

Conference of the Parties
Second session (Ministerial segment)
17 July 1996

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by the Executive Secretary
Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar

On behalf of my colleagues in the secretariat, I would like to welcome all Ministers and ministerial heads of delegation who have come to participate in this high point of the Conference.

We need to hear from Ministers what they are doing at home, individually, to fulfil the present commitments of their countries and what difficulties they are facing.

We also need them to focus, collectively, on what they can do - here and now - to push the Convention process forward.

I invite Ministers present at COP 2 to consider the following actions:

- to agree to make the **additional efforts** needed to achieve their present aims;
- to accept that the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC is the **best available** scientific basis for action to strengthen the Convention, moving it towards its ultimate objective;
- to instruct their representatives to start **urgent negotiations** to that end under the Berlin Mandate, aimed at a successful outcome by the time of COP 3, and to give **direction** to those negotiations;
- to address the needs of developing country Parties for adequate and timely **financial support**;
- to give further guidance on **what can practically be done in the Convention process to encourage the development and transfer of technologies** that can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions;
- to agree that the Convention process be strengthened so as to ensure that present and future commitments be subject to a **regular and serious review of implementation**.

I hope that Ministers will respond to this invitation.