



**Seminar of Governmental Experts
Bonn, 16-17 May 2005**

**Opening Statement by Joke Waller-Hunter
Executive Secretary,
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this Seminar of Governmental Experts, which the secretariat has organized at the request of COP 10. It is the first of its kind in the UNFCCC history. Time will tell if it will be remembered as an historic event.

After the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol earlier this year, it is indeed an opportune moment to look at actions taken, underway and planned to implement the Convention and the Protocol. Based on the abstracts - which I have read with great interest - I expect that we will be informed about a broad range of approaches that Parties have taken, reflecting the diverse realities in different countries. This seminar provides an opportunity to discuss the approaches that have been implemented and to better understand the reasons for differences, including the social and economic factors that are so often the crucial policy determinants.

The seminar takes place against the backdrop of continuously increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and of mounting evidence of their adverse impacts, underlining the urgency of action to make progress towards the ultimate objective of the Convention. This is a unique occasion for enhancing our common understanding of how action relating to mitigation and adaptation in different parts of the world, at the global, regional and local level, contributes to that common objective, and how these different pieces fit together and maybe where there are missing elements.

I am pleased to see that so many have been able to join the seminar. The secretariat has done its utmost to raise funds for participation of eligible countries. I would like to acknowledge the support from our host country, Germany, both for the facilities and to fund participation. Thanks to this and to other generous contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation, it has been possible to fund one participant from eligible Parties. Regrettably, resources were insufficient to allow funding for a second participant from the LDCs and the SIDS.

The seminar is placed in the hands of two very distinguished Co-chairs, which you have selected. They are H.E. Mr. Masaki Konishi of Japan and Mr. Chow Kok Kee of Malaysia. I now declare the seminar open and ask the Co-chairs to take over.

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