



**Opening of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group  
on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG)  
Bonn, 17 May 2006**

**Statement by Richard Kinley, Officer-in-Charge  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

On this very special occasion of the opening of the first session of this new Working Group, I would like to take the floor to say a few words, before you begin your work.

Let me first of all congratulate you on your election as Chair of the AWG. Michael, you are not a stranger to the secretariat, and I personally remember many exciting challenges that you offered to your colleagues in the secretariat. We look forward to more of that! Please feel assured that, also in your new capacity, we stand ready to support you to the best of our abilities.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado on his election as Vice-Chair. Your knowledge and profound experience will be a great asset for the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

There is a need for a rapid and solid process to live up to the requirement of decision 1/CMP.1, to ensure that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods. With this and the Dialogue process added to our already very busy meeting calendar, there is increased demand for efficiency. I appeal to all delegates to make effective use of the scarce, and precious, meeting time that is available.

I am very encouraged by the substantive and thoughtful submissions. Parties leave no doubt that they take their responsibilities seriously. Many of the submissions point to the clear need for deeper emission reductions than presently foreseen under the Kyoto Protocol. This Working Group starts its work at a time when we receive reports on the progress in implementation under the first commitment period. Some of these are very encouraging and demonstrate how much can be achieved.

This is also a time when we see first evidence of the potential of market forces to harness the dynamics of the private sector. The exponential growth in the number of CDM projects over the last few months has been impressive. But it is not sufficient. There is a need to further unleash the ingenuity, efficiency and dynamism of the market forces for the period beyond 2012. I recall the words of a representative of the business community speaking during the high-level segment in Montreal. He said in his statement that businesses need “coherent, long-term and consistent enabling policy frameworks in which to innovate, invest and operate”. Progress in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group would send a strong, and indeed essential, signal to the markets.

The secretariat has a strong commitment to support this highly important new process. We have made every effort to absorb the additional workload. As long as this requires relatively simple procedural work, covering it within available resources has been possible. However, once major additional tasks are requested from the secretariat, additional resources will be needed or resources will have to be reallocated from other areas at a cost to those activities.

I assure you of the secretariat's full commitment. Gao Feng, as the Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for this Working Group, will ensure that you will receive professional, impartial and thorough substantive support.

I wish this Working Group a successful start.

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