



**Statement by Executive Secretary of
the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(delivered on her behalf by Halldor Thorgeirsson)
at the Twenty Second Session of the IPCC**

New Delhi, India, 9 - 11 November 2004

Honorable minister, distinguished guests.

Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC sends her best wishes to the IPCC plenary and has asked me to deliver the following statement on her behalf.

The Kyoto Protocol will enter into force in the middle of February next year. The exact date will be determined by the timing on the deposit by the Russian Federation of its instrument of ratification at UN Headquarters in New York.

The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol will be an important milestone in the history of international efforts to protect the earth's climate from human interference. This milestone could not have been reached without the sound scientific basis of international climate policy provided by the IPCC.

This year marks the tenth year anniversary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "The Convention after 10 years: accomplishments and future challenges" will be the one of the themes of the high-level segment of COP 10 in Buenos Aires next month. The IPCC played a critical role in the genesis of the Convention. I am glad that you intend to highlight this historical contribution by the IPCC in a side event at COP 10.

When you come to a milestone in your journey you briefly pause and look back at the road traveled, then you turn your attention to the road ahead. This process of looking forward already started within SBSTA last year in response to the TAR. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the first meeting next year of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will increase the urgency of looking towards next steps in international cooperation on climate.

The expected emission reductions resulting from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol were designed to be the first step towards stabilizing GHG emissions at levels which would meet the objective of the Convention as stated in its Article 2. Attention will now turn to the preparation for the next steps. This forward-looking process will greatly benefit from the Fourth Assessment Report when it becomes available.

Since the TAR was presented to COP 7 in 2001, manifestations of climate change or indications of future changes have been reported from across the globe. The Arctic is of particular importance due to significant potential feedbacks on global climate. The results of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, that has just become available will be presented at COP 10 in Buenos Aires next month.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted by COP 8 here in Delhi two years ago states that "adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change deserves urgent attention and action by the international community". This was in a large measure a response to the findings of the Third Assessment Report.

Adaptation will also be an important issue at COP 10. One of the challenging question where added clarity is needed is on the respective roles and responsibilities of international organizations is supporting national governments prepare for and implement their adaptation response. Both the IPCC and the UNFCCC have an important role to play here but so do other international organizations and processes. One example of such a processes is the World Conference on Disaster Reduction which is to take place in Kobe in January 2005. The COP will be considering a statement to be forwarded to the World Conference.

As national governments pay more attention to adaptation their data and information needs will become more apparent. The Fourth Assessment report will provide valuable assessment of the likely climate impacts and key vulnerabilities. Governments will in addition need more specific information in their own regional or national context.

SBSTA will at COP 10 have before it a ten-year implementation plan for the global observing system for climate in support of the UNFCCC. This plan has been developed by the GCOS partnership in response to a request by COP 9 based on the second report on the adequacy of global observing systems for climate. The report states that priority should be given to

improving access to high-quality global climate data; generating integrated global analysis products; improving key satellite and in situ networks; and strengthening national and international infrastructure, including the enhancing of the full participation of least-developed countries and small island developing states.

Another very welcome development in this context is the progress made towards the preparation of a ten-year implementation plan for a Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS). It is envisaged that the plan will be adopted by the Third Earth Observation Summit to be held in Brussels 16th of February 2005. COP 9 in Milan last year invited the GCOS secretariat and the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations to collaborate closely in developing their respective implementation plans; and invited GEO to treat global climate monitoring as a priority and to adopt a balanced approach to the application of in situ and remote-sensing systems for climate monitoring.

Both of these plans will require significant investment. The potential benefits are very high however. International attention to the deterioration of observational networks was triggered by the IPCC Second Assessment Report and I hope that these initiative will deliver significant improvements in the observational basis on which the IPCC can base its assessments in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our secretariat follows closely the ongoing review of the 1996 guidelines for greenhouse gas inventories and has provided information to facilitate this process. Our cooperation with the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories continues to be very close.

In May 2005, SBSTA will consider the Special Report on "Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System". The preparation of this report is a good example of the good cooperation between the IPCC and the Montreal Protocol TEAP. The Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage will also have been approved by the time of COP 11 next year.

I wish you all the best at this plenary. Your efforts, and the effort of the dedicated teams of experts working on the Fourth Assessment Report, are of major importance for the Climate Convention and are greatly appreciated.

I thank you.