

Technological Advice (SBSTA) and one on Implementation (SBI). The SBSTA provides information and advice on scientific and technological matters and is the main liaison between the scientific community and the Convention process. The SBI assesses and reviews the implementation of the Convention.

The adequacy of commitments and the Berlin Mandate. The Convention called for the COP to review, at its first session, the adequacy of the commitments of 'Annex I Parties'² under Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the Convention. This review was to be carried out "in the light of the best available scientific information and assessment on climate change and its impacts, as well as relevant technical, social and economic information" [Article 4.2(d) of the Convention]. The Convention furthermore specified that based upon this review, the COP should take appropriate action, which may include the adoption of amendments to the commitments of Annex I Parties.

The review of the adequacy of commitments of Annex I countries was first on the agenda of the International Negotiating Committee on the Convention (INC) at its ninth session in February 1994, and came up again during the subsequent two INC sessions, in August 1994 and February 1995. Several OECD countries strongly supported the idea of a protocol or other legal instrument to supplement the Convention that would bind Annex I Parties to achieve emission reductions after 2000. During the ninth session of the INC, several key Parties, including, *inter alia*, the United States, Germany and the EU, called for additional commitments to strengthen the Convention. This view, however, was not shared by all countries present. There were several countries that argued that there was not enough substantial new scientific information about climate change to warrant further binding commitments. The main oil producing and exporting countries in particular, afraid that additional commitments might seriously harm their export revenues, were strongly opposed to the introduction of new commitments. Most developing countries approached the issue with caution, generally agreeing that the current commitments of Annex I countries were not sufficient, but wary that if Annex I Parties would make new commitments, developing countries might be asked to do so as well. They also stressed the need to focus on the implementation of the current commitments of Annex I Parties, casting doubt as to whether these Parties would be able to meet existing commitments, let alone new commitments. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)³, a group of 36 developing countries, however, has been the strongest proponent of the introduction of firmer emission reduction commitments for Annex I countries during these INC sessions, and also at COP-1. Following the tenth INC session, the AOSIS submitted a draft protocol, in which it called for a 20% reduction below 1990 levels in CO₂ emissions from Annex I Parties by the year 2005.

2. These are the countries (and a regional economic integration organisation) that are listed in Annex I to the Convention and that have ratified the Convention. The 24 countries that were members of the OECD at the time of the signing of the Convention, the EEC and twelve countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy are listed in Annex I.

3. AOSIS is a group of developing countries which share common objectives on environmental and sustainable development matters. The group was formed during the Second World Climate Conference in 1990 and is comprised of 36 small island and low-lying coastal developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse consequences of climate change.