

The Montreal Action Plan

**Notes for an Address
by the Honourable Stéphane Dion,
President, UN Climate Change Conference,**

**Closing of Joint High-level Segment,
Montreal 2005**

December 10, 2005

Le Plan d'action de Montréal

**Notes d'allocution pour
l'honorable Stéphane Dion
Président de la Conférence des Nations-Unies
sur les changements climatiques**

**Clôture de la session de haut-niveau
Montréal 2005**

Le 10 décembre 2005

Distinguished delegates, you have upheld the trust the people of the world have placed in us.

Facing the worst ecological threat to humanity, you have said: the world is united, and together, step by step, we will win this fight.

Over the last few months, I have listened to you carefully. And I saw that we all have different views, different approaches, and different economic conditions.

But at the same time, beyond these differences, everywhere I went, I found the same goodwill, the same concerns and the same sense of urgency.

And then I understood that Montreal 2005 had the potential to be a significant step forward in our campaign to protect the climate and achieve sustainable development.

Indeed, what we have achieved is no less than a **MAP** for the future – the **Montreal Action Plan**. With this roadmap, we are charting a forward course, based on the three “Is”.

It is through my consultations with you that the three objectives of this Conference emerged -- the three “I’s”: **implement** the Kyoto Protocol; **improve** the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention; and **innovate** for the future.

En français, les trois “A”: **application, amélioration, avenir**.

As President, let me congratulate you, because you have fully achieved all three of these objectives. We now have a plan for the future: the Montreal Action Plan.

The Montreal Action Plan will build on the accomplishments of this conference.

Now that we have adopted the Marrakech Accords, including the Compliance regime, ladies and gentlemen, Kyoto is fully implemented; it is up and running!

Now that the Clean Development Mechanism has been strengthened, streamlined and better funded, we will be able to handle the increasing demand for project approvals.

Thanks to our work these past two weeks, the CDM will become one of the best instruments for North–South solidarity and for our joint fight to protect the climate and promote sustainable development.

In addition, the launch of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee and its operations opens new business opportunities and brings new players to the emerging carbon market.

We have approved the program of work on Adaptation, responding to the urgent need to better address the impacts of climate change.

Now we will implement this program of work, and improve knowledge and information exchange on this critical issue.

We have also agreed on a way forward on the Adaptation Fund, which is critical for helping to meet adaptation needs in developing countries.

This Conference has recognized the fundamental role of technology, both for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

We have begun consideration of promising new technologies, such as Carbon Capture and Storage. I look forward to our discussions with the private sector and international financial organizations on strategies for improving technology development and transfer.

Together, these actions and decisions represent major improvements to the Protocol and Convention.

We are right to celebrate these accomplishments, but the Montreal Action Plan is about the future.

We have successfully initiated discussions of the commitments for industrialized countries in the period beyond 2012. This sends a strong signal to the carbon market and creates incentives for long-term investment in innovative climate-friendly technologies.

Under Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol, we will be meeting in May of 2006 to advance the discussion by Parties on Annex 1 commitments for post 2012.

And don't forget, you are invited to submit by September 1, 2006, the relevant information and views on how best to carry out the first review of the Protocol under Article 9.

Finally, we have achieved what many claimed was unattainable—a decision launching a dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention.

This represents a major victory for the global community. Now national governments will have a forum to exchange experiences and analyze strategic approaches, and to free our imaginations to find further innovative solutions that I know we are capable of—governments at all levels, NGOs, industries, experts and others.

We will start this dialogue on the future, beginning with submissions to the Secretariat by April 15th next year, followed by a workshop.

As you see, over the past two weeks—together—we have built the Montreal Action Plan. This Plan provides all of us with a clear roadmap for future work under the Convention. It will guide us as we tackle climate change on multiple fronts.

To sum up, the Agenda for Montreal 2005 was extremely ambitious—but we delivered. We adopted over 40 significant decisions to improve our efforts to combat climate change!

We have all come out of this experience stronger, better prepared to address climate change.

We have benefited from the experience of all these young people, mayors, subnational government representatives, militants, business leaders, scientists and Aboriginal people who have enriched this conference that has been witness to so many debates and a wide variety of events.

From a personal standpoint, if there is one lesson that I have learned from this extraordinary experience, it's that the President of a COP is nothing without a solid team around him.

As the Minister, I am lucky to be able to count on an exemplary departmental administrative chief, my Deputy Minister, Samy Watson, who has assembled around me an exceptional team of climate change experts, experienced negotiators, seasoned diplomats and extraordinary conference organizers.

We will never be able to thank enough the hundreds of Canadians who have worked so hard to made this conference such a great success.

I would also like to mention the Prime Minister of Canada himself, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, whose inspiring speech was a turning point of the conference, as I'm sure you will all agree.

Let me also mention our federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Pierre Pettigrew.

Pierre, my longstanding friend, thank you for sharing your vast experience in international diplomacy with this neophyte.

And what can we say about the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat? I can make no higher recommendation to the president of the next COP than to place his or her full trust in it.

Richard, you and your team have been outstanding, worthy successors to the great Joke Waller-Hunter.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the delegates and participants, for making the United Nations Conference here in Montreal such a success.

There is, indeed, reason to celebrate this evening.

But tomorrow, we will have to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

You heard what Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency told us this morning: if we don't take any further action, greenhouse gas emissions will increase 50% by 2030, while science is asking us to decrease them by at least 50%.

We may have completed our Montreal marathon, but there is still a long road in front of us.

Thanks to the Montreal Plan, we will be travelling this road together. We are going to reconcile humankind with its planet.