

Res. 4 (EC-XL) - INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

NOTING:

(1) Resolution 42/184 (UN General Assembly) - International co-operation in the field of the environment,

(2) Resolution 9 (Cg-X) - Global Climate Change,

(3) Paragraphs 3.2.0.4 and 3.2.0.5 of the general summary of the abridged report of Tenth Congress,

(4) Paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the general summary of the abridged report of EC-XXXIX,

(5) The decision of the XIVth Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

BEING AWARE OF:

(1) The results of recent international meetings that produced an updated assessment of possible climate change and suggested actions towards developing policies for responding to climatic change,

(2) A need to:

(a) Maintain and develop further an efficient long-term monitoring system, making it possible to diagnose accurately the current state of the climate system, the trends, and the factors having an influence on climate,

(b) Improve our knowledge of the sources and sinks of the major radiatively important trace gases ("greenhouse gases"), and develop more reliable methods for predicting their future atmospheric concentrations,

(c) Promote research aimed at closing gaps in our ability to understand and predict the climate system, including reliable projections of the regional distribution of the expected climatic change,

CONSIDERING:

(1) That there is a growing international concern about the possible socio-economic consequences of the increasing atmospheric concentrations of radiatively active trace substances (greenhouse gases and particulates),

(2) That several nations have undertaken scientific assessments of this issue during the last few years,

(3) The current and potential involvement of national meteorological and hydrological agencies in comprehensive integrated national and regional studies of the consequences of a climatic change on natural and human eco-systems taking into account sociological and economic factors, and in developing strategies for adjustment to a climatic change, especially regarding agriculture and water resources,

CONSIDERING FURTHER that there is an urgent need to evaluate to what extent a climatic change can be delayed by appropriate national/international actions,

AGREES that an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should be established,

AGREES FURTHER:

(1) That the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should be aimed at (i) assessing the scientific information that is related to the various components of the climate change issue such as emissions of major greenhouse gases and modification of the Earth's radiation balance resulting therefrom, and that needed to enable the environmental and socio-economic consequences of climate change to be evaluated; and (ii) formulating realistic response strategies for the management of the climate change issue,

(2) That the panel should report on its activities to the governing bodies of WMO and UNEP,

RECOMMENDS:

(1) That, while the choice of the nominated representative to the IPCC is the sole prerogative of sovereign governments, they take into consideration the importance of such representation being at as high a level as possible and include persons knowledgeable of science, environment and related policy issues;

(2) That, for example, should the nominee be from the meteorological/hydrological service, he/she should preferably be at the level of the Permanent Representative of the country with WMO;

(3) That to ensure adequate expert advice to the nominated representative, the governments consider appointing advisor(s) to the representative as needed, who should also be at as high a level as possible.