



**Opening of the twentieth session of the
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
Bonn, 16 June 2004**

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

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to Bonn for the 20th session of Subsidiary Bodies.

A special word of welcome to Abdullatif Benrageb as the new Chair of SBSTA. Latif, you have already been quite active since your election in December last year, working closely with the SBSTA Coordinator, Dennis Tirpak, and his colleagues, and I hope that you feel assured that we in the secretariat stand ready to support you to the best of our abilities.

Dear delegates, this is the last session for Dennis Tirpak as SBSTA coordinator. He will retire soon after this meeting. I am pleased to announce that Halldor Thorgeisson will be his successor as Coordinator of SBSTA and of the Secretariat Programme for Methods, Inventories and Science. There is no need to further introduce Halldor, who is known to all of you. He will take up his full functions on 1 August. So you will see him for the first time in action as SBSTA coordinator at COP10 in Buenos Aires.

I am also pleased to welcome Turkey as the 189th Party to the Convention. The Convention entered into force for Turkey on 24 May, and I am happy that the delegation of Turkey is participating in the meetings as a Party.

I can also confirm that all documents for the 20th session of the Subsidiary Bodies are now available in the envisaged languages. So there is nothing in the way of having constructive and effective sessions.

This is an important session as it sees the start of two new agenda items: one on mitigation and one on adaptation. Although the terms have been used throughout our process over the past ten years, they have never been separate agenda items. To start shaping the agenda items, following a decision of SBSTA 19, a new “animal” has been introduced into our process: in-session workshops. The two workshops, one on adaptation on Friday and one on mitigation on Saturday will allow for what I trust will be a vigorous, informal, interactive discussion, involving delegates, invited speakers, resource persons and observers. Their outcome is expected to provide a basis for SBSTA to further define the agenda items so that they will reflect the needs

of our process. In the secretariat we look forward to receiving clear guidance from the Parties on how to proceed.

At this session, work on forest-related issues will continue, addressing small-scale CDM projects to complement the rules for CDM projects that were successfully concluded at COP 9. Discussions will also continue on factoring out human-induced changes and on harvested wood products. On the latter, guidance must be given on a workshop that Norway has kindly offered to host at the end of August. And finally, we expect agreement on the Common Reporting Format for LULUCF under the Kyoto Protocol, so that we are ready when the Kyoto Protocol enters into force. In this connection, I can assure you that I am very pleased that this meeting takes place against the backdrop of a growing optimism that, following recent developments in Moscow, the entry into force of the Protocol will be readily forthcoming. This would be excellent news indeed in the Convention's 10th anniversary year.

I am pleased to report that on registries much work has been completed at the technical level since SBSTA 19. It is now time to give political guidance so that work can advance on data exchange standards, the role of cooperation among registry administrators in the long run and the possible scope for review.

Mr Chair, on several occasions I have emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation with other organisations especially in a period where the focus is on implementation. I am therefore encouraged by the efforts of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio Conventions to pursue their work with a focus on adaptation, technology and capacity building. You will hear more about the progress of the JLG during this session. At present, many activities are taking place, in the context of the Global Environment Facility and elsewhere, to make better use of synergies, especially in the area of adaptation, and it is important that SBSTA is fully aware of what is going on.

I would also like to draw to your attention to the fact that in 2006/2007 the Commission on Sustainable Development will address the thematic cluster "energy, climate change and industrial development". We must start now thinking about how the UNFCCC would like to contribute to the CSD process. I know that the President of COP 9, Minister Persanyi, will explore this in his informal consultations tomorrow, and that the Bureau may start thinking on how to approach our contribution.

Mr Chair, let me also refer to some issues that are being dealt with in the SBI as they may have a bearing on the way SBSTA is doing business. I would therefore encourage SBSTA delegates to stay in touch with their SBI colleagues, to make sure that your concerns are taken into account. SBI will look into arrangements for our intergovernmental process. This includes what I like to call "slimming of the agendas" of the subsidiary bodies, which includes leaving out items on which no progress is expected at a session, for instance, because work at the expert level has not sufficiently advanced.

On another item, the heading of "effective participation", SBI will look into the involvement of NGOs and other observers in our process. Personally I think that the in-session workshops

that SBSTA is pioneering are an interesting approach to effective participation, but, of course I will reassess this statement after Saturday in the light of the experience gained.

I must also draw your attention to the financial realities of today, which, as you all know, are not very rosy. The budget decision adopted at COP 9 requires that the financial implications of decisions must explicitly be taken into account. A procedure for addressing these implications has been developed and will have to be strictly followed in contact groups and plenary sessions.

Let me, however end on a more positive note: I am pleased to announce that we have been able to provide through the Trust Fund for Participation financial support to delegates from 119 Parties. Virtually all nominations for funding could be accepted, although only for one delegate per Party. The situation, however, remains tight and further contributions are urgently required to assure maximum participation at COP 10.

With this, Mr. Chair, I would like to wish you, for your first meeting, and us a very successful SBSTA meeting.

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