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PROVISIONAL

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

COMITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTAL DE NEGOCIATION CHARGE D'ELABORER
UNE CONVENTION-CADRE CONCERNANT LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

COMITE INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE NEGOCIACION DE UNA CONVENCION
GENERAL SOBRE LOS CAMBIOS CLIMATICOS

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*

LISTE PROVISoire DES PARTICIPANTS*

LISTA PROVISIONAL DE PARTICIPANTES*

* The provisional list contains the names of participants communicated to the Secretariat. Addenda will be issued as information is received. Delegations are requested to send their corrections to the list in writing to Miss Mora Henskens at the Registration Desk.

* La liste provisoire contient les noms des participants qui ont été communiqués au Secrétariat. Les additifs seront distribués au fur et à mesure que les renseignements parviendront au Secrétariat. Les délégations sont priées d'envoyer leurs corrections à la présente liste, par écrit, à Mlle Mora Henskens, Bureau des inscriptions.

* La lista provisional contiene los nombres de los participantes que se han comunicado a la Secretaría. Se publicarán adiciones a la lista a medida que se vaya recibiendo información. Se ruega a las delegaciones se sirvan enviar sus correcciones a la siguiente lista, por escrito, a la Sra. Mora Henskens, Oficina de Inscripción.

PARTICIPATING STATES

ALBANIA

Representant

M. Genc MLLOJA
Chargé d'Affaires
Mission permanente d'Albanie auprès des Nations Unies,
New York

ARGENTINA

Representant

Sr. Raúl ESTRADA OYUELA
Director, Organización Internacional, Ministerio de
Relaciones Exteriores
Jefe de la Delegación

Representantes Suplentes

Sr. Ernesto MARTINEZ GONDRA
Consejero

Sra Liliana ROCHE
Secretario

AUSTRALIA

Representatives

Ms. Penelope WENSLEY
Principal Advisor, International Organizations and Legal
Division
Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr. William E. KININMONTH

Mr. Ian CARRUTHERS

Mr. Robert Joseph DAVIS

Mr. Noel Donald CAMPBELL

Mr. William McFAYDEN CAMPBELL

Mr. Mark Gordon HYMAN

Mr. Peter HOWARTH

Mr. Palitha T. KOHONA

Mr. Marcel DIMO

Adviser

Ms. Meredith HELLICAR

AUSTRIA

Representatives

Mr. Christian ZEILEISSEN
Director, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Ms. Renate CHRIST
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Yourth and Family
Affairs

Mr. Willi KEMPEL
Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, Geneva

Mr. Meinrad HANDSTANGER
Federal Chancellery

Mr. Helmut HOJESKY
Federal Environmental Service

Mr. Gerhard REIWEGGER
Counsellor, Austrian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

BAHAMAS

Representatives

Mrs. Paulette BETHEL
Deputy Chief

Ms. Sharon BRENNEN
First Secretary

Mr. David CATES
Second Secretary

Mr. Joseph CURRY
Second Secretary

Mr. Michael STUBBS
Meteorological Officer

BANGLADESH

Representatives

Mr. Syed AHMED
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest

Mr. Toufig ALI
 Director-General (Economic Affairs)
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BARBADOS

Représentants

Ms. Antoinette FORTE
 First Secretary
 Embassy of Barbados, Washington, D.C.
 Head of the Delegation

Ms. Donna GIBSON
 Second Secretary
 Embassy of Barbados, Washington, D.C.

BELGIUM

Représentants

M. Jean-Paul R.M. PONCELET
 Chargé de mission auprès di Cabinet du Minstre de
 l'environnement

Mme VANDERSTRAETEN
 Gestionnaire du programme "Global Change"

Représentants suppléants

M. Christian G. LEPAGE
 Deuxième Secrétaire

Mme KATZEFF

BENIN

Représentant

M. Rogatien BIAOU
 Premier Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Bénin auprès des
 Nations Unies à New York

BOTSWANA

Representative

Ms. G.K. RAMOTHWA
 Director, Department of Meteorological Services
 Head of the Delegation

Alternate representatives

Ms. M.P.J. MOLEFE
 Second Secretary
 Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations, New
 York

Ms. S. TAU
 Second Secretary
 Embassy of Botswana, Washington, D.C.

BRAZIL

Representative

Mr. Paulo César CONCALVES EGLER
 Chief, Division of Environment and Infrastructure
 Secretariat of Science and Technology

Mr. Jose GOLDEMBERG
 Secretary for Science and Technology
 Minister of Health and Environment

Mr. Luiz Gylvan MEIRA
 Director, Earth Observation Division
 National Institute of Space Research

Mr. Paulo DE GOES
 Director, International Affairs
 Secretariat of the Environment

Mr. Fernando COIMBRA
 Climate Change Affairs, Environment Division
 Ministry of External Affairs

Ms. Vera MACHADO
 Head, Environmental Secretariat
 Embassy of Brazil, Washington

Mr. Everton VARGAS
 Consulate of Brazil, New York

Mr. Edgar Antonio PERREIRA
 National Secretary for the Economy

BULGARIA

Representative

H.E. Mr. Izgrev TOPKOV
 Ambassador

BURKINA FASO

Représentants

S.E.M. Gaetan R. OUEDRAOGO
 Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
 Représentant Permanent du Burkina Faso auprès des Nations
 Unies, New York
 Chef de la délégation

Représentant suppléant

M. Ambroise SILGA
 Deuxième Conseiller
 Mission Permanente du Burkina Faso auprès des Nations Unies

BURUNDI

Représentant

M. Melchiade BUKURU
 Deuxième Conseiller
 Mission permanente du Burundi auprès des Nation Unies
 New York

CANADA

Representatives

Mr. Barry MAWHINNEY
 Legal Advisor
 Department of External Affairs
 Head of the Delegation

Ms. Elizabeth DOWDESWELL
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Atmospheric Environment Service
 Alternate Head of the Delegation

H.E. Mr. Derek H. BURNEY
 Ambassador of Canada to the United States

Mr. Michael CLELAND
 Director General
 Energy Policy Branch
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Advisors

Mr. Robert J. ROCHON
 Director, Legal Operations Division
 Department of External Affairs

Ms. Sue KIRBY
 Director, Climate Change Task Force
 Energy Policy Branch
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Mr. Douglas J. RUSSELL
 Director, Climate Change Convention Negotiations Office
 Atmospheric Environment Service
 Environment Canada

Mr. Brian HERMAN
 Deputy Director
 Energy and Environment Division
 Department of External Affairs

Mr. Richard J. KINLEY
 Deputy Director
 Climate Change Convention Negotiations Office
 Atmospheric Environment Service
 Environment Canada

Mr. Timothy BOYLE
 Co-ordinator
 Forest Genetics and Biodiversity
 Science Directorate
 Forestry Canada

Mrs. Ann C. CRONIN-COSSETTE
 First Secretary and Consul
 Embassy of Canada, Washington

Ms. Cecilia EMBREE
 Policy Researcher
 Climate Change Convention Negotiations Office
 Atmospheric Environment Service
 Environment Canada

Mr. John P. BELL
 Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for
 External Affairs on the Environment
 Department of External Affairs

Mr. J.G. BEAUSOLEIL
 Chief, Environment and Energy Section
 Environment, Energy and Resources Division
 Department of Finance

Mr. Henry HENGVELD
 Adviser, Carbon Dioxide Related Matters
 Canadian Climate Center
 Atmospheric Environment Service
 Environment Canada

Mr. Ian BURN
 Executive Director
 Energy Efficiency and Environmental Affairs
 Ministry of Energy
 Province of Alberta

Mr. Hans KONOW
 Vice-President, Public Affairs
 Canadian Electrical Association

Mr. Robert HORNUNG
Atmospheric Campaigner
Friends of the Earth Canada

CHILE

Representantes

Sr. Sigisfredo MONSALVE
Subdirector de la Dirección de Política Especial
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jefe de la Delegación

Sr. Guillermo PALACIOS
Coronel de la Fuerza Aérea, Director Meteorológico

CHINA

Representatives

Mr. SUN Lin
Director of Treaty and Law Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Mr. LUO Jibin
Deputy Administrator of State
Meteorological Administration
Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. BAI Xianhong
Director, Office of Environmental Science and Technology
State Science and Technology Commission
Deputy Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representatives

Mr. ZHONG Shukong
Minister-Counsellor
International Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. LIU Daqun
Division Chief of International Environmental Law
Treaty and Law Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. YE Ruqiu
Deputy Division Chief
Department of International Co-operation
State Oceanic Administration

Advisers

Mr. XU Fenggang
Deputy Division Chief
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Ministry of Energy

Mr. LI Haqing
Deputy Division Chief
Department of International Co-operation
State Oceanic Administration

Mr. XUAN Zenpei
Department of International Co-operation
State Science and Technology Commission

Mr. SU Wei
Third Secretary
Treaty and Law Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. WANG Xiaolong
Attaché, International Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

COLOMBIA

Representantes

Sra. Juanita CASTAÑO
Ministro Plenipotenciario, Representante Alterno,
Mision Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas,
Nueva York
Jefe de la Delegacion

Sr. Jorge HERNANDEZ
Investigador Cientifico de la Unidad de Investigacion
Federico Medem-UNIFEM

COMOROS

Représentant

S.E. M. Amini Ali MOUMIN
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire
Représentant permanent des Comores auprès des Nations Unies,
New York

COSTA RICA

Representante

S.E. Sr. Gonzalo J. FACIO

CUBA

Representante

Sr. Carlos Fernández de COSSIO
 Segundo Secretario de Misión Permanente de Cuba antes las
 Naciones Unidas, Nueva York

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Representative

H.E. Ms. Rita KLIMOVA
 Ambassador Extrordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
 Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to the United States
 of America
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. Vaclav MEZRICKY
 First Deputy Minister of the Environment of the
 Czech Republic
 Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Pavol SEPELAK
 Permanent Mission of the Czech and Slovak Federal
 Republic to the United Nations
 Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Petr BEDNARIK
 Second Secretary
 Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

DENMARK

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Ole LOENSMANN POULSEN
 Ambassador, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Development
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. Ole PLOUGMANN
 Deputy Director General
 Ministry of the Environment
 Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Bo LIDEGAARD
 Head of Section (Environment)
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ulrik TORP
 Senior Advisor, Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Miels Bo SOERENSEN
 Head of Section, Ministry of the Environment

Ms. Lise GAGGER
 Head of Section, Ministry for Energy

Ms. Anne MELDGAARD
Secretary of Embassy, Embassy of Denmark, Washington D.C.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representatives

S.E. Sr. Eladio KNIPPING VICTORIA
Embajador, Representante Permanente de la Republica
Dominicana ante la Organizacion de los Estados Americanos

ECUADOR

Representantes

Sr. Caudio MOLINA
Director Ejecutivo del Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia
e Hidrologia

Sr. Rafael PALACIOS
Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia e Hidrologia

Sr. Patricio AUQUILANDA
Ministro de la Embajada del Ecuador en Washington

Sr. Gustavo GALARRAGA
Funcionario de la Embajada del Ecuador en Washington

EGYPT

Representatives

Mr. Mohammed EID
Director, Environmental Affairs Agency

Mr. Mustafa OMAR
Minister Counselor, Geneva

EL SALVADOR

Representante

Sr. Tomas Gelio GUZMAN
Director, Oficina Meteorologica

FIJI

Representatives

Mr. Finau MARA
Head of the Delegation

H.E. Mr. Winston THOMPSON
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations

Alternate Representative

Ms. Corinne YEE

FINLAND

Representative

H.E. Mr. Esko KIURU
Ambassador
Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representatives

Ms. Birthe H. M. IVARS
First Secretary
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Aira KALELA
Assistant Director General
Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Antti KULMALA
Assistant Director General
Ministry of the Environment

Adviser

Mr. Juha P.A. KUUSI
Counselor
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms. Heidi SCHRODERUS
First Secretary
Embassy of Finland, Washington

FRANCE

Représentants

M. Jean RIPERT
Chargé de mission auprès du Ministre d'Etat, Ministère
des Affaires étrangères
Chef de la délégation

M. Francois-Roger CAZALA
Sous-Directeur de la cellule environnement au Ministère des
affaires étrangères

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Ministère de l'Environnement

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Ministère de la Recherche

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Ministère de la Recherche

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Ministère de la Coopération et du Développement

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Office de la Météorologie nationale

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Ministère de l'Agriculture

M. De PERETTI
Ministère de l'Industrie et de l'Aménagement du territoire

Mlle DEGUEN
Direction du Trésor

Mme Odile GAUTHIER
Ministère de l'Environnement

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Direction des affaires juridiques
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

M. Guy FEAUX DE LA CROIX
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Mlle Delphine BORIONE
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Dr. Michel Aubry
Le Conseiller pour la Science et la Technologie
Ambassade de France aux Etats-Unis
GERMANY

Representatives

Mr. Bernd SCHMIDBAUER
Parliamentary Secretary of State
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Ansgar O. VOGEL
Deputy Director General
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety
Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Helmut RAU
First Counsellor
Foreign Office
Deputy Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representatives

Mr. Wendelin WILHELM
Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Economics

Mr. Peter SPLETT
Head of Department
Federal Ministry for Agriculture

Ms. Jutta WOLKE
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Germany to the
United Nations Office, Geneva

Advisers

Mr. Ewald TEKUELVE
Federal Ministry of Economics

Ms. Cornelia QUENNET
Senior Adviser, Federal Ministry for the Environment
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Mr. Juergen WENDEROTH
Federal Ministry of Finance

GHANA

Representative

H.E. Mr. Kofi N. AWOONOR
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representative

Mr. Nelson K. DUMEVI
Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations

Advisers

Mr. S.E. TANDOH
Director of Meteorological Services
Meteorological Services Department, Accra

Mr. C.K.A. ANSONG
Chief State Attorney
Attorney-General's Department, Accra

Mr. E. OBENG KUFUOR
Minister/Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations

GREECE

Representatives

Mr. John KINNAS
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United
Nations Office, Geneva
Head of the Delegation

Mr. George PAPADATOS
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United
Nations Office, Geneva

GUAYANA

Representative

Mr. Walter CHIN
Head, Agency for Health, Education, Environment
and Foreign Policy

HOLY SEE

Representant

M. Vittorio CANUTO

HUNGARY

Representative

Mr. Erno MESZAROS
Member, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Alternative Representative

Mr. Istvan MEZEI
First Secretary
Scientific-technical attache
Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, Washington

ICELAND

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Tomas A. TOMASSON
Ambassador of Iceland to the United States

Mr. Jón Egill EGILSSON
Councillor, Embassy of Iceland in Washington, D.C.

INDIA

Representatives

Mr. C. DASGUPTA
Ministry of External Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Ajai MALHOTRA
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Mikhil SETH
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations,
New York

Mr. A. VAISH
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Environment

INDONESIA

Representative

Mr. Adian SILALAH
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations,
New York

IRELAND

Representative

Mr. Joseph LYNCH
Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of Ireland, Washington, D.C.
Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representative

Mr. Timothy P. O'CONNOR
First Secretary, Embassy of Ireland to the United States,
Washington, D.C.

ITALY

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Giorgio REITANO
Ambassador
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Corrado CLINI
Director General
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Giuseppe CASSINI
Counsellor
Ministry of Environment

Advisers

Mr. Michele CONTE
Meteorological Service of the Military Air Force

Mr. Giancarlo PINCHERA
National Council for Research and Development of Nuclear
and Alternative Energies

Mr. Antonio SPERANZA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Alfonso SUTERA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

JAPAN

Representative

H.E. Mr. Nobutoshi AKAO
Ambassador for Global Environmental Affairs and
Asia-Pacific Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Alternate Representatives

Mr. Saburo KATO
Director-General, Global Environmental Department
Environment Agency

Mr. Katsuo SEIKI
Deputy Director-General for Global Environmental Affairs
Ministry of International Trade and Industry

Mr. Naoki HIRANO
Director of Policy Division, Transport Policy Bureau
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Susumu FUJIMOTO
 Director, Economic Affairs Division
 United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jun-Ichi SHIINO
 Head, Office of Climate Program, Planning Division
 Administration Department, Japan Meteorological Agency

Advisers

Mr. Katsuya SATO
 Senior Technical Adviser
 Control and Cooperation Division, Global Environmental
 Department, Environment Agency

Mr. Masutaro URATA
 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Norio MITSUYA
 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Jun OKUMURA
 Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office
 Ministry of International Trade and Industry

Mr. Hidemichi TAKAHASHI
 Deputy Director, Office of Pollution Control and
 Environment Protection, Minister's Secretariat
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Mr. Yasyhiro SHIMIZU
 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Hiroaki ISHII
 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Masayuki YAMASHITA
 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Tatsuo ARAI
 Assistant Director, Economic Affairs Division
 United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Masahiko FUJIHARA
 Deputy Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office
 Ministry of International Trade and Industry

Mr. Noboru GOTO
 Control and Cooperation Division
 Global Environmental Department, Environment Agency

Mr. Hiroyuki OONO
 Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan in U.S.A.

Mr. Kazuto SUDA
 Global Environmental Affairs Division
 United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Observers

Mr. Akiharu FUJIMORI
Manager, Global Industrial and Social Progress Research
Institute

Mr. Takefumi FUKUMIZU
Director of Representative Office in Washington, D.C.
New Energy and Industrial Technology Development
Organization

KENYA

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Michael G. OKEYO
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United
Nations, New York

Mr. Robert K. GATHUNGU
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United
Nations, New York

KIRIBATI

Representatives

Mr. Nakibae TEUATABO
Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

KUWAIT

Representatives

Mr. Dharar A. RAZZOOQI
Director, International Organization
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Nasser AL SABEEH
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the
United Nations, New York

LESOTHO

Representatives

Mr. M.P. SEJANAMANE
Director of Sectoral Planning
Head of the Delegation

Mr. J. LETSIE
Political Counsellor
Embassy of Lesotho, Washington, D.C.

Mr. N. MAKOETJE
Economic Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Lesotho to the United Nations

MALAYSIA

Representatives

H.E. Dato' MOHD. JUSOF Hitam
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations Office, Geneva
Head of the Delegation

Mr. HUSSEIN Haniff
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the
United Nations, New York

Mr. AMDAN Mohd. Dain
Senior Federal Counsel
Attorney-General's Chambers

Mr. CHOW Kok Kee
Deputy Director, Meteorological Service Department

RAJA NAZRIN Raja Aznam
Second Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia, Washington, D.C.

MALI

Representants

S.E. M. Mohamed Alfousseini TOURE
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire aux Etats
Unis d'Amérique
Chef de la Délégation

M. Cheick Sidi DIARRA
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente du Mali auprès
des Nations Unies, New York

MALTA

Representatives

H.E. Mr. D. ATTARD
Ambassador
Head of Delegation

Mr. Alfred FALZON
First Secretary
Malta Embassy, Washington

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Representative

H.E. Mr. Wilfred I. KENDALL
 Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall
 Islands, Washington, D.C.
 Head of the Delegation

Advisers

Mr. Peter R. ROSENBLATT
 Legal Counsel

Mr. Kasuo HELGENBERGER
 General Manager, Marshall Islands Environmental
 Protection Authority

MEXICO

Representantes

Sra. Patricia LAGRANGE
 Coordinadora General de Asuntos Internacionales
 Secretaria de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecologia
 jefe de la Delegacion

Sr. Edmundo DE ALBA
 Coordinador Ejecutivo de Conade
 Secretaria de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecologia

Sr. Victor LITCHINGER
 Coordinador de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente
 Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores

Sra. Diana PONCE
 Coordinadora de Derecho Internacional
 Consultoria Juridica
 Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores

Sra. Maria Teresa STRAFFON
 Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Mexico en los Estados Unidos

MOROCCO

Représentant

M. Said NAJI
 Professeur genie de l'environnement
 Centre National Genie Sanitaire a L'Ecole Mohammadia
 Ingenieurs

NAURU

Representative

Mr. W. JACKSON DAVIS
Science Adviser, Executive Director
Environmental Studies Institute

NETHERLANDS

Representative

H.E. Mr. J.F. BODDENS HOSANG
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands
to the Office of the United Nations, Geneva
Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representatives

Mr. W.J. KAKEBEEKE
Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment
Director for International Environmental Affairs

Mr. P. VELLINGA
Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment
Director of the Division Air Quality, Climate Changes and
Acidification
Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. D.F.W.T. PIETERMAAT
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Environmental Co-ordinator
Director-General for Energy

Mr. P.P. VAN WULFFTEN PALTHE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
International Organizations Department

Mr. I.G. ROOS
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Economic Co-operation Department

Mr. A.P. BAEDE
Staff member and co-ordinator of Climate Policy of the
Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute

Advisers

Mr. W.V. KENNEDY
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Environment Programme
Directorate-General for Development Co-operation

Mr. B. METZ
Counsellor for Health and Environment
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington

Mr. E.V. SJERP
Counsellor for Transportation and Environmental Projects
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington

Mr. J.C.J. VAN HEKKE
Attaché for Transportation and Environmental Protection
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington

Mr. P. SCHELLEKENS
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Assistant Legal Adviser

Mr. R. Ch. HERNAUS
Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and the Environment
Directorate-General for Environment Protection, Air
Directorate, Climate Change Division

NEW ZEALAND

Representatives

Ms. Suzanne BLUMHARDT
Director, Environment Division
Ministry of External Relations and Trade

Ms. Jane VON DADELSZEN
Climate Change Co-ordinator
Ministry for the Environment

Mr. Nigel FYFE
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United
Nations, New York

Ms. Karen CUNLIFFE
Observer

NICARAGUA

Representante

Sr. Patricio JEREZ
Viceministro, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y del Medio
Ambiente

NORWAY

Representatives

Mr. Oddmund GRAHAM
Secretary-General
Ministry of Environment
Head of the Delegation

Ms. Kare BRYN
 Director-General
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. Jan THOMPSON
 Director General, Ministry of Environment
 Alternate Deputy Head of the Delegation

Advisers

Mr. Thorvald MOE
 Deputy Secretary-General
 Ministry of Finance

Mr. Bjorn SKOGMO
 Special Adviser, Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Per BAKKEN
 Senior Engineer
 Ministry of Environment

Mr. Svein AASS
 Ministry of Finance

Mr. Jens EIKAAS
 Senior Executive Officer
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Halfdan WIIG
 Senior Executive Officer
 Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Mr. Ted HANISCH
 Director, Center for International Climate and Energy
 Research

PAKISTAN

Representatives

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali QURESHI
 Additional Secretary, Environment and Urban Affairs Division
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. F.M. Qasim MALIK
 Director General, Meteorological Services
 Permanent Representative of Pakistan to WMO

Mr. Shaukat UMER
 Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the
 United Nations, New York

Mrs. Zehra AKBARI
 Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Renagi R. LOHIA
 Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to
 the United Nations, New York

PERU

Representantes

Sr. Alfonso MAGUIÑA LOPEZ
 Coronel de la Fuerza Aerea Peruana
 Represente Permanente del Perú ante la Organización
 Meteorológica Mundial (OMM)
 Jefe de la Delegación

Sr. Augusto Freyre LAYZEQUILLA
 Representacion Permanente del Peru ante la
 Organizacion de Estados Americanos

Sr. Carlos VASQUEZ CORRALES
 Mision Permanente del Peru ante las Naciones Unidas,
 Nueva York

PHILIPPINES

Representatives

Mr. Delfin GANAPIN
 Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment and
 Natural Resources

Mr. Jose Lino B. GUERRERO
 Minister Counsellor
 Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations,
 New York

Mr. Jose AMPESO
 Director, Division on Science and Technology
 Office of the United Nations and Other International
 Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs

POLAND

Representatives

Mr. Maciej SADOWSKI
 Ministry of Environment Protection,
 Natural Resources and Forestry
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. Mariusz POPIOLEK
Ministry of Environmental Protection,
Natural Resources and Forestry

Mr. Julian SUTOR
Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PORTUGAL

Representative

Mr. Joao ROSA LA
Head of the Delegation

Alternate Representative

Mr. Joao Bernado WEINSTEIN

Adviser

Mr. Carlos Fernando DIAS SOUTO

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representatives

H.E. Mr. In hyuk KWON
Ambassador at Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Byoung Kyun KIM
Director General, Economic Planning Board
Alternate Head of the Delegation

Mr. Hai Sul CHIN
Science Attache, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in
The United States

Mr. Jong Chan WON
Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission of the Republic
of Korea to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Bon Yong KOO
Director, Regional Industry Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Mr. Soo Young CHOO
Director, Air Quality Planning Division
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Jeong Nam IM
Director, Plant Nutrition Physiology Division
Rural Development Administration

Mr. Kwang Myung AHN
Deputy Director, International Policy Coordination Office
Economic Planning Board

Mr. Dong Ik SHIN
Deputy Director, International Organizations Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Kyong Lim CHOI
Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea,
Washington

Mr. Hae Seog CHONG
Deputy Director, Social Development Planning Division
Economic Planning Board

Mr. Ha Man CHO
Researcher, Meteorological Research Institute

Advisers

Mr. Chang Hyun YOON
Associate Professor, Korea Academy of Industrial Technology

Mr. Il Chun KWAK
Research Fellow, Korea Energy Economics Institute

Mr. Shang Gyu SHIM
Senior Research Scientist
Korea Institute of Science and Technology

ROMANIA

Representatives

M. Ion DRAGHICI
Head of Delegation

M. Marian-George DINU
First Secretary

RWANDA

Représentants

M. Japhet-Clément RUGIRANGOGA
Directeur de la Météorologie, Ministère des Transports et
des Communications

M. Jean GISAGARA
Agent du Project Environnement
Ministère du Plan

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Representative

H.E. Mr. Charles S. FLEMMING
 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
 Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United
 Nations, New York

Alternate Representative

Mr. Naresh SINGH

Advisers

Mr. Philippe SANDS

Mr. John FAULKES

SAMOA

Representative

H.E. Mr. Fili WENDT
 Ambassador, Embassy of Western Samoa, Washington, D.C.

SAUDI ARABIA

Representatives

Mr. Mohammad S. AL
 Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

SENEGAL

Representant

S.E. M. Ibra Déguène KA
 Ambassadeur du Sénégal a Washington
 Chef de la délégation

M. Mansour SECK
 Conseiller Technique, Ministère des Transports,
 de l'Equipement et du Logement

SIERRA LEONE

Représentant

M. Henry MOORE
 Directeur, Météorologie

SINGAPORE

Representatives

H.E. Mr. S.R. NATHAN
Ambassadeur of Singapore to the United States of America
Head of the Delegation

Ms. Viji MENON
Counsellor
Embassy of Singapore, Washington, D.C.

Mr. LEE How Sheng
Deputy Director
Ministry of Trade and Industry

MR. ANG Eng Ann
Chief Chemist, Public Utilities Board

Mr. ONG Seng Eng
Chief Engineer, Inspectorate
Pollution Control Department
Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Vanu Gopala MENON
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations,
New York

Mr. Burhanudeen GAFOOR
Assistant Director
Policy, Planning and Analysis Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Representative

H.E. Mr. Francis BUGOTU
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Solomon Islands to the
United Nations, New York

SPAIN

Representante

Sr. José Luis CANDELA
Subdirector General de Cooperacion Cientifico-Tecnica
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jefe de la Delegacion

Representante Suplente

Sr. Antonio LABAJO
Subdirector General de Climatologia y Aplicaciones

Cousejeros

Sr. Jeronimo ZARAGOZA
Subdirector General de Planificacion Energetica

Sr. Manuel LORENZO
Consejero Comercial
Embajada de Espana en Washington

Sr. Rafael FERNANDEZ-PITA
Consejero, Mision Permanente de Espana ante las Naciones
Unidas, Nueva York

Sr. Antonio POU
Consejero Tecnico, Secretaria General de Medio Ambiente

Sr. Camilo VILLARINO
Asesor Juridico Internacional
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Sr. Jose Antonio DE ORY
Jefe de Servicio
Direccion General de OCI
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Sr. Inigo ASCASIBAR
Cabinete de Estudios
Secretaria General de Medio Ambiente

Sr. Luis BALAIRON
Jefe de Seccion Estudios
Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia

SRI LANKA

Representative

Mr. Willie MENDIS
Head of Delegation

Mr. A.W. MOHOTTALA
Director, Department of Meteorology

SWEDEN

Representatives

H.E. Mr. Bo KJELLEN
Ambassador
Ministry of Environment
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Mats ABERG
Minister-Counsellor
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms. Ulla STROM
Assistant Deputy Under-Secretary
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Sture IRBERGER
Head of Section
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Percy WESTERLUND
Minister-Counsellor
Swedish Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Harald SANDBERG
First Secretary
Swedish Embassy, Washington D.C.

SWITZERLAND

Représentant

M. Wilhelm SCHMID
Département fédéral de l'intérieur, Berne
Chef de la délégation

Représentant suppléant

Mme Pascale MORAND FRANCIS
Experte, Département fédéral de l'intérieur, Berne

Conseillers

M. Hans-Luzius SCHMID
Expert, Département fédéral des transports, des
communications et de l'énergie, Berne

M. Thomas LITSCHER
Expert, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, Berne

M. Christian PAULETTO
Expert, Département fédéral de l'économie publique, Berne

M. Martin BUECHI
Expert, Ambassade de Suisse, Washington

M. Alain CLERC
Expert, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, Berne

THAILAND

Representatives

Mr. Krit GARNJANA-GOONCHORN
Minister, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, D.C.
Head of the Delegation

Mr. Suphavit PIAMPHONGSANT
 Senior Environmental Expert
 Office of National Environment Board
 Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy

Mr. Sirithan PAIROJ-BORIBOON
 Science and Technology Counsellor
 Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Thana DUANGRATANA
 Director, Legal Division, Department of Treaties and
 Legal Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Adviser

Mr. Dhira PHANTUMVANICH
 Director, Natural Resources and Environment Programme
 Thailand Development Research Institute

TURKEY

Representatives

Mr. Necip EGUZ
 Counsellor
 Embassy of Turkey, Washington
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. Fuat TANLAY
 Counsellor
 Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, New York

TUVALU

Representative

Mr. Tauaasa TAAFAKI
 Secretary to the Government

UGANDA

Representative

Mr. Perezi K. KAMUNANWIRE

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Representative

Mr. Sergiy V. KOULYK
 Second Secretary
 Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
 to the United Nations, New York

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Representatives

Mr. Y.A. ISRAIEL
 Chairman of the USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. A.P. METALNIKOV
 Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee on
 Hydrometeorology
 Deputy Head of the Delegation

Mr. P.I. MELNIKOV
 Academician, Academy of Sciences

Mr. K.Y. KONDRATIEV
 Academician, Academy of Sciences

Advisers

Mr. Y.V. VAKALIUK
 Staff Member, USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology

Mr. S.I. MARTCHUK
 Staff Member, USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology

Mr. V.N. ZUBOV
 Staff Member, USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology

Mr. A.V. VASILYEV
 Attaché, Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United
 Nations, New York

UNITED KINGDOM

Representatives

Mr. David FISK
 Department of the Environment
 Head of the Delegation

Mr. Alan DAVIS
 Department of the Environment

Mr. Mark HAMMOND
 Department of the Environment

Mr. Patrick SZELL
Department of the Environment

Mr. Tony BRENTON
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr. John MOSS
Department of Energy

Mr. Mark LOWCOCK
Overseas Development Agency

Mr. Richard BARRETT
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Stephen SKLAROFF
British Embassy, Washington

Mr. Jonathan TEMPLE
British Embassy, Washington

Mr. John MARTIN
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, New York

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Representatives

Mr. Wilson M.K. MASILINGI
Head, Legal Division
National Environment Management Council

Mr. Dominic T. MUSSA
Director, Applied Meteorology Division
Directorate of Meteorology

UNITED STATES

Representatives

Mr. E.U. CURTIS BOHLEN
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Department of State

Alternate Representative

Mr. Daniel A. REIFSNYDER
Director, Office of Global Change
Department of State

Mr. Robert A. REINSTEIN
 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Health and
 Natural Resources
 Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and
 Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

Mr. Julian R. SPRADLEY
 Counsellor to the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
 Department of Commerce

Mr. Robert T. WATSON
 Acting Associate Director for Earth Processes
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Mr. Jonathan B. WIENER
 Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General
 Environmental and Natural Resources Division
 Department of Justice

Mr. Ted WILLIAMS
 Director of Environmental Analysis
 Office of Policy, Planning and Analysis
 Department of Energy

Senior Advisers

Mr. Daniel L. ALBRITTON
 Director, Aeronomy Laboratory
 National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration
 Department of Commerce

Mr. Richard BRADLEY
 Special Assistant to the Secretary for Environment
 Department of Energy

Ms. Christine L. DAWSON
 Policy Planning Staff
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of State

Mr. Jonathan ELKIND
 Council on Environmental Quality
 Executive Office of the President

Mr. Gary R. EVANS
 Department of Agriculture

Mr. Indur GOKLANY
 Office of Program Analysis
 Department of Interior

Mr. Alan HECHT
 Deputy Assistant Administrator for International Activities
 Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Frances C. LI
 Division of International Programs
 Directorate for Scientific, Technological and International
 Affairs
 National Science Foundation

Ms. Nancy MAYNARD
 Assistant Director for the Environment
 Office of Science and Technology Policy
 Executive Office of the President

Mr. Richard MORGENSTERN
 Director, Office of Policy Analysis
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and
 Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

Mr. Jonathan C. PERSHING
 Office of Global Change
 Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and
 Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

Mr. William O. SUGG
 Office of Energy
 International Trade Administration
 Department of Commerce

Mr. Dennis TIRPAK
 Director, Global Climate Change Division
 Environmental Protection Agency

Advisers

Mr. Manuel BARRERA
 Office of Energy Consumer Affairs
 Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs
 Department of State

Ms. Joan E. DONOGHUE
 Legal Adviser for Oceans and International Environmental
 and Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

Ms. Denise DWYER
 Department of Energy

Ms. Stephanie KINNEY
 Deputy Director, Office of Global Change
 Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental
 and Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

Mr. Jeffrey A. MIOTKE
 Office of Global Change
 Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental
 and Scientific Affairs
 Department of State

URUGUAY

Representantes

Sra. Inés RODRIGUEZ
Representante Permanente de Uruguay ante la Oficina de las
Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

Sr. Carlos IRIGARAY
Segundo Secretario

VANUATU

Representative

H.E. Mr. Robert F. VAN LIEROP
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations,
New York

VENEZUELA

Representantes

Sr. Jean Francois PULVENIS
Director General del Sector de Fronteras Terrestres y
Maritimas
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Sra. Martha PERDOMO
Jefe de Proyectos Especiales
Ministerio del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Sr. Imaria NUÑEZ DE ORDEMAN
Consejero Juridico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Sr. Richard CORRIE
Director General de Hidrocarburos, Energia y Minas

Sr. Carlos PESTANA
Tercer Secetario, Mision Permanente de Venezuela ante la
Officina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

YUGOSLAVIA

Representatives

Ms. Radmila PERKOVIC
Minister-Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations,
New York

Mrs. Ljiljana MILOJEVIC-BOROVCANIN
First Secretary, Embassy of Yugoslavia

ZAIRE

Representant

M. Mitonga M. Zongwe
Premier Secretaire, Mission Permanente du Zaire aupres
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

Representatives of specialized agencies

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. H.W. HJORT
Director, FAO Liaison Office for North
America,
Washington

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr. Malur R. SRINIVASAN
Special Adviser

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Mr. D.A. WAUGH
Deputy Director, ILO Branch Office,
Washington

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. R. GODIN
Senior Assistant Secretary,
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission, Secretary of the
SCOR-IOC Committee on Climatic Changes and
the Ocean

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Mr. H. Stephen HOLLOWAY

WORLD BANK

Mr. Kenneth PIDDINGTON
Director, the Environment Department

Mr. P.C. Mohan MUNASINGHE
Chief, Environmental Policy and Research
Division
Environment Department

Mr. Paatii W. OFOSU-AMAAH
Observer

Ms. Patricia ANNEZ
Observer

Ms. Michele ZADOR
Observer

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. Henk DE KONING
Regional Adviser
Environmental Health Programme
WHO Regional Office for the Americas,
Washington

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. G.O.P. OBASI
Secretary-General

Mr. V.G. BOLDIREV
Director, World Climate Programme Department

Mr. S.G. CORNFORD
Senior Programme Officer

Mr. N. SUNDARARAMAN
Secretary, Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change

Mr. M. YERG

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations

ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

H.E. Mr. BHAGWAT-SINGH

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Mr. B. PERSAUD
Director and Head, Economic Affairs Division

Mr. C. KRISHNAN
Senior Economics Officer
Economics Affairs Division

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Commission of the European Communities

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Director, Directorate-General for the
Environment,
Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection

Ms. Margaret BRUSASCO MACKENZIE
Head of Unit, Directorate-General for the
Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil
Protection

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Counsellor

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Director, Directorate-General for Science,
Research and Development

Mr. Ingolf PERNICE
Advisor, Legal Service of the Commission of
the European Communities

Mr. Lisbeth DISSING
Advisor, Directorate-General for
Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil
Protection

Mr. José I. CARVALHO-NETO
Advisor, Principal Administrator

Mr. Nicholas CHRISTOFORIDES
Advisor, External Relations

Council of the European Communities

Mr. Fred MOYS
Head of Division, General Secretariat of the
Council of the European Communities

Mlle Adèle AIRODI
Principal Administrator, General Secretariat
of the Council

Mrs. Bjarne HOFF-NIELSEN
Legal Adviser

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

H.E. Mr. Ibrahima SY
Executive Secretary

Mr. Nganatha KARUGU
Political Co-ordinator

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Mr. Kirk P. Rodgers
Director, Department of Regional Development
and Environment

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Carlos E. NONES SUCRE
Deputy Director, Harmonization Cluster

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC/UNEP/WMO)

Mr. B. BOLIN
Chairman of IPCC

Mr. N. SUNDARARAMAN
Secretary, IPCC

Mr. S. TEWUNGWA
Senior Programme Officer

Mr. Cyril BERRIDGE
Caribbean Meteorological Organization

Ms. Connie SMYSER
International Energy Agency

OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Mr. Antoine BLANCA
Director-General

Mr. Enrique TER HORST
Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Carl PEDERSON
Principal Officer

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Nitin DESAI
Deputy Secretary General

Mr. Peter THACHER
Special Advisor to the Secretary-General
of the Conference

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Mostafa K. TOLBA
Executive Director UNEP

Mr. Noel J. BROWN
Special Representative to the Executive
Director

Ms. I. RUMMEL-BULSKA

Mr. USHER

Ms. Joan MARTIN-BROWN
Special Adviser to the Executive Director
Chief, Washington Office

Mr. Michael GRUBB
Consultant

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee
on Climate Change
8th Meeting (PM)

ENV/CCC/8
7 February 1991

CHAIRMAN OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION

SUMS UP POINTS OF AGREEMENT AMONG DELEGATES

Executive Secretary of Committee Appointed; Two Contact Groups Set up to Resolve Procedural Issues

The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change this afternoon summed up those points on which delegations were in agreement regarding the negotiations for an international instrument.

Jean Ripert (France), speaking in his personal capacity, said it was apparent from their general debate statements that delegations were in agreement regarding the principles and strategy that should govern the negotiations. All agreed that the stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions should be the first step towards their reduction; that measures were required to enable developing countries to become full partners in the negotiating process, and that those countries would need additional financial resources and technology.

Also this afternoon, the Chairman announced that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had appointed Michael Zammit Cutajar, a national of Malta, as Executive Secretary of the Committee and Director of its ad hoc secretariat. Mr. Cutajar is presently Officer-in-Charge of Policy Development and Communications Service at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He is expected to assume duty on Monday, 11 February.

(more)

The Committee set up two open-ended contact groups to discuss the remaining difficulties of some delegations with the rules of procedure and the establishment of working groups. Both will meet tomorrow morning. The group on the rules of procedure will be chaired by Vice-Chairman Ahmed Djoghlaif (Algeria), and the other, on working groups, by Vice-Chairman Raul Estrada Oyuela (Argentina).

There will be an informal plenary meeting at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 8 February, to discuss the participation of developing countries in the work of the Committee and the difficulties they had encountered, particularly financial, in taking part in the negotiations. Delegates will also exchange views on possible recommendations to be included in the Committee's report regarding the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The next formal meeting of the Committee will be announced in the Journal.

Chairman's Statement

The Chairman, JEAN RIPERT (France), speaking in his personal capacity at the conclusion of the general debate, said 68 Member States, and eight representatives of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had made statements. He felt "some optimism" about the outcome of the negotiations, based on what he had heard during the debate. There was a resolve to work on the framework convention and the will should be found, with all delegations participating on an equal footing. He regretted that the level of participation so far had not been as good as in Geneva, and undertook to seek a solution to the problem that had prevented attendance by a sizeable number of States.

He said there were certain points on which all delegations seemed to agree in their statements. First was the need for a common long-term and flexible strategy for the implementation of a convention, with shared responsibilities for all in eliminating the causes of greenhouse gases. The principle of equity had been mentioned.

It was said that the industrialized countries must take the lead, that they had a responsibility to act immediately. Those countries were resolved and committed to that course of action. He said it had been stated that an attempt must be made to stabilize emissions in the first stage, followed by a reduction

(more)

of those emissions. The industrialized countries were committed to that objective and were ready to implement policies for stabilization.

Some delegations, he said, had stated that the strategy for the framework convention should cover all aspects of the causes of climate change, not just certain types of sinks, such as forests, but also agriculture, coral-reefs and such. Forests and forest management had to be looked at in the overall context. The principle of the sovereignty of States had also been raised. There was a need for "a strategy for action", delegations had said, one based on reasonable objectives and policies which would achieve specific results. Ways to organize policies at the national and later regional and subregional levels, had to be found. These must include economic means.

Speakers had stressed the need to pay attention to measures to enable developing countries to become full partners in the negotiating process, as well as their need for financial resources and the transfer of technology, he said. It had been stated that additional financial resources would be needed if development policies were not to be thwarted. There was a need for additional resources for those countries, but that should not be a pretext for what some had described as "green conditionalities". The necessary instrument for such assistance would have to be found.

Delegates had called for ways and means of monitoring what was happening in the atmosphere, he said, in order to observe what was going on and the effect of policies. This gave rise to the question of methodology and how best to do this. It had been suggested that the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) could contribute in this regard.

Concerning financial support and technology, he said certain industrialized countries had referred to the need to enable Eastern European countries to participate in the transfer of technology. The situation of other countries had been identified by the IPCC, among them, the small island States and semi-arid zones. Many countries from those regions were not present. They must be able to participate in the Committee's work. They also needed assistance in dealing with their special problems.

He said there had also been agreement on the need to expand scientific knowledge, and that the IPCC could play a supporting role in these negotiations. The IPCC Chairman had already indicated that he was ready to reconvene that body.

(more)

The aim of all delegations, he said, was to ensure that this session not end with just one more report. It should seek to collate all possible elements of a convention for future discussion and to work on those points of easiest agreement. He was impatient for the Committee to get down to drafting the framework convention so that there would be something to work on by the next session. He reiterated the need for universality in the Committee's work and said he felt encouraged by the way work was proceeding.

Other Statements

Under organizational matters, the representative of Pakistan recalled that when the Asian Group had agreed to the composition of the bureau, it did so on the understanding that there would be an informal mechanism to include representatives of other groups, such as regional and small island States, in the deliberations of the bureau. He asked when that would take place.

The CHAIRMAN said that an expanded participation could only be decided after the establishment of the working groups. However, he was already doing something in that regard and had held bilateral meetings in his office, to which he had invited the Chairman of the "Group of 77" developing countries and the representative of the Alliance of Small Island States.

The representative of Brazil expressed concern over the decision to discuss recommendations regarding the IPCC. He said the General Assembly, in resolution 45/212 which established the Committee, requested the IPCC to continue its work in consultation with the Committee. It did not call on the Committee to give further instructions to IPCC. That exercise, he believed, could distort and deviate from the original task of drafting the framework convention.

The CHAIRMAN said he was proposing just an exchange of views on the IPCC.

The representative of the Soviet Union said there was a consensus on the need to reduce the negative effects of climate change. That was the main issue and the main goal.

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee
on Climate Change
7th Meeting (AM)

ENV/CCC/7
7 February 1991

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ENDS DEBATE ON PREPARATION FOR FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Seventy-Six Speakers Heard in Three-Day Debate

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change this morning heard an urgent appeal by Kuwait to the international community to help save its environment. The Committee also heard 16 other statements as it concluded its general debate on preparations for the elaboration of an instrument on climate change.

During the debate, which began on Tuesday, 5 February, speakers focused on the urgency of addressing the issue of global warming, the need for a comprehensive approach to climate change and to provide energy-efficient technologies to enable developing countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as they develop their economies.

The threat to low-lying and small island States from global warming and sea-level rise, as well as the special needs of African countries affected by desertification and drought, were also raised. Everyone agreed that a framework convention on climate change should be ready for signing during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.

A total of 76 speakers, representing Member States, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, addressed the Committee during the debate.

(page 1a follows)

- 1a -

Press Release ENV/CCC/7
7 February 1991

The speakers this morning were the representatives of Cuba, Malaysia, Venezuela, Malta, Bangladesh, Peru, Myanmar, Samoa, Kuwait, Panama, Lesotho, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Phillipines.

The observer for the Organization of African Unity (OAU) made a statement, as did the representatives of two non-governmental organizations -- the Global Climate Coalition, on behalf also of other industry and business non-governmental organizations; and the Climate Action Network.

The Committee will meet again at 4 p.m. today to consider organizational matters, including its rules of procedure.

(page 2 follows)

Statements in General Debate

CARLOS FERNANDEZ DE COSSIO (Cuba) said the convening of this meeting was a positive step. Cuba, an archipelago, was very interested in measures taken by the international community to control global warming, as its territory was vulnerable to hurricanes and sea-level rise. Cuba had a coherent environment policy, with a programme of reforestation. In an exercise such as the one taking place, there was a need to think about life-styles in the industrialized countries, and to impose limits on excessive behaviour of consumption, among other habits.

What would happen if every family in Africa, Asia and Latin America decided to have an automobile? he asked. From where would the fuel come? What would be the consequence for the climate? The essence of such issues was what should be considered in the negotiating process. If sustainable development for developing countries needed to be defined, so too should the life-style of developed countries. In many areas of the world, the primary concern was to eat; people there did not have time to worry about the environment. The convention on climate change should lead to commitments on the part of major emitters of greenhouse gases, and should serve as a framework for specific protocols.

MOHD. YUSOF HITAM (Malaysia) said his Government had formulated various regulations to enforce environmental safeguards, covering areas such as forestry, land reclamation, mining and power generation. He believed that the efforts of every country would constitute a sound basis for a global and sustainable ecological development. It was imperative that developing countries be assisted to participate in the work on a climate change regime. At the regional level, Malaysia, together with other countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), had initiated efforts aimed at understanding climate issues of the region. They had published an ASEAN rainfall atlas and a compendium of climatic data with the assistance of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). They had also formulated the Kuala Lumpur Accord on environment and development last June.

He said that while Malaysia believed in the promotion of free trade, it was unacceptable that market forces should dictate the responses of States towards the enhancement of the global environment. Environmental issues should not be used as a trade weapon or as a form of conditionality. Technology transfer

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related to the environment must be encouraged through incentives and differential treatment. In that regard, the proposed global environment fund should be utilized to promote that transfer to developing countries on a concessional basis. As to the structure of the negotiations, Malaysia supported the creation of two working groups -- one to deal with the causes, sources and sinks of all greenhouse gases, and the second to address economic and cross-sectoral issues, including the transfer of technology.

JEAN FRANCOIS PULVENIS (Venezuela) reviewed the measures taken by his Government to protect the environment, including the establishment of a Ministry of the Environment, the first in Latin America. The negotiations, he said, should be based on respect for the right of countries to a sustainable social and economic development, and to sovereignty over decisions regarding their natural resources. Priority should also be given to the eradication of poverty.

As for the convention on climate change, he said it must be global and comprehensive in nature; be flexible; there must be a distinction between the convention and the protocols, with the latter dealing with specific responsibilities; it must include the commitment of developed countries to transfer technology to developing countries; and when referring to financing, it must stress the need to take into account the external debt problem of developing countries. The protocols should be negotiated over a more flexible period of time than the convention, which should be ready for signing at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Two working groups should be established, one on sinks and sources, and another to draft the convention.

DAVID ATTARD (Malta) recalled that his Government had proposed, during the forty-third session of the General Assembly, the idea of an international framework convention to protect global climate in the interests of present and future generations. If the negotiations were to lead to an effective convention with appropriate commitments, it should focus on those commitments which were realistically achievable in the short time available to the Committee. In view of the 1992 deadline, Malta believed the Committee should concentrate on carbon dioxide emissions, which were responsible for over half of the greenhouse effect in the past and were likely to remain so. Measures to protect and increase greenhouse gases sinks also had to be considered.

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He said appropriate commitments would have to be agreed upon in the area of technology transfer and funding. The Committee should consider the manner in which the financing of the response strategies to climate change undertaken by the developing States might occur. The funding mechanism must reflect the principle that the industrialized and developing States had a common but different responsibility in countering climate change. For the negotiations, no more than two sub-committees should be established. There should also be a technical drafting group set up by the Chairman to prepare informal legal drafts for consideration at future sessions of the Committee.

TOUFIQ ALI (Bangladesh) described the impact of climate change and the consequences of sea-level rise for his country's environment and economy. His country, he said, was not a major emitter of greenhouse gases; nevertheless, it was taking measures to protect the environment, including a new environment policy that was now taking shape. The negotiations should take into account the particular needs of the least developed countries. Among the challenges facing Bangladesh was that of exploring several sources of energy to attend to its development needs.

The negotiating process was a unique opportunity for all nations to play a role concerning climate change, he said. The core of the convention should be that major emitters had a responsibility to assist those countries affected by such actions, and that technology should be transferred to developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. A common effort was necessary, with the developed countries playing a major role in controlling emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide.

ALFONSO MAGUINA (Peru) stressed the link between environment and development. The needs of the developing countries would have to be met, he said. The industrialized countries were responsible for most of the greenhouse gases and must cut their consumption habits. The use of natural resources in developing countries resulted from excessive demands from the industrialized nations. Commitments were needed with regard to the use of resources, as were guidelines on technology and financial resources transfers.

Urgent, short-term measures should be adopted to prevent the excessive exploitation of the resources of developing countries, he continued. Any proposals would also have to take account of the debt burden of the developing countries. Measures were required concerning the effective use of technology and the need

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for training and scientific research in the developing countries. The information acquired through research and from other preparatory work could form the basis for the work of the Negotiating Committee.

YE MYINT (Myanmar) said the Negotiating Committee should take account of the ultimate global objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations at less dangerous levels and that climate change was a common concern requiring a global response. The Committee should consider the adoption of programmes and strategies guaranteed not to affect the social and economic growth of developing countries. Co-operation between developed and developing countries, without conditions on the latter, should also be considered. The Committee must also bear in mind that each country had a right to exploit its own resources according to its environmental policies but without causing damage to the environment of other countries. Developed countries should commit themselves to the transfer of environmentally sound technology and financial resources to developing nations on a fair and favourable basis.

It had been incorrectly stated that his country's forests had been depleted, he said. Myanmar's rich natural resources had been managed scientifically since the middle of the eighteenth century. Its forest management policy aimed at the sustained production of timber without depleting the resources. A national commission for environmental affairs had been initiated to advise the Government on policies for the exploitation of its forests, water, land, mineral and marine resources.

FILI WENDT (Samoa) said climate change was a common concern of the international community. Greenhouse gas emissions must be stopped, and the fact that this meeting was taking place was proof of the awareness of that situation. The threat of climate change justified action now. That was a just cause, and all countries must act together. Precautionary measures must be taken. He applauded the acknowledgement by major polluters that they were ready to implement effective programmes to control and reduce their emissions, and that they were ready to accept the responsibility to fund the transfer of technology to developing countries.

It had been acknowledged that there were major and minor contributors to global warming, he said. It was important, therefore, that the convention give special attention to the minor contributors, who were the most vulnerable. Citing the

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plight of small island countries, he said promises of money would be in vain if those nations were the first to become extinct. Samoa and the Alliance of Small Island States asked that their needs be considered as very specific at all levels of the negotiations.

DHARAR RAZZOOQI (Kuwait) said 2 August -- the day Iraqi forces invaded his country-- would be remembered as a day in infamy, not only for Kuwaitis but also for the whole world. What had been done to his country and its environment was a real tragedy which did not require any special talents to be understood. On land, the Iraqi forces plowed daily in the desert, destroying hundreds of species of wildflowers and plants. Kuwait had been a model in stopping the shifting sands and reversing its effects by establishing farmlands. The Iraqi forces had stolen all of Kuwait's scientific research materials.

The despicable release of oil into the sea had resulted in environmental damage to the Gulf's waters, its shores, coral-reefs, mangrove swamps, seabeds and marine life. "We need the prayers and help of the whole international community to protect whatever we can for our environment", he stated. The scientific uncertainties listed in the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should not be overlooked in a rush to judgment during the negotiations.

ENRIQUE DE OBARRIO (Panama) said he condemned in the strongest terms the action of the armed forces of Iraq deliberately spilling millions of gallons of crude oil into the Persian Gulf. The measures taken by his Government to restore the ecological balance in the country included encouraging a change of attitude towards the environment through education. To continue that and other measures, however, financial support was needed. The convention should include provisions on financing programmes to restore the ecological balance.

The convention, he said, should also address the question of financing clean sources of energy, such as solar power, and should establish goals for the stabilization and reduction of carbon dioxide. The future of the planet was at stake, and it was important that all nations be conscious of that problem when drafting the framework convention. He welcomed the measures recently adopted in several countries, among them, Brazil and Peru, to protect the environment.

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MAPHOMA SEJANAMANE (Lesotho) said developed countries had both a moral and political obligation to adopt and implement policies that would significantly reduce the rate of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, minimizing the risks involved. He hoped the convention would address the problems of poverty, transfer of appropriate technology, debt and the resultant flow of resources from developing countries, and unfavourable terms of trade.

Lesotho, he said, had taken steps to address environmental problems. Full implementation of those measures would not be possible, however, unless reinforced by strong commitments from the international community to provide additional resources in support of developing countries' efforts. For convention to be meaningful and effective, it should be comprehensive and embody elements such as new funding mechanisms free from any conditionalities, respect for the sovereign rights and priorities of States, the prevention and control of desertification, and improved energy efficiency to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

ZULLFIGAR ALI QUERSHI (Pakistan) said his country emitted 40 to 50 times less the volume of the greenhouse gases emitted by the industrialized countries. It did not wish to become a victim of a phenomenon for which it was not responsible. Climate change would seriously affect the frequency of monsoons. Pakistan's main crop, cotton, was sensitive to climate changes. The country had a moral and economic prerogative to aim at a higher economic development. In so doing, however, it would not seek to contribute to climate change problems for which the industrialized countries were largely responsible.

He said the industrialized countries would have to cut down on their emissions and commit themselves to provide resources -- financial and technological -- to help the developing countries. That would be the test for the realization of a truly universal convention.

WILLIE MENDIS (Sri Lanka) said the developed countries, which bore major responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, must be involved in the search for remedial measures and in co-operating with developing countries in effectively managing the environment, without detriment to their development. The framework convention must provide for commitments by the industrialized countries to contribute additional financial resources; to assure the transfer of desired technologies; and to co-operate in scientific research and information sharing.

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The convention must also provide for fairness for countries not in the category of "excess emitters", he said. Those countries should have a range of options with which they could organize their own time-frame and development strategies within the framework of the global agreements for managing climate change.

JOSE LINO GUERRERO (Philippines) said there were facts shared by scientists regarding climate change, and it was now for the international community to determine what needed to be done. He proposed that the preamble of the convention be followed by a second part consisting of a declaration of principles which included the responsibility of every country to protect the environment for its own people and the global community, the right to sustainable development and the linkage between environment protection and economic imperatives.

Part three of the convention, he continued, could be devoted to ways and means of increasing the world's knowledge about climate change and its effects; and part four could concentrate on actions and non-actions necessary to control the present rates of harmful climate change, stressing the imperative of a supportive international economic environment. The convention should be comprehensive, universal, equitable and flexible. The time had come to devise a covenant between man and nature; that was a categorical imperative for the survival of mankind.

IBRAHIMA SY, observer for the Organization of African Unity (OAU), said African countries, conscious of the great risks of further deterioration of the environment, had proclaimed 1991 "Africa's Year of the Environment" to sensitize the public to the link between social and economic development and the rational management of the environment. African nations had already shown a willingness to take decisive measures to protect their environment, among which was the collective action they took three years ago to deal with toxic waste dumping on the continent. That action had resulted in an African convention prohibiting the import of hazardous waste in Africa. Last week, an important pan-African conference on the environment and sustainable development had been held in Bamako, Mali, to discuss measures necessary to halt further deterioration of the African environment.

He said urgent, enlightened and resolute steps were needed to address the serious question of climate change. Further efforts would be required to enhance international co-operation,

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particularly in the scientific and technological fields. The developed countries, particularly those who contributed the most to the emission of gases, would have to show more political will during the negotiations. Efforts to prevent global warming should not prove detrimental to the aid to be provided to developing countries. The OAU believed that for the convention to be meaningful, it must address the issues of immediate reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, financial assistance to developing countries and global investment in alternative energy source.

JOHN SHLAES, speaking on behalf of the Global Climate Coalition and other industry and business non-governmental organizations, said he was aware of the complexity and uncertainty which characterized today's limited scientific understanding of future climate change, and its impact. He also recognized the limited understanding available on the feasibility, costs and associated impacts of policies to limit climate change concerns. He favoured policies that were beneficial for reasons other than climate change and justifiable in their own right.

He said he was confident the Committee understood that business and industry and, therefore, the consumers of goods and services world-wide, would be expected to bear the cost and effort in developing and implementing any effective responses to climate change concerns. Business and industry would be involved through their work in research, development, commercialization and the transfer of efficient, environmentally sound technologies. Discussions on international technology transfer should recognize that such transfers must be on a prudent and economic basis for all parties. The organizations, on whose behalf he spoke, offered to participate in the technical deliberations that would aid the negotiations. Response to concerns over potential climate change must be adaptive and flexible, he added.

A. ATIQ RAHMAN, of the Climate Action Network, said the Negotiating Committee must take certain minimum actions immediately. They included setting the objective of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels low enough to limit future damage to human communities, agriculture, ecological systems, biological diversity and coastal communities. Industrialized countries must reduce carbon dioxide emissions

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incremental cost of achieving any target should be borne by industrialized countries. Those countries must also end deforestation and the destruction of all primary forests by the year 2000 and undertake serious afforestation programmes. Developing countries, on the other hand, must phase out deforestation of primary forests as rapidly as possible, in most cases also by the end of the century.

As regards funding mechanisms, he said it was essential that a climate change fund, comprising new and additional resources, be established by the industrialized countries to enable developing nations to meet their commitments under the convention. Each country should be required to prepare a plan on policy options that included least cost planning, urban planning and the elimination of subsidies to activities that emitted greenhouse gases. An effective institutional structure must be set up, with the non-governmental organizations being allowed broad access to the proceedings of the Committee.

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