United States looks forward to this exciting opportunity for international cooperation -- and we intend to do our best to help lead these efforts.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to make this statement.