



**Opening of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11)
Montreal, 28 November 2005**

**Statement by Richard Kinley
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Excellencies, (Excellences)
Distinguished Delegates, (Chers Délégués)
Ladies and Gentlemen, (Mesdames et Messieurs)

C'est avec grand honneur que j'accueille Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués à la onzième session de la Conférence des Parties. Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers notre pays hôte, le Canada, de nous recevoir dans la belle ville de Montréal. Nous avons fort apprécié l'accueil chaleureux qui nous a été réservé. Je suis heureux de constater que l'aspect environnemental a été un élément déterminant dans la préparation de la conférence et que le gouvernement du Canada s'est engagé à faire de la Conférence un évènement neutre, voire même positif en carbone.

Je vous transmets mes sincères félicitations, Monsieur le Ministre, pour votre élection en tant que Président de la COP 11. J'ai la certitude que, sous votre direction, la conférence sera productive et couronnée de succès. Soyez assuré, Monsieur le Président, de bénéficier du soutien sans réserve du secrétariat tout au long de votre mandat.

J'aimerais également profiter de l'occasion pour remercier Monsieur le Ministre Gonzáles García de la façon remarquable dont il s'est acquitté de son rôle de Président. La COP 10 a produit des résultats importants, en particulier le programme de travail de Buenos Aires sur les mesures d'adaptation et de riposte, et le séminaire des experts gouvernementaux qui a eu lieu à Bonn au mois de mai. Comme prévu, le secrétariat a préparé le compte-rendu intégral qui est maintenant disponible.

2005 has emerged as a remarkable year for international climate change policy. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in February opened a new phase in international efforts to protect the global climate. The first ever meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will open shortly, marking a formal start of work under the treaty. International business leaders at the World Economic Forum identified climate change as one of the three most critical issues facing the world. World leaders at the United Nations World Summit placed climate change at the top of the political agenda and reconfirmed their commitment to action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This provides guidance and a strong positive momentum upon which to build and thereby close 2005 with a significant achievement here in Montreal.

Let me briefly highlight some recent developments important to the work of the Conference.

First of all, there has been excellent progress on national communications from non-Annex I countries. 127 non-Annex I countries have now submitted their initial national communications. At this meeting you will have before you a compilation and synthesis of these communications, which highlights an impressive range of actions taken by Parties. For Annex I Parties we are looking forward to their submissions of the fourth national communications due on 1 January 2006.

On the basis of the data that Parties to the Convention have submitted to the secretariat, we have prepared a new publication "Key GHG data", covering emissions from 40 Annex I and 121 non-Annex I countries. This is the first UNFCCC publication covering all GHG data officially submitted under the Convention. These data confirm that, after some emission decrease in the 1990s, emissions are increasing again in many Annex I countries. Additional actions are clearly required.

It is essential to step up action on technology: more aggressive deployment, investment in new and breakthrough technologies, and technology transfer. One technology up for discussion is carbon capture and storage, an evaluation of which will be presented to us by the IPCC. I am looking forward to the progress on these issues during this meeting, in line with the growing consensus on the importance of technology.

Tragic experiences in many countries over the last year have once again reminded us of the world's vulnerability to climate-related disasters and highlighted the urgent need for adaptation. Adoption of the SBSTA five-year programme of work on adaptation has to be one of the highest priorities for this COP.

Developing countries require support to build capacity for adaptation to climate impacts and for limiting the growth of their greenhouse gas emissions. Since its inception the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has allocated almost USD 2 billion in grants for climate change projects and leveraged almost USD 10 billion in co-financing. Overall pledges to the two special funds amount to almost USD 70 million. But it is clear that additional funding will be required. To complete the picture on funding issues, it would be important to finalize in Montreal guidance on the Special Climate Change Fund.

Mr. President, we in the secretariat are recovering from the shock of losing our leader and friend, Joke Waller-Hunter, just 6 weeks ago. Many of us have new responsibilities, often double responsibilities. I would like to publicly thank my colleagues for their commitment and dedication in this difficult period. Sir, we count on the support of all Parties as we strive to make this a truly memorable and productive conference and assure all participants of the determination of their secretariat to support them to the best of our abilities.

Thank you.

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