

**Statement**  
**By**  
**R K Pachauri, Chairman, IPCC**  
**At**  
**The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC**  
**(COP-10)**  
**Buenos Aires, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

It is a privilege to address the Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP-10) of the UNFCCC, celebrating 10 years of the Convention. At this stage we are not only celebrating past achievements but we are also marking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in just about two months from now, ~~which will be a very important step in implementation of the Convention~~. Throughout the last decade, in fact even longer, the IPCC has been privileged to provide the results of its work as inputs for the Convention process. In turn the Panel has received ongoing and valuable feedback from the

Conference of the Parties, its Subsidiary Bodies and the Climate Change Secretariat. In the past SBSTA has put before us specific policy relevant questions, which we have attempted to answer through special reports and technical papers. <sup>Right from</sup> ~~Already in~~ the early stages of the Convention the IPCC was asked to deal with subjects such as detection of climate change trends due to anthropogenic causes, the carbon cycle, <sup>the</sup> role of precursor gases, particulate matter and tropospheric ozone. Considerable interaction has also taken place between SBSTA and the IPCC on scientific, technical and socio-economic questions related to the ultimate objective of the Convention. These have been addressed in past IPCC assessment reports and will necessarily be considered in depth in the AR4, since knowledge on these subjects is <sup>always</sup> ~~still~~ evolving. Indeed, this feedback and the

process of interaction between the IPCC and the UNFCCC have provided sharper policy relevance to the assessments carried out by the Panel. Each of the previous assessment reports has been produced at a crucial stage of the Convention process, and it is a matter of great satisfaction for the IPCC to have seen the First Assessment Report provide a valuable scientific basis for the Convention itself. Similarly, the Second Assessment Report provided useful inputs for the Kyoto Protocol, and the Third Assessment Report has influenced the Convention process in highlighting and emphasizing impacts of climate change and related adaptation measures. The TAR also provided important technical and socio-economic information for policymakers for the development of mitigation strategies, including strategies aimed at reaching the obligations under

the Kyoto Protocol. The TAR SYR was a specific example of interaction between the UNFCCC and the IPCC community. It addressed a set of policy relevant questions raised by SBSTA and this document is widely used by policymakers and advisors in governments and the private sector.

The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) is scheduled to be produced by the end of 2007, and it is our endeavour to see *including the three Working Group reports and the Synthesis Report* that this report is also of unique value to the Convention

process. ~~We are planning to produce the Working Group reports and the Synthesis Report of the AR4 by then.~~

Panel has deliberated on the timetable for completion of every part of the Fourth Assessment Report, and given the importance attached to the production of a synthesis report

by the end of October, 2007 just  
agreed to finalize it in time for COP-13. Since this schedule <sup>by the</sup>  
<sup>and would have only 1 week between ~~IPCC~~ adoption + approval <sup>an</sup></sup>  
is very tight ~~our task would be greatly facilitated if~~ COP-13  
<sup>it would help greatly if COP-13 could be moved back by 3</sup>  
~~is moved back by a month. This would also ensure that the~~  
~~to 4 weeks.~~  
~~SYR is produced to standards of quality that the work of the~~  
~~IPCC signifies.~~

May I take this opportunity to highlight the importance of  
future decisions and agreements under the Convention  
being driven by the primacy of scientific assessment.

The IPCC has been in existence since 1988, and the three  
assessments carried out in the past have substantially  
advanced our knowledge of every aspect of climate change.

Our knowledge of the future prospects of climate change  
<sup>has</sup>  
~~have~~ evolved progressively, and the Third Assessment

Report strengthened the scientific conclusions that were produced in the previous two assessments. The material presented in the TAR essentially confirmed earlier results on temperature projections while further refinements and adjustments were provided on the basis of new knowledge such as revised values for methane and aerosols. There was also a substantial increase in knowledge provided on impacts and adaptation. What is also most gratifying is the fact that a number of organizations have highlighted the findings of the IPCC in their own efforts at disseminating information and knowledge. The AR4, therefore, builds on substantial scientific work and widespread <sup>research</sup> ~~public~~ awareness that is in place already. There is every reason to hope that in the discussions that take place in subsequent Conferences of the Parties, a threshold level of knowledge

about climate change would be a major propelling force for discussions and possible decisions. In structuring the AR4 we have been conscious of the needs of the policy community, and it is for this reason that the AR4 includes a set of cross cutting themes that relate to some overarching aspects of climate change as well as some core issues around which policies will need to be constructed. The IPCC fully appreciates the expanding needs of decision makers for making informed decisions. In the future, decisions would involve an integration of adaptation and mitigation and consideration of sustainable development options. Technology would be an important part of solutions related to climate change, and it is for this reason that technology has been included as a cross cutting theme. The IPCC would also make every effort to provide sharper

scientific assessment on issues related to Article 2 of the Convention, which has very high relevance for policy making. We do hope that the AR4 would, therefore, meet the needs of the Convention even more effectively than was possible with earlier assessments. The receptivity to the needs of the policy community have <sup>also been</sup> ~~been~~ extended ~~even~~ further in preparation of the AR4 by establishing a close dialogue with business and industry, quite apart from the constituency provided by governments that are the <sup>ultimate</sup> ~~supreme~~ decision makers for the IPCC. It is inevitable that future decisions emanating from an understanding of climate change would have to be taken directly by business and industry. It is particularly important that the IPCC keep all its doors and windows open while pursuing its assessments of climate change on the bedrock of scientific credibility



and complete objectivity. In the AR4 our attempt would be

to build on the impeccable standards that have been set in

earlier work of the Panel. *and meet the needs of the Convention*

*process as we view it ~~process~~*  
*unfolding in the future.*