

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

### EL NIÑO CENTRE, ECUADOR

J.P. BRUCE

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

In response to Resolution 52/200 of the UN General Assembly (2 March, 1998) on International Cooperation to reduce the effects of the El Niño Phenomenon, a major international Conference was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 9-13 November, 1998. The Declaration of Guayaquil arising from this Conference was submitted to the General Assembly, 17 November 1998 by the Ecuadorian authorities. The Guayaquil Declaration called for **“immediate action to assess the feasibility of establishing an International Centre for the Research of the El Niño Phenomenon, in Guayaquil, within the context of the UN Interagency Task Force on El Niño”**. The results are **“to be reflected in the report on implementation of UNGA Resolution A/C.2/53/L.30 to the next UN General Assembly, through the 1999 substantive session of ECOSOC”**. The World Meteorological Organisation through its Secretary General, Prof. G.O.P. Obasi recognised the urgent need to undertake the requested feasibility study and organised a mission for this purpose, 28 Jan. to 7 Feb. 1999. The mission included consultation with the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, New York, with institutes and senior officials in Quito and Guayaquil and with relevant international institutions. A summary of the consultations undertaken appears in Annex “A”.

This Feasibility Study describes the scientific and organisational context, the scope and functions such a Centre should undertake, a suitable location, staff and equipment needs, and a proposed organisational arrangement. It outlines the probable contributions that would be made by Ecuador, and the magnitude and nature of external resources required.

#### 2. THE GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT:

The 1980s and 1990s have seen a remarkable increase in scientific capability to make predictions of mean climatic conditions a season or longer in