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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Constructive attitude prevails at world climate talks,  
as technical work is moving to the political level**

THE HAGUE, 17 November 2000 (UNFCCC) -- At a press conference today, the President of the world climate change conference, Dutch Environment Minister Jan Pronk, welcomed the “very constructive attitude in the negotiations.” The Conference, which is being held in The Hague from 13 to 24 November, is aimed at taking decisions that will advance the implementation of the Climate Change Convention and promote ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

The President stressed that the conference should produce an outcome which is environmentally credible, sticks to the targets, and is agreed upon by all Parties.

“Delegations are negotiating in a very constructive and positive spirit. There have been no tactics to block the discussions”, Mr. Pronk said. The diplomats and technicians who have been negotiating in informal contact groups established by the two subsidiary bodies of the Conference of Parties ought to finalise their texts by tomorrow afternoon. The President has decided that this deadline will not be extended as he does not foresee that a continuation of the negotiation at the technical level would produce more results than have been reached this week.

The major pending issues require political decisions at the ministerial level. “The ministers understand the linkages between the various issues and have to make the deals for a political package”, he stated. On the basis of the outcome of the work of the subsidiary bodies, Mr. Pronk will draft “something more transparent and manageable” for the ministers.

He will convene an informal meeting with 35 ministers on Sunday in order to catalyse the whole process.



Some 100 ministers will participate in the Conference next week. Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands will be at the opening of the ministerial part of the Conference. On Monday, the Conference will be addressed by President Jacques Chirac of France and Prime Minister Wim Kok of The Netherlands.

So far, some 6613 representatives are accredited to the Conference in The Hague: 2178 from 184 countries (of which 178 Parties and 6 Observer States) 3613 from the United Nations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organisations and non governmental organisations (3360 from 270 NGOs), 822 journalists from 399 different media from more than 50 countries.

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After the informal ministerial talks on Sunday 19 November, the President of COP6, Mr. Jan Pronk, will give a press conference at 6.p.m., at the Ridderzaal in The Hague.

**Note to journalists:** For additional information, please contact at COP 6, The Hague:  
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