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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
Eighth session  
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993  
Agenda item 2 (b)

MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

Criteria for joint implementation

The attached document is being circulated at the request of the **Hungarian and Polish** delegations.

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**Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee  
for a Framework Convention on  
Climate Change**

**Eighth session  
Geneva, 16-27 August 1993**

**S t a t e m e n t  
on matters related to commitments  
and provisions of the convention  
facilitating its implementation**

**Joint statement by the delegations  
of Hungary and Poland**

**27 August 1993**

The emerging evidence on the accumulating amounts of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the scientific assessments on the climate scenarios and the estimated long-term implications of this global environmental hazard have led to consensus among the governmental delegations to negotiate an international convention on the necessary actions aimed at coping with this phenomenon. As a result of these efforts, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in May 1992 and was opened for signature during the UNCED.

The Convention reflects common concern as well as the compromises on the actions which should be undertaken by various Parties in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Like other negotiating parties, we have attributed great significance to the commitments, in particular to those which aimed at stabilization of these emissions.

At the same time, the very specific circumstances of the complex process of transition to market economy were widely acknowledged by the negotiating parties and as part of the above mentioned compromises, several complementary provisions were accepted in the convention:

(a) The "transition", inter alia, involves a wide-range economic and technological restructuring process. Especially, it is relevant for the industrial, energy or transport sectors of the economy which are significant sources of greenhouse gases. In this regard, we stressed the importance to cooperate with other countries, in particular with the industrialized countries for the development and application of environmentally sound technologies. This is - besides its economic significance - closely related to the fulfillment of the commitments under the convention. As a matter of fact, para. 4.5 was specifically formulated in a way of giving space to this cooperation for all countries, in particular for any country with an economy in transition. More precisely, it endorses to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound

technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly developing country Parties, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention.

(b) As an other element, no legally binding commitment on providing financial or other resources was set by the Convention for a country with an economy in transition. However, the above mentioned para. 4.5 calls for all Parties besides the developed country Parties in annex II, also assist in facilitating the transfer of appropriate technologies. This formulating leaves open the opportunity for our countries, as well, depending on the progress of the transition process.

(c) Further on, as a general provision, the para. 4.6 introduces the term of flexibility with a certain degree for the Parties in annex I undergoing the process of transition to a market economy to implement their commitments. Such a condition is necessary, for instance, to set realistic reference levels of the emissions corresponding to a period prior to the beginning of the transition process.

In light of the above characterized specific circumstances, the extensive set of provisions of the Convention which facilitate its implementation is of our concern, as well.

We recognized the substantial needs of the developing country Parties in relation with their obligations or implementation of various measures as formulated in para. 4.3 and other relevant sections of the Convention. In the preparatory process of the Convention, we expressed our full understanding of the situations and interests in the context of climate change issues, inter alia, of the least developed countries, small island states, countries with low-lying coastal areas or other countries which would be extremely vulnerable to the anticipated climate change. We agreed with other delegations that the financial mechanism as outlined in paras 11.1-11.4 should be defined in accordance with the needs of the developing country Parties for the purposes determined in para. 4.3.

However, many other provisions of the Convention call for supporting, facilitating, funding or financing various actions which all are eventually related to the objective of the Convention. These provisions are included among other, in the following paragraphs:

- 4.2 (a) and (b) as concerns the joint implementation;
- 4.5 for the purposes of the technology transfer;
- 5 (b) as support to national scientific and technical research capacities and capabilities;
- 6 (b) as promotion, inter alia, of the development and implementation of education and training programmes;
- 11.5 as provision of financial resources related to the implementation of the Convention through other multilateral channels.

These provisions are open to all country Parties, in particular to country Parties with economies in transition. These provisions together with the provisions of the paras 4.3 and 11.1-11.4 imply the overall or broad facilitating system of multilateral or international assistance, support, funding or financing efforts to implement the Convention.

Certainly, the recognition of the other facilitating elements of the Convention should not have any effect on the financial mechanism as stated in paras 11.1-11.4 in accordance with para. 4.3. On the contrary, these facilitating elements of the Convention, the means of their implementation should also be further elaborated since these provisions are also fundamental to meet the requirements of the convention by all concerned parties, in particular by our countries.