



Bonn, 14 October 2005

MESSAGE

With deepest sadness, I have the duty to inform all Parties, Observer States and Observer organizations, on behalf of the secretariat, of the death of Joke Waller-Hunter this morning, in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany.

Since 1 May 2002, Ms. Waller-Hunter has assumed the leadership of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as its Executive Secretary. She devoted all her international experience, energy and talent to promoting the implementation of the Convention, to working for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and its implementation, and to developing and strengthening the secretariat for these purposes.

Joke Waller-Hunter started her career in 1973 with the Provincial Government of North Holland and later joined the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment as Deputy Director for International Environmental Affairs. She was actively involved in the preparations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). In 1994 she became the first United Nations' Director for Sustainable Development and in 1998 she was designated Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

We shall all miss her friendship and her leadership, and we shall strive to continue the course laid down by her in promoting sustainable development and addressing the climate change challenge.

A memorial ceremony will be organized shortly by the secretariat. A Book of Condolences will be opened in the coming days at the Headquarters of the UNFCCC secretariat, Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany. In addition, messages of condolences or remembrances may be placed on the official UNFCCC web site <www.unfccc.int>.

The secretariat would like to extend its deepest condolences to Joke's family in this time of mourning and to the many friends and colleagues whom she leaves the better for having known her.

Original Signed
Richard J. Kinley
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Richard Kinley
Officer-in-Charge

To all Parties, Observer States and
Observer organizations