

Mr. Co-Chair and distinguished delegates. Thank you for this opportunity to address the opening plenary of this October ADP meeting. My name is Marilyn Averill, and I am an attorney and social scientist from the University of Colorado in the United States. I represent the RINGOs, the Research and Independent NGOs, and we are delighted to participate in your deliberations. We applaud recent efforts to increase interactions among parties and civil society, and offer our assistance in your ongoing negotiations.

The RINGOs constituency does not advocate for particular negotiating positions, other than for a process that is evidence-based and grounded in sound science and social science. As our name states, most of our members are researchers. We study every aspect of climate change, and are eager to share our research with you, and to help parties, individually and collectively, to understand scientific research and its implications for issues under negotiation.

RINGOs are actively involved in identifying and assessing various climate policy options. Many in this room have benefitted from our published scholarship and private consultations on the likely impacts of different options under consideration, or have attended events organized by various RINGOs that bring researchers, negotiators, and policy makers together to discuss issues.

We also are teachers, and can help with capacity building from the local to the international level. Many RINGOs are students who will become the next generation of researchers, diplomats, and practitioners. RINGOs also are involved with mitigation and adaptation programs where we connect local communities with the scholarship and skills needed to address local problems. We can be especially useful in countries without a strong local research community.

RINGOs can share research about the roles that international institutions play in negotiating and implementing international agreements, the challenges relating to enforcement, and how to approach conflict resolution. Some members specialize in intellectual property, and can contribute to discussions about how IPRs affect technology transfers.

RINGOs are involved in developing and implementing climate policies at all levels of government. We study the role of science and technology in society, and how climate policies have profound social, economic, and environmental impacts that are distributed unevenly within and across national borders.

Like everyone here, the RINGOs want to contribute to an agreement that is politically acceptable to all parties, and can be translated into actions that will produce significant reductions in greenhouse gases and increased protection for vulnerable populations and ecosystems throughout the world. Please call on our research community for assistance as you work to produce an agreement that will help the global community to effectively address the myriad challenges of climate change.