



Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Hague, 13-24 November 2000

Media Arrangements

Ceremonial Opening

H.M. Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands is expected to attend the ceremonial opening of COP 6 on Monday, 13 November, at 10:00 a.m. Television crews and still photographers will have two positions to cover the arrival. Position 1 will be at the entrance to the Netherlands Congress Center. Position 2 will be in Plenary 1 (Prins Willem Alexanderzaal) on the left-hand side of the stage. There will be no possibility to follow or precede H.M. Queen Beatrix on her way to the Plenary, therefore TV crews and photographers will have to remain at the position of their choice for the duration of the ceremonial opening.

Prior to the begin of the ceremonial opening, television crews and still photographers will have an opportunity for establishing shots in Plenary I. Before H.M. the Queen arrives in the Hall, they will be asked to withdraw to the left-hand side of the stage. They will be able to advance in small groups to take photographs of H.M. Queen Beatrix and other VIP guests for a very brief period. Once the Conference is declared open, television crews will be asked to leave the Hall. Television and radio broadcasters will receive live pool feeds from Plenary I in their respective work cubicles in the International Media Centre.

A limited number of seats are available in the Plenary Hall for print media and news agencies. They can be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Correspondents who cannot be accommodated in Plenary I will be able to follow the proceedings on closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitors throughout the Conference site and, in particular, in the International Media Centre.

The ceremonial opening will be addressed by Mr. Jan Pronk, Minister for the Environment of The Netherlands; Mr. W.J. Deetman, the Mayor of The Hague, and Dr. Robert Watson, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The meeting will also hear a message from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Official Opening

On Monday, 13 November, at 12:35 p.m., the Sixth Session of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be formally opened by outgoing

President Mr. Jan Szyszko (Poland). Following the election of the President of COP 6 and his statement, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Michael Zammit Cutajar will address the Conference.

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International Media Centre

The International Media Centre in Staten Hall offers a total of 600 work spaces. 400 desks are equipped with a modem connection (analogue and digital), telephone, fax, printing and copying facilities; 100 desks will have computers providing direct access to the Internet and printing facilities. All desks will have electricity supply. Seats at the desks are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Correspondents are kindly asked to limit the amount of time spent using computer and telecommunications facilities in order to allow all media representatives to access them.

Proceedings in Plenary 1 can be followed on a large CCTV screen in the Press Working Area. Additional CCTV monitors will show the programme of the day and announce press conferences and other events.

PLEASE NOTE: While some regular press briefings may be announced in the Daily Journal of the Conference, many other briefings will be announced on short notice on the programme monitors.

Facilities available in the International Media Center include a Media Information Desk and the Press Documents Counter for media representatives. Other services include distribution of CCTV headphones for following conference proceedings in the Media Centre, access to text databases of several international news wires and press racks for the distribution of UN press releases, texts of speeches as provided by delegations, as well as for information material from delegations and non-governmental organizations.

The International Media Centre will be available from Sunday, 12 November, 10:00 a.m. until the end of the Conference (24 November). It will be open 24 hours a day, with limited services between 0.00 and 7.00 a.m. The offices of the Media Coordinator (Mr. Axel Wuestenhagen, office 5.1), the Conference Spokesman (Mr. Michael Williams, office 5.3) and the Host Government Media Liaison Officer (Mr. Jeroen van Eijk, office 5.13) can also be found in the International Media Centre.

International Broadcast Centre

On the basement level, one floor under the Press Working Area, an *International Broadcast Centre* is established to serve television and radio broadcasters. The facility will be operated by Eurovision and provide live video and audio pool feeds, editing facilities, a radio and a TV studio, play-out facilities and satellite links. There will be a booking office for the use of these facilities as well as for the use of stand-up positions. (Contact: *Eurovision Booking Office, ext. 4609, 4611*).

On the ground floor, some 40 work cubicles will be available for TV and radio clients as well as a limited number of international wire agencies. They are equipped with audio and video feeds from

Plenary 1 and from the Press Conference Room, a CCTV monitor, as well as one analogue and one ISDN telephone line. Cubicles are being assigned by the UNFCCC Media Coordinator.

TV and Radio correspondents can obtain further information and assistance from the TV/Radio Liaison Officer (Ms. Carla Manten, office 5.4) in the International Media Centre.

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Press Conferences/Briefings

The first press conference by the newly elected President of COP 6 is scheduled for Monday, 13 November, at 1.15 p.m. in the Press Conference Room.

Regular press briefings by the United Nations, by national delegations and, occasionally, by non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations will be held in the *Press Conference Room* located at the Press Entrance. The COP President will hold a number of press briefings during the two weeks, normally at 1.15 p.m. The chairmen of the subsidiary bodies, and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary will also brief the press several times.

In addition, several delegations (for example the host government, the United States, the European Union, the G-77 and others), United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representing environmental and business interest will hold press briefings in the Press Conference Room and other locations.

There should be a particularly large number of briefings when Ministers arrive for the high-level segment of the Conference. Briefings will normally be limited to 30 minutes maximum and the schedule will be posted on the programme monitors.

A technical briefing on media arrangements for the coverage of COP-6 is planned for Tuesday, 14 November, at 1.15 p.m. by Axel Wuestenhagen, Media Coordinator and Michael Williams, Conference Spokesman.

Official documents and unofficial material

Journalists can obtain selected official documents, including the annotated agenda and the advance list of participants from the Press Documents Counter. Official documents can also be accessed via the Internet at terminals in the International Media Centre. Aside from official documents, material available from the Press Documents Counter include the press kit, the daily Earth Negotiations Bulletin (which summarizes the previous day's proceedings), and the Daily Journal (the current day's schedule of meetings and events).

Interviews

The Media Information Desk located at the entrance to the International Media Centre will assist journalists, upon request, in contacting delegates for arranging interviews.

General Rules for Media Coverage

Visual media are permitted to film, record interviews and take photos in all public areas of the conference site unless otherwise restricted for security reasons. Generally, all open meetings of the Conference are accessible to the print media subject to the availability of sufficient space. For access by visual media (television crews and still photographers) *see following paragraphs*.

PLEASE NOTE: No access will be granted to any media representatives to closed meetings of the Conference or to office areas.

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Television

(a) Pool Television Arrangements

Pool coverage of meetings held in Plenary I as well as from the Press Conference Room is being provided. This coverage is available for local as well as overseas television and radio broadcasters free of charge.

(b) Unilateral Coverage in Plenary I

Due to practical considerations, it is not possible for individual television crews to record proceedings in the two plenary halls. There are, however, limited possibilities throughout the Conference and, in particular, during the high-level segment for individual television crews to record plenary statements by the representative of their home country. Prior arrangements should be made on an *ad hoc* basis. (Contact: Ms. Carla Manten, office 5.4).

(c) Other Unilateral Coverage

Photo opportunities will be provided for the visual media (television and still photographers) on the floor of Plenary I prior to the opening of the Conference on 13 November, as well as prior to other meetings, in particular, during the high-level segment of the Conference, and the conclusion of the Conference. Television crews (and photographers) are asked to exit the room as soon as the meetings are called to order.

Television crews are invited to record their own coverage of press conferences and briefings in the Press Conference Room. Audio in that room must be obtained from mult-boxes which are available to television and radio journalists on a first-come, first-served basis.

(d) Satellite Transmission and other Unilateral Services

Commercial arrangements for editing, signal conversion and satellite distribution in the IBC as well as the use of a small Television Studio located in Room Breitner 3 on the groundfloor, NCC, may be made through the Eurovision Booking Office (Contact: ext. 4609, 4611).

Radio

(a) Pool Audio Feeds

Audio feeds from both plenary halls and from the Press Conference Room for recording are available for local and overseas broadcasters from the Eurovision Booking Office (Contact: ext. 4609, 4611).

(b) Press Conference Coverage

In the Press Conference Room, mult-boxes are available for radio journalists. They are shared with television crews and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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(c) Outgoing Unilateral Feeds and other Unilateral Services

Radio feed facilities are available commercially from the Eurovision Booking Office. Other unilateral radio services to be obtained include recording and the use of a small radio studio in the basement (Contact: Eurovision Booking Office, ext. 4609, 4611).

Photo

(a) Plenary Coverage

Photo opportunities will be provided for the visual media (still photographers and television) on the floor of Plenary I prior to the opening of the Conference on 13 November, as well as prior to other meetings, in particular, during the high-level segment of the Conference, and the conclusion of the Conference. Photographers and (television crews) are asked to exit the room as soon as the meetings are called to order.

Except during the high-level segment, delegations will make their Plenary interventions from their seats. As there are no suitable photo positions for coverage, requests for non-flash photo access to the floor while the plenary meetings are in session, will be dealt with on an *ad hoc* basis by an on-scene information officer. Photo journalists are asked to request this access only when it is absolutely necessary. (Contact: Ms. Carla Manten, office 5.4)

During the high-level segment, when interventions are made from a podium at the front of Plenary I, a limited number of photo positions will be available. Photo journalists are advised that the light level is not high and that the photo positions are at a distance from the speaker's podium. Due to anticipated demand, use of these few positions will be on a rotational basis.

(b) Press Conference Coverage

Photo journalists and television crews will share positions during press conferences in the Press Conference Room.

RealVideo Broadcast and Interactive Chat Sessions on Internet

In order to meet the world-wide interest in the Conference, a number of Internet and World-Wide-Web outreach activities will be carried out on Conference Live at <http://cop6.unfccc.int> These activities include RealAudio/Video broadcasts of public meetings, national policy statements and selected special events. All official documents related to COP6 will be available on the COP6 web site as well as on the UNFCCC web site (<http://www.unfccc.int>).

Special Events and Exhibits

In keeping with the traditional practice of sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, there is also a vigorous and varied programme of special events and exhibits convened and organized by Parties to the Convention, United Nations specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. So far, there are in the order of 130 special events tentatively scheduled to take place during COP 6, and over 100 exhibits. A number of selected side events will be shown on the COP 6 Internet site on the following day.

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