



## director-general's bulletin

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### INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

At its sixteenth Session in March 2001, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 01/5) supported the proposal to develop an integrated climate change programme consistent with the legal and political framework of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the technical work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

To ensure continued and effective development and coordination of an organization-wide programme and following endorsement by the 120<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council in June 2001 (CL 120/REP), I have decided to establish an Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Change. The Working Group will have the following Terms of Reference:

- Develop normative and methodological approaches integrating climate change impact, mitigation and adaptation aspects into agricultural, forestry, fisheries, social, and economic activities, and provide technical support to member countries on questions and activities related to climate change.
- Ensure that climate change issues are given due attention in FAO's work with a view to: mitigating climate change and its impacts via use of solar radiation, biomass, wind and water, and carbon sequestration in land use and forestry; improving the sustainable use of natural resources; promoting the efficient use of energy and transition to renewable energy; and enhancing the resilience of people, communities, land and other natural resources to the impact of climate hazards.
- Coordinate organization-wide inputs into the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for climate change-related matters. Assess internal and external data, knowledge and information on climate change with a view to identifying their application to FAO's Regular and Field Programmes.
- Ensure appropriate linkages between FAO activities related to climate change, such as the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), the Terrestrial Carbon Observation Initiative (TCOI), work along Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZ), agriculture, forestry and fisheries resource assessments, agrometeorology, bioenergy and other renewable energies, as well as conservation agriculture.

- Provide technical and policy guidance for FAO's involvement in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and on FAO's collaboration with other UN system organizations and other partners working in this field, including reviewing and preparing IPCC and other UN documents on climate change related to FAO's areas of interest.
- Coordinate work on, and revise FAO position papers on climate change-related issues.
- Provide guidance to ensure appropriate involvement and representation of FAO in international meetings related to climate change.

The Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) will be supervised by the Assistant Director-General of the Sustainable Development Department (SD), who will designate the Chairperson of the Group at Divisional level.

The Chairperson will be assisted by a Secretary. The IDWG will comprise approximately 15 members, appointed by all Departments concerned with climate change issues. The Chairperson may co-opt other staff members, as required.

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Director-General

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