

GORDON MCBEAN is a professor in the Departments of Geography and Political Science and holds the Chair in Policy of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction at the University of Western Ontario. He is also: Co-Chair, START Scientific Steering Committee; and Chair, International Council for Science *Ad-hoc* Scoping Group on Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards; and Member US National Academy of Sciences' Panel on Earth Science Applications and Societal Objectives. He was previously Member, ICSU Advisory Committee on the Environment (1996-2004) and ICSU Panel for the Priority Area Assessment on Environmental Sciences. From 1994-2000, he was the Assistant Deputy Minister, Meteorological Service of Canada and with responsibilities for weather, climate, water and ice science and services in the Canadian government and Member of World Meteorological Organization Executive Council. Prior to that, he was professor of atmospheric and oceanographic sciences at the University of British Columbia. He also served as Chair, Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Programme of ICSU and the UN agencies. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Canada's Academy of Sciences) and of the American Meteorological and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Societies. He was awarded the Patterson Medal for distinguished contributions to meteorology by Canadian residents.