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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING

PHYSICAL LOCATION

Complete texts of offers received from potential host Governments

This document contains the complete texts of the offers to host the permanent secretariat as received from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Uruguay. These texts are reproduced in the form in which they were received and without formal editing.

A comparative summary of the four submissions has been prepared by the interim secretariat in accordance with indications given by the Governments concerned and is contained in document A/AC.237/79/Add.4.

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Toronto as Headquarters
of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (FCCC)

Offer of the Government of Canada

**to host the Secretariat of the
United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change**

in Toronto as of 1996 and to support its work pursuant to the features described below.

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Government of Canada recognizes the vital role assigned to the FCCC Secretariat in administering the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and believes that Toronto offers an ideal venue from which the Secretariat can fulfil its mandate. The following is a summary of the key advantages associated with locating the Secretariat in Toronto. Canada's offer is not at this time an element in a proposal to co-locate the secretariats of related sustainable development conventions. It should also be noted that the possibility of offering additional financial resources is currently under consideration by potential public and private sector partners.

Office Accommodation and Equipment

The Secretariat will be housed, free of charge, until the year 2001 in up to 2,000 square metres of Class A, downtown office space as of 1996. The space will be provided by the private sector which will retain ownership and which will be responsible for any major maintenance that might be required. Normal maintenance and utilities would be the responsibility of the Secretariat. A public-private partnership is being negotiated to cover the cost of furniture and telecommunications installation.

Office space, without a time limit, will be made available for those least-developed countries on the United Nations list who wish to establish representation in Toronto.

The Secretariat's communications will be enhanced by a state-of-the-art, UN-compatible telecommunications system.

Conference Facilities

Toronto has a variety of conference facilities, including the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The Convention Centre is located in downtown Toronto, within walking distance of 13,000 first-class hotel rooms. Canada's largest convention centre, it has a variety of flexible and versatile space to accommodate meetings of 20 to 20,000 delegates. The Centre is equipped for simultaneous translation, has an on site bank for foreign currency exchange, and a state-of-the-art kitchen catering for up to 7,000 guests.

Accessibility

Geographically, the City is well-positioned to handle the international traffic flow to and from a Toronto headquarters. Toronto is in the same time zone as both New York and Washington, which are each less than 2 hours away by air. Lester B. Pearson International Airport is located 20 minutes from downtown Toronto, and is served by 65 commercial airlines, offering direct flights to more than 250 cities in 60 countries around the world. As a result, Secretariat staff and visitors will find travel accessible and convenient.

Institutional Support

Two major universities provide environmental expertise. The University of Toronto has a reputation for research in the environmental and sustainable development fields. Its Institute of Environmental Studies is a centre for both international and local community initiatives, while the Environmental Studies program at York University can demonstrate an impressive core of international work with developing countries and international agencies. This strong local research expertise and the technical resources available from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment can also benefit the Secretariat's work.

The presence of related non-governmental organizations in Toronto may assist the Secretariat in fulfilling its mandate. A few examples are: the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), a UN-associated agency; Energy Probe Research Foundation; Pollution Probe; and the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

Support Services

As Canada's leading business centre, Toronto offers a full complement of support services including consultants, law firms, employment agencies, conference facilities and translation bureaus. Toronto was recently selected as one of the top ten cities in the world for business by Fortune Magazine. One of the city's competitive advantages is its highly educated workforce, more than 56% of which has a post-secondary education. The City of Toronto will be pleased to assist the Secretariat in recruiting qualified personnel, as necessary.

International Representation

Eighty-four consulates are located in Toronto and 114 diplomatic missions are located in Ottawa. This is also a city where the international civil servants working for the Secretariat and their families, as well as large numbers of international visitors, will feel comfortable in their respective languages. Living in a proudly multicultural city, Torontonians have access to multilingual television and radio programs, newspapers and other publications. Over seventy international organizations are represented in Toronto (see Annex I for a selected list of these organizations).

Granting of Privileges and Immunities

Canada seeks to conclude a headquarters agreement with the UN which would be based on similar agreements with other UN Agencies headquartered in Canada, that would set out the privileges and immunities that would be granted to the Secretariat, its staff and representatives to the Convention. (see Annex II for details).

Quality and Cost of Living

Secretariat staff will be pleased to learn that Toronto can provide a home to them and their families where the streets and the public transit system are clean and safe. Housing choices exist to fit every lifestyle; large numbers of residents live and work downtown, besides taking full advantage of shopping and entertainment, from Brahms to baseball. More than 100 cultural and ethnic groups call Toronto's neighbourhoods home. There are no restrictions on purchasing personal real estate in Canada. The City of Toronto will be pleased to assist Secretariat staff in locating personal accommodation.

Toronto also offers its residents a highly competitive cost of living. In its 1994 survey of "Prices and Earnings Around the Globe", the Union Bank of Switzerland ranked 53 international cities based on cost of living. Geneva was ranked the fifth most expensive city, while the two German cities surveyed, Frankfurt and Dusseldorf, were ranked 14th and 16th most expensive, respectively. Toronto was considerably less expensive at 35th position.

Health Care

Toronto has one of North America's largest medical communities, consisting of more than 50 hospitals, 8,000 physicians and 50,000 health care professionals. The city is also a centre for health research and education, with the University of Toronto and its affiliated teaching hospitals representing the largest medical education complex in North America. Canada's

publicly-operated health insurance systems ensures that comprehensive health care is available to all citizens or permanent residents. Private health insurance plans are available for individuals not eligible for the Ontario Health Care Plan.

Education

In addition to a publicly-supported elementary and secondary school system, Toronto has a wide variety of independent and private schools. Schooling is offered in both English and French, Canada's two official languages. Students may work towards the OAC (Ontario Academic Certificate) or the international baccalaureate. Post-secondary institutions in the Toronto area include five colleges and three universities — the University of Toronto, York University, and Ryerson Polytechnic University.

Additional Considerations

Ideally, the Secretariat wants to locate where the environment is a key consideration. The "Healthy Cities" movement started in Toronto and it is the policy of the City of Toronto to regard the natural environment as an endowment to be protected, conserved and enhanced for future generations. Currently, there are a number of programs under way in the City addressing a variety of environmental concerns, for example, the CO₂ Reduction Program. At the same time, the City has taken important steps to foster international consensus and cooperation to address environmental issues on a global scale. In 1989, Toronto City Council established the Toronto Atmospheric Fund to contribute to global climate stabilization by acting as a catalyst for CO₂ reducing projects. The fund also seeks out means of reducing emissions of other greenhouse gases or their precursors.

We are confident that Toronto can provide the best "home" for the FCCC Secretariat.

ANNEX I

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN TORONTO

African National Congress
Amnesty International
Canada-Caribbean-Central American Policy Alternatives
Canada-Latin America Resource Centre
Greenpeace Canada
International Association of Business Communicators
International Association of Educators for World Peace
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Communication Network
International Congress on Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa
International Council for Adult Education
International Council for Innovation in Higher Education
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
International Council for Soviet & East European Studies
International Development and Refugee Foundation
International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Institute of Concern for Public Health
International Institute for Public Health
International Interactive Communications Society
International Multimedia Development Association
International Network for Social Network Analysis
International Ozone Commission
International Relief Agency Inc.
International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication
International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering
Science for Peace International Network
World Food Day Association
World Literacy of Canada
World Relief of Canada
World Society for the Protection of Animals
World Wildlife Fund

ANNEX II

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION

Canada would seek to conclude a headquarter's agreement with the U.N. which is based on similar agreements with other specialized U.N. agencies, e.g., ICAO. Within that agreement the following provisions would be offered:

A) Officials

- 1) With the exception of Canadian citizens, senior officials (P4 and up) and officials (P3 and lower) shall have the privileges and immunities set out in Section 18 of Article V of the U.N. Convention on Privileges and Immunities as follows:
 - (a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
 - (b) be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Secretariat;
 - (c) be immune from national service obligations;
 - (d) be immune, together with their spouses and members of their families forming part of their households, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
 - (e) be accorded the same privileges in respect to exchange facilities as are accorded to officials of comparable ranks forming part of diplomatic missions in Canada;
 - (f) have the right to import free of duty their furniture and effects, including motor vehicles but excluding alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, at the time of first taking up their post in Canada.

- 2) In addition to the above, senior officials (P4 and up) will have the following privileges:
- part (f) above for the duration of their posting, including alcoholic beverages and tobacco;
 - relief from the Goods and Services tax/GST (i.e., VAT) for themselves and their dependents. The GST stands at 7% at this time. There is no minimum or maximum claim or expenditure. This is done by reimbursement;
 - exemption from the Provincial Sales Tax/PST throughout Canada (rates differ in each province, ranging from 5% to 14%) for themselves and their spouses. There is no minimum or maximum claim or expenditure. This is done by reimbursement or at source depending on provincial legislation;
 - driver's licences without examination (except the eye test) or payment of fees;
 - free license plates.
- 3) Members of the family of senior officials and officials forming part of the household will receive authorization to accept employment in Canada. The definition of members of the household is as follows:
- Spouses
 - Children under the age of 19 who are unmarried
 - Children between the ages of 19 and 25 who are unmarried and in full-time attendance at an education institution in Canada.
 - Children aged 25 and older who are physically or emotionally dependent.
- 4) Senior officials (P4 and up) would be allowed, for the duration of their posting, the importation of vehicles free from customs duties and taxes.

The duty free importation of vehicles which do not meet Canadian specifications is allowed with the requirement that the vehicle is re-exported at the end of the employee's term.

- 5) The immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their capacity as officials or as head of the Secretariat shall continue to be accorded, notwithstanding that the person concerned is no longer an official or the head of the Secretariat.

B) Secretariat

- 1) The Secretariat would be granted relief from the following taxes:
- the GST on all goods and services, including cars for the Secretariat. There are no minimum or maximum limits, claim or expenditures. This will be done by reimbursement;
 - the PST on all goods and services, except cars for the Secretariat. There are no minimum or maximum limits, claim or expenditures. This will be done by reimbursement.
- 2) The Secretariat, its property and its assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of judicial process and execution except in any particular case in which the head of the Secretariat has expressly waived the immunity. Such waiver shall be understood not to extend to any measure of execution, save with the express consent of the head of the Secretariat. The Secretariat agrees to establish guidelines as to the circumstances in which the head may waive any immunity of the Secretariat, and as to the method in which any such waiver shall be made.
- 3) The premises of the Secretariat shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the Secretariat, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial, or legislative action, except with the consent of and under the conditions agreed to by the head of the Secretariat. This Article shall not prevent the reasonable application of fire or safety protection regulations.
- 4) The Secretariat, its assets, income, and other property shall be:
- (a) exempt from all direct taxes except for charges for public services;
 - (b) exempt from customs duties in respect of articles imported or exported by the Secretariat in the furtherance of its function; articles imported under such exemption shall not be sold or disposed of in Canada except under conditions agreed to by the Government of Canada; and,

- (c) exempt from any prohibition or restriction on import, export or sale of its publications, and exempt from customs duties and excise taxes in respect thereof.
- 5) The archives and documents of the Secretariat shall be inviolable at any time wherever located.
- 6) The Secretariat shall enjoy in the territory of Canada for its official communications, in whatever form, treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Government of Canada to any foreign state, including its diplomatic missions.

Bonn as headquarters
of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (FCCC)

**Offer of the Government of the
Federal Republic of Germany**

**The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany offers
to host the Secretariat of the
United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change**

in Bonn as of 1996 and to support its work pursuant to the features described below. In the longer term, it is also prepared to host further existing or new UN organizations or other international organizations.

I. Reasons

Germany is aware of the increased international responsibility it has had since unification. The Federal Government wants to exercise this responsibility and to underline its readiness to increase its commitments towards the United Nations by offering to host UN organisations in Germany.

In this context, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is offering to make available suitable rent-free office space in Bonn as of 1996 to the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change on a permanent basis.

The site of Bonn offers excellent conditions for the work of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change:

The former federal capital of Bonn has enjoyed an excellent infrastructure as the seat of Government and Parliament since the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany. These features will also be maintained in future since the city of Bonn will remain the seat of important federal ministries even after Government and Parliament have moved to Berlin around the turn of the millennium, as is provided for by the Berlin/Bonn Act which entered into force in 1994:

The policy areas of environment, health, development, food, agriculture and forestry, education and science, culture, research and technology, telecommunications are to be left in Bonn and are to be promoted.

Since part of the Government will remain in Bonn, diplomatic missions will also stay there.

At the same time Bonn will also be developed as forum for scientific and cultural interests and as a site for institutions in the field of sustainable development.

By making this offer, Germany wants expressly to underline its particular commitment to international climate policy.

If the decision as to the Secretariat headquarters is made in favour of Bonn, Germany could increase its financial support of the climate Secretariat.

II. German services if Bonn is chosen

Germany is prepared to render considerable services for hosting the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change:

1. Provision of suitable rent-free office space

Germany is prepared to provide approximately 1500 m² in suitable rent-free office space in Bonn to the FCCC as of 1996. The owner, (the Federal Government or a private investor), shall pay the costs of structural repairs, while normal maintenance of the offices shall be the responsibility of the Secretariat as user (security, cleaning, minor alterations and repairs). The Secretariat shall also be liable for the costs of utilities such as telecommunications facilities, water and electricity.

Germany is ready to meet the costs of equipping the offices of the Secretariat, including furniture and telecommunications technology.

Furthermore, Germany is prepared to make available rent-free offices for the least developed countries which are not yet represented in Bonn.

If the offer for moving the UNV to Bonn is accepted, common facilities with the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change have been planned, in which smaller agencies, such as the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention (CMS Secretariat/UNEP) and the Environmental Law Centre (IUCN), could also be accommodated, thus providing for synergetic effects in the infrastructure.

2. Payment of removal expenses and settling-in costs

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is also prepared to pay the removal expenses of the Secretariat and of all members of staff who are willing to move with their families from Geneva to Bonn, as well as the installation grants and the costs for language courses.

3. Special costs

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is also prepared to provide an annual sum of 3.5 million DM for events organized by the Secretariat under the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

4. Increase of voluntary contributions

Relocation of the Secretariat would prompt Germany to increase its contribution to the Secretariat of the FCCC to 1.5 million DM annually.

5. Granting of preferential rights and exemptions

Germany is seeking to conclude a headquarters agreement with the UN based on the headquarters agreements with the other UN sites in Europe which would govern the privileges of the Secretariat and its staff (immunity, preferential rights under tax and customs law, see enclosure).

6. Granting of access to the labour market of the Federal Republic of Germany

Germany is prepared to grant free access to the labour market of the Federal Republic of Germany to spouses, minors and children of the FCCC Secretariat's staff who have attained age but are pursuing education . They will not require a work permit for employment. Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Germany would permit the FCCC Secretariat's staff to employ one foreign household attendant.

7. Other services

The Federal Government will assist the Secretariat in finding qualified technical and office staff. It is also prepared to ensure that the Secretariat may make use of libraries and other institutions which are equipped with sources of documentation in English.

III. Bonn - the geographical heart of Europe

The city of Bonn has much to offer:

Within the Federal Republic of Germany, at the geographical heart of central Europe, the region between Düsseldorf/Ruhr and Frankfurt is a central axis of approximately 250 km in length with a high economic performance and unique urban diversity and density. In the centre of this region are the two neighbouring cities of Bonn and Cologne (approximately 2 million inhabitants), only 25 km apart. Motorways, railway lines and regional as well as international flight connections are here in abundance.

Bonn/Cologne airport is about 20 minutes by car from the centre of Bonn. In combination with the neighbouring airports of Düsseldorf (1 hour by intercity railway or car) and Frankfurt (1 1/2 hours by intercity railway or car) cities such as New York, Nairobi or Delhi can be reached within 7 1/2 hours. Most large cities of Europe can be reached within an hour.

Bonn with its 300,000 inhabitants and 170,000 jobs and its location in the centre of an urban region of approximately 760,000 inhabitants excels with great locational advantages but without the conurbation problems common to large cities. Having fulfilled the functions of the seat of Parliament and Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for many years, Bonn has developed two features: a high degree of administrative efficiency which is also reflected in the availability of suitably qualified staff, and the quality of a pleasant area in which people from all over the world can feel at home.

Bonn will remain a centre of national and international importance as the seat of several ministries. Germany plans in particular to develop Bonn as a important site for scientific, educational and cultural interests.

In addition to the scientific and research institutions such as the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DLR), the Jülich Nuclear Research Centre (KfA), institutions in the high-tech area such as the German Agency for Space Matters (DARA) or the telecommunications technology (e.g. Telekom) and the highly renowned universities of Bonn, Cologne and Aachen, inter-disciplinary research establishments of considerable importance are to be set up here. It has been decided for example to establish a scientific centre for basic and application-oriented research with a view to the future technologies of the 21st century and geared towards European interests (Center for Advanced European Studies and Research - CAESAR) and the university centers for Research on European Integration and the Institute for Research on Developing Countries.

Bonn has experience with large international conferences and has the facilities to deal with them. In the vicinity of what has until now been the parliamentary and government quarter, a new conference centre with a capacity for several thousand participants is available. In Bonn and its surroundings, over 6,000 hotel rooms of an international standard are on offer. The Federal Republic of Germany's guest house on the Petersberg, which was completed in 1990, may be used for special events and representative occasions.

The city of Bonn, situated directly on the Rhine, in a geographically picturesque area at the intersection of the fertile lowland plain of the bay of Cologne and the mountain range along the central Rhine valley (Siebengebirge), is a town with an urbane culture on a human scale in a rural setting. The distances are short and due to its favourable regional location and good transport possibilities, including local public transport, the large majority of people who work in Bonn city centre need no more than 30 minutes to get to their place of work from home.

The rents in Bonn are lower than those in other cities with UN headquarters. Given the good supply of quality consumer goods of any kind, the cost of living is not high.

In general, Bonn's infrastructure, in particular in the fields of health and telecommunications, meets the highest demands.

In Beethoven's native city, outstanding concerts, operas and plays are performed. The Düsseldorf-Cologne-Bonn area is a citadel of cultural activity in a European mould in all forms of art, both modern and classical. With its excellent university, rich in tradition (40,000 students), it is a scientific center which as a capital has also attained an international stature.

The UN staff and their families will enjoy the use of educational facilities and international clubs established in Bonn for the benefit of the approximately 140 embassies with their 10,000 members. There are several foreign schools, as well as a number of German bilingual schools offering education in German and English and German and French. Some German schools also offer enhanced learning programmes for foreigners. German public schools and universities charge no fees.

IV. Further procedure

If the UN responds positively to the offer, Germany is prepared to clarify all details immediately, including the question of which premises will be made available to the Secretariat of the FCCC.

Germany is furthermore prepared to offer Bonn as the site of other interested UN or international organisations.

The Federal Government would be pleased to discuss all arrangements in greater detail.

Enclosure

The Secretariat of the FCCC, its funds, its income and other assets shall be exempt from any direct tax. Officials of the FCCC Secretariat from P 5 onwards shall be exempt from any direct taxes in the same way as diplomats. Also the officials of the FCCC Secretariat shall be exempt from taxes on the salaries and earnings paid to them by the Secretariat.

Also, the official cars of the Secretariat and the private vehicles of the staff from P 5 onwards (according to the regulation for diplomats) shall be exempt from the vehicle tax and insurances taken out by the Secretariat or its staff P 5 onwards shall be exempt from the insurance tax.

In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany offers the following privileges with regard to value added tax, import-VAT, consumption tax and customs duties:

The FCCC Secretariat shall be refunded the VAT contained in purchase prices (of deliveries and services) for official purposes if the VAT itemized individually on the invoice in addition to the invoice amount is higher than DM 50. There is no upper limit for refunding such purchase costs.

In addition, invoiced VAT up to an amount of 2.000 DM annually shall be refunded to foreign staff of the FCCC Secretariat ranking P 5 and higher for the purchase of articles (with the exception of food and tobacco goods) and the use of non-official services. Also, VAT for the purchase of a car shall be refunded after termination of the expected life of the vehicle. Turnover included in invoiced amounts of up to 200 DM shall not be refunded (negligible amounts).

With regard to the special consumption taxes of foreign staff of the FCCC Secretariat from P 5 onwards shall be granted an exemption from mineral oil tax on petrol and diesel and purchase of untaxed tobacco articles and alcoholic drinks shall be made possible.

Goods needed for official purposes shall be allowed to be imported free of VAT. The same applies to imports of goods for personal use by staff from P 5 onwards.

Berne, 27 September 1994
(edited version, 14.12.94)

**SWISS REPLY TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
ON ITS OFFER TO HOST THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF
THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Legal Framework

1. Please outline the privileges and immunities which would be conferred on the permanent secretariat

The permanent secretariat will be granted the same privileges and immunities as its host Organisation. As all proposed host Organisations are already established in Geneva either through their Headquarters (WMO) or through a Regional or Liaison Office (DPCSD, UNEP and UNDP), such privileges and immunities are included in the already concluded Headquarters Agreement (1946).

In particular, this means that the permanent secretariat will be exempted from all federal, cantonal and communal direct taxes as well as indirect taxes. It will also be exempted from the VAT and custom duties on all goods purchased for official use (within the limits of existing legislation).

2. Please indicate if it is contemplated to negotiate a Headquarters agreement

See reply above

Physical features of the site and related financial issues

3. Please describe the main features of the building or buildings which you would place at the disposal of the secretariat. The description should include area of usable office space (square meters) and facilities for conferences and for general services (security, maintenance, etc.)

Switzerland will put at the disposal of the co-located permanent secretariats of the Conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification as well as the Regional Office of UNEP, the GRID and the permanent secretariats of Conventions of Basel (Hazardous Chemicals) and Washington (CITES) the following buildings : the Geneva Executive Centre - where the three interim secretariats are already located - and the Palais Wilson, which is under renovation. These premises contain the following facilities:

Geneva Executive Centre :

- office space : 13,000 sq. m.
- meeting rooms : 6, the largest accommodating 52 persons.

The Geneva Executive Centre is a brand new (four years) 7 storey building located close to the intercontinental airport with direct access to the Swiss and French highway networks. It is equipped with an advanced energy-saving heating/air conditioning system, elevators, cafeteria, underground parking lot, up-to-date telecommunication equipment, including direct world-wide satellite links as well as an internal computer network system. Thanks to movable walls, office space can be adapted to the needs of users.

Palais Wilson :

- office space : 4,700 sq. m.
- one conference room containing about 150 seats, equipped with simultaneous interpretation facilities
- several meeting rooms.

The Palais Wilson is a prestigious and historical building which hosted the League of Nations. It is located on the shore of Lake Geneva at a walking distance from a series of large hotels and shopping malls. It is 5 minutes on foot from the railway station connecting with the airport. Its renovation is undertaken in full respect of its historical character. However, latest equipment will be installed.

The Palais Wilson will primarily be made available to the UNEP Regional Office and other secretariats dealing with environmental matters. The final allocation of office premises in the Geneva Executive Centre and the Palais Wilson will be discussed with the responsible officers of the respective Office and secretariats.

Conference facilities:

In addition to the conference facilities available in the Palais des Nations, additional ones could be used :

- the "**Centre International de Conférences de Genève**" (CICG), a building located close to the Palais des Nations, contains the following conference infrastructure:
 - 2,218 seats in conference rooms of various size
 - simultaneous interpretation facilities for 6 to 8 languages
 - a press centre and a studio for audio-visual conferences by satellite
 - a telecommunication network
 - an underground parking
 - large cafeteria, restaurant, post office, news stand, bank and other facilities.

The CICG would be made *available free of charge* after consultation with the relevant Swiss authorities.

- the "**Palexpo**", a huge exhibit and conference centre (70,000 sq.m.), located next to the airport and where such exhibits as the Geneva Motor Show and Telecom are taking place. While not initially designed for UN-type meetings, it contains fully equipped conference rooms of various sizes and different patterns which can be adapted at short notice thanks to the versatility of the building.
- close to the Palais Wilson, a **new conference centre** (10 meeting and conference rooms with a capacity for 2,000 people and full simultaneous interpretation facilities) is under construction at the Hotel President Wilson.

The conditions under which the last two conference facilities would be made available for meetings under the Convention on climate change have not yet been determined.

4. *On what basis would the facilities described in para. 3 above be placed at the disposal of the secretariat*

(a) *ownership to be conferred on the secretariat ?*

A special foundation created by the Swiss Government - FIPOI ("Fondation des Immeubles pour les Organisations Internationales") - would remain owner of facilities.

(b) *Government would retain ownership, but no rent would be paid by the secretariat?*

Switzerland endeavours to offer premises free of charge at the beginning of activities of a new organisation, in order to be of assistance in the initial phase of work. In the case of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, office space has been and will further be made available free of charge until April 1998. As a matter of principle, it should then be up to Contracting Parties to endorse the responsibility of maintaining the secretariat. Office premises are usually rented to international organisations at a discount rate. Such conditions are presently under review by the Swiss Government. However, in the very case of the permanent secretariats of the three related conventions (climate, biological diversity and desertification), financial assistance in order to meet expenses connected with the rental of premises is under examination.

- (c) *Government would retain ownership, and a rent would be paid by the secretariat; in this case, what would be the level of rent foreseen?*

See reply above

5. *Who would be responsible for payment of*

- (a) *major maintenance of the facilities (for example, structural repairs)*

Retaining property of the buildings, the FIPOI would be responsible for meeting the major maintenance costs of facilities.

- (b) *normal maintenance of the facilities (for example, security, cleaning, minor alterations and repairs)*

Such expenses should be covered by the secretariat's budget.

- (c) *utilities (telecommunications, water, electricity)*

Such expenses are met by users (consumption expenses).

6. *Is there an expiry date for the arrangements described in paras. 4 and 5 above and, if so, what would be the date?*

No

7. *Would the facilities be furnished and equipped by the host Government and, if so, to what extent?*

A large share of the present furniture and equipment was put at the disposal of the interim secretariat by the Government of Switzerland. The permanent secretariat would be entitled to use it further in premises made available by Switzerland.

8. *What, if any, other contributions could the host Government make to defraying the current operating costs of the secretariat ?*

The Government of Switzerland is willing to support the activities of the three secretariats with financial means which are additional to those deriving from its regular obligations as a Contracting Party to the three Conventions. The level of such an additional financial support will be influenced by the decision to co-locate the three permanent secretariats in Geneva.

Area facilities and conditions

9. *Please provide a brief description of :*

- *Diplomatic representation of Governments*

The following permanent missions or permanent observer's bureaux/missions to the United Nations have been established in Geneva :

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kampuchea, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sao Tome e Principe, Saudi Arabia, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of African Unity also maintain Permanent Delegations in Geneva.

Switzerland wishes to emphasise that *permanent missions* are governmental channels specifically designed for multilateral activities such as the implementation of the Conventions. In cities without such a network of permanent missions, Governments would have to rely on *embassies* -provided they have one - which perform bilateral diplomatic tasks and are staffed differently, and would need to introduce specialists familiar with multilateral questions. Hence **keeping the Permanent Secretariat of the Framework Convention on climate change in Geneva would entail significant budgetary savings for Governments.**

In this context, the Government of the Canton of Geneva has decided to provide a "Universal House" ("Maison Universelle") with a total floor area of some 5,000 sq. m. for the least developed countries according to United Nations criteria. The House would be located in the proximity of the Palais des Nations. Accommodation will be offered free of charge if the countries concerned so desire. Maintenance costs will be met by the Canton of Geneva. The Government of Geneva has further expressed willingness to provide the same countries with support in meeting rental costs for temporary office premises elsewhere in Geneva until the "Universal House" is opened, probably in 1998. Other supportive measures for other countries could be considered, upon request.

- Presence of international organisations

Numerous international organisations are located in or around Geneva. They often relate to humanitarian or economic affairs such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or the World Trade Organization. The following relevant international organisations, in addition to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva, are located in or around Geneva :

1. United Nations system

- International Labour Office (Headquarters)
- International Computing Centre (Headquarters)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Headquarters)
- International Trade Centre (Headquarters)
- World Meteorological Organization (Headquarters) together with the International Panel on Climate Change
- World Intellectual Property Organization (Headquarters)
- World Health Organization (Headquarters)
- U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (Headquarters)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (Liaison Office)
- International Monetary Fund (Regional Office)
- United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (Liaison Office)
- United Nations Development Programme (Regional Office)
- United Nations Environment Programme (Regional Office) together with the Information Unit on Climate Change
- UNEP/CITES secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Headquarters)
- UNEP/GRID Global Resources Information Database (Headquarters)
- UNEP/SBC secretariat of the Basle Convention (Headquarters)
- United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (Liaison Office)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Headquarters)

2. Non-UN intergovernmental organizations :

- Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (Liaison Office)
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Liaison Office)

3. Non governmental organizations:

Among dozens of NGOs established in or around Geneva, the following deserve particular mention :

- Business Council for Sustainable Development (Headquarters)
- International Academy of the Environment (Headquarters)
- World Conservation Union (Headquarters)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (Headquarters)
- Centre for Our Common Future (Headquarters)
- Conference of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (CONGO) (Headquarters)
- World Council of Churches (Headquarters)
- Battelle Europe - Geneva Research Centre
- Bellerive Foundation

- Presence of national organisations relevant to FCCC

- University of Geneva: Centre for the Study of Energy Problems
- Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne: Institute of Environmental Engineering; Solar Energy and Building Physics Laboratories
- Institute of Development Studies (Geneva)
- Among the numerous other existing academic institutions, research facilities and engineering centres the following deserve particular mention : Basle (University), Bern (University), Bienne (School of Engineering specialised in solar energy development), Lausanne (University), Neuchatel (University), Fribourg (University), Zurich (University and Federal Institute of Technology).

- International transport and travel facilities

By air : Geneva intercontinental airport is located 4 km from downtown (1 km from the Geneva Executive Centre). It can be reached by bus or by train. It serves 110 destinations throughout the world. Geneva is connected daily, directly or via Zurich, with most capitals of the world making it of easy reach for many countries of Africa, Asia, North and South America, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe. About 40 air companies offer flights to Geneva.

By train : Geneva is connected to the railway networks of Switzerland and France. Fast and comfortable trains depart at least once an hour from Geneva to other Swiss cities. Thanks to the French "Train à Grande Vitesse" (300 km/h), Geneva is only slightly more than 3 hours from the centre of Paris.

By road : Geneva lies at the junction of the European North-South and East-West highway networks. Although speed is limited for environmental and energy conservation purposes, Chamonix and the Mont Blanc are only an hour away, while Milan is easily reached within 4 hours by car.

- Local mass transit facilities

Geneva enjoys a modern and comfortable bus, tramway and electrobus mass transit system. The local authorities are committed to further developing the public transportation system. From Spring to Autumn, there is also a most enjoyable small boat commuting system in the inner part of the city. There are virtually no safety problems in Geneva.

- International and local telecommunication facilities

Switzerland possesses direct, fast, reliable and competitive international telecommunication facilities. It is also a member of the Natel C and D systems for cellular phones. A metropolitan network for high-speed interconnection of the various databanks used by the international organisations and permanent missions in Geneva is expected to become operational in mid-1995. Furthermore, international organisations are linked to the state-of-the-art Swiss optic fibre network.

About 40 television channels are available in French, German, Italian, English and Spanish with occasional broadcasting in several other languages. Official radio stations broadcast in French, German and Italian. There are also local private radio stations in French, English and Arabic. Numerous newspapers from all over the world and other mass media maintain permanent correspondents in Geneva who ensure wide coverage of international events held in the city.

- Local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the permanent secretariat (language skills, edp and other office machine skills, etc.)

There exist an ample pool of locally available and well trained personnel for possible employment in the permanent secretariat. Moreover, due to the international character of Geneva (more than a third of the population is of non-Swiss origin), most employees are multilingual with French and English being the common denominators.

- Health facilities. Would access of delegates and staff to hospitals be possible?

The Canton of Geneva, with a population of less than 400,000 inhabitants, has about 1900 medical practitioners, 90 physiotherapists, 420 dentists and 3,000 hospital beds. It has a large public university hospital offering all the usual services. A number of private clinics also operate in Geneva and its surrounding area. There is no limit on access but since expenses are often high, private health insurance is recommended. Such insurance is compulsory for residents.

- Availability of housing

The housing stock in Geneva and its surroundings offers a broad variety of facilities ranging from small apartments in a condominium (SFr 1,200 (US\$ 800) a month for a 3-4 room flat) to beautiful mansions with private harbour. The Swiss Government does not impose any restriction as to the area of residence of the international civil servants.

The Government of Geneva is willing to help permanent missions, their staff and international civil servants in their efforts to find living quarters and to resolve housing problems that might arise. It is examining the possibility of allowing access to subsidised housing.

Under present Swiss legislation, States and international organisations may acquire real estate in Switzerland for their official needs. Staff members of permanent missions and international civil servants may also acquire real estate under given conditions. The provisions governing ownership of real estate by foreigners and staff of permanent missions are currently under review. It is envisaged that all persons residing in Switzerland will be allowed to acquire real estate as a principal residence without any prior authorization, with a view to easing access to land ownership.

- Availability of schooling

There are excellent state schools which are free of charge, with various schemes for higher education. As numerous children are of foreign origin, "adaptation courses" are organised in various languages (English, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian are the most common) by the local authorities. 38 private schools offer various education programmes in different languages. The University of Geneva, founded in 1552, provides tertiary education in all the usual fields. Physics and international political sciences are particularly well developed thanks to the proximity of the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the United Nations. Biochemistry and molecular biology have recently become new fields of excellence in scientific research. Geneva is also host to a well-known School of Interpreters. A private English-speaking university specialises in political sciences.

- *Transfer of funds and valuables to and from foreign countries for the secretariat and for staff members.*

Switzerland has a long liberal tradition in banking and financial matters. There is no restriction on movement of capital. Therefore, free and unlimited transfer of funds to and from foreign countries is allowed in any type of currency or securities (notes, shares, bonds, gold and so on). Banking secrecy is guaranteed by law. It can only be lifted by juridical authorities within the framework of a criminal prosecution. Banks have agreed to identify individuals opening bank accounts or making large cash operations.

Privileges and immunities of the staff of the permanent secretariat

10. *Please outline the privileges and immunities which would be conferred to the staff of the permanent secretariat*

Within the context of the establishment in Geneva of the Headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Swiss Government has decided to improve the status of intergovernmental organisations in Switzerland. In this regard, once the WTO is established, the Swiss Government will grant officials of grade P-5 and above the status of senior official and the related privileges and immunities.

Senior staff members will enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to diplomats. Hence, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 will apply by analogy, particularly as regards Article 34 relating to tax privileges. They will also be exempted from VAT and custom duties, within the limits of the relevant legislation.

With respect to tax privileges, *other professional staff members* (P-4 and lower) will be exempted from all direct taxes on salaries paid by the Permanent Secretariats.

Plans are well advanced for opening a *tax-free shop* in Geneva in order to meet the needs of international organisations and persons having a diplomatic status.

11. *Please indicate if there would be restrictions on employment of dependants of staff members.*

Also within the context of the establishment of the WTO, the Swiss Government has decided to improve conditions of family reunification for international civil servants and members of permanent missions.

Unmarried children having a parent working as an international civil servant or member of a permanent mission will be entitled to accompany or re-join him or her, up to the age of 25, provided they live under the same roof as this parent. In exceptional cases, the Swiss authorities will allow children older than 25 to reside in Switzerland. They will receive a "carte de légitimation" from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Swiss Government has decided to facilitate access to the Swiss job market for spouses resident in Switzerland of international civil servants and of members of permanent missions. Furthermore, children who were admitted into the country on grounds of family reunification before the age of 21 and who reside in Switzerland will enjoy the same access even if they take up employment after that age. They will be subject only to the monitoring of working and salary conditions. This is intended to prevent possible misuse and ensure equal treatment with Swiss citizens. However, children joining their parents after the age of 21 who have a "carte de légitimation" from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs will be subject to the normal regulations on foreign labour if they wish to work in Switzerland.

Other relevant information

12. You are welcome to provide any other information deemed relevant

Switzerland was the host country of the Second World Climate Conference held in November 1990. It has participated actively in the negotiations of the FCCC and signed it on 12 June 1992, at the opportunity of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ratification took place on 10 December 1993. In February 1994, Switzerland presented a report outlining its national strategy regarding climate change. On 21 September 1994, it forwarded to the secretariat its first national report in pursuance to the provisions contained in Article 12 of the Convention.

Switzerland has allocated new and additional financial resources to the integration of environment into the development process of developing countries: the total Swiss support for 1993-95 to the first and second phases of the Global Environment Facility amounts to about US\$ 110 millions. Further, since the beginning of the FCCC negotiations in February 1991, Switzerland has provided US\$ 389,000 to the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation of developing countries in INC meetings. In addition, between 1991 and September 1994, a total amount of US\$ 637,000 was made available to the Trust Fund. US\$ 155,000 will be added in the near future for the analysis of national reports. It may be interesting to note that *Switzerland is the greatest single contributor to both Funds.*

Furthermore, Switzerland has provided a significant financial support to the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as the Information Unit on Climate Change.

**SWITZERLAND'S REPLIES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS
ON
ITS OFFER TO HOST THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE FCCC**

a) For several items, the offer is a comprehensive one containing several secretariats or organizations. Would it be possible to identify what, precisely, would be available to the secretariat of the FCCC, which would assist us for the purposes of comparison?

Switzerland has made general provisions for hosting the Permanent Secretariats of the FCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. So far, the detailed needs of each Secretariat are relatively undetermined as they will, to a large extent, result from the long term programmes to be adopted by the respective Conferences of Parties. **Switzerland is prepared to meet with the future needs of the Permanent Secretariat of the FCCC with considerable flexibility.** On the other hand, it is also committed to promote a most efficient use of resources. This could be achieved through a series of measures, inter alia cooperation and coordination with the work of other international organisations, good planning on the part of the Secretariat, the sharing of common services with other institutions active in the field of environment and sustainable development as well as optimizing working relationships with Governments by using existing networks and resources.

As regards **office space**, Switzerland will provide premises in the Geneva Executive Centre (GEC) and the Palais Wilson which is at present under renovation. The total useful floor area of these two buildings amounts to 17,700 sq.m. It will obviously not be made available only to the Secretariat of the FCCC, but also to other related institutions such as the UNEP Regional Bureau, IUCC, the Secretariat of the Conventions on biological diversity and desertification, the Secretariats of the CITES and Basle Conventions, IRPTC and services of the UNOG. According to estimates based on indications provided by the above-mentioned secretariats about their future needs, it can be stated that the total useful floor area will meet all the needs of the future users. Presently, the DPCSD (Climate and Desertification) occupies a total surface area of 2,688 sq.m. As indicated in our reply, it is the intention of the Swiss Government to discuss final allocation of office premises with the responsible officers of these institutions with the goal to promote the best possible interrelation and coordination in fulfilling their respective mandates. In any case, **Switzerland commits itself to provide the Secretariat of the FCCC with the needed office space in one or the other building.**

As regards **conference facilities**, there are numerous possibilities in Geneva. The Swiss Government has no intention to allocate conference facilities for the exclusive use of the FCCC. This would not be an efficient approach. A recent survey has demonstrated that 19,000 seats in conference rooms are available to international organisations established in Geneva. We consider therefore that facilities in the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (4 conference rooms and 9 meeting rooms), the GEC (6 meeting rooms), and the

Palais des Nations (24 conference rooms and 5 meeting rooms) can meet the needs of the FCCC. The key factor in this respect will be adequate planning and booking on the part of the Secretariat and coordination with activities of other international organisations. Should the need arise, further conference facilities are available outside these premises in Geneva.

As regards **financial contributions**, Switzerland will announce in the near future that it intends to allocate annually, in addition to its obligations as a Contracting Party to the Conventions, up to 4.0 million Swiss francs (i.e. US\$ 3.2 millions) for the work of the three "post-Rio" Conventions. Of this sum, about 1.2 million US\$ have been provisionally earmarked for the work of the Secretariat of FCCC. Provisions have been made for up to 1998 included. As of 1999, the relevant Swiss authorities will endeavour to maintain such support which will be subject to Parliamentary endorsement.

As regards **gratuity of office premises**, Switzerland wishes to indicate that it is not in a position to offer gratuity. Office premises in Geneva are leased to international organisations at a discount rate. However, the lump sum made available to the Permanent Secretariat will by far exceed the required amounts for meeting rental costs. Therefore, the expenses for office premises can be considered as being fully covered by the above-mentioned voluntary contribution.

d) Are the suggestions of concessional rent after April 1998 (item 4.b) and additional funding (item 8) conditioned on the co-location of the three "Rio Conventions" in Geneva, or would such facilities be available to the secretariat of the FCCC independently ?

They are not conditioned on the co-location of the secretariats of the three Conventions.

c) On item 9 - availability of housing, does the offer to help "permanent missions and their staff" apply also to the staff of the permanent secretariat ?

Yes. In fact, the text of that paragraph should read as follows: "The Government of Geneva is willing to help permanent missions and their staff as well as international civil servants, in their efforts to find apartments and to resolve any housing problems that might arise including through recourse to Government subsidized housing. A contact will be set up in the Geneva Department of the Interior to provide assistance in this sphere. It is examining the possibility of allowing access to subsidised housing."

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**URUGUAYAN PROPOSAL
TO HOST THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**I. PRIOR URUGUAYAN INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL
MATTERS**

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay has been actively involved in supporting the creation and implementation of major environmental projects. Of these, some of the most important are:

Nationally:

(a) the interest of the Government reflected in the creation of the Ministry of Housing, Town & Country Planning and the Environment by means of Law No.16,122 of 1990;

(b) adoption of Law No.16,466 of January 1994 on the Evaluation of Environmental Impact, the purpose of which is to prevent and correct any deterioration of the Environment caused by human activities;

(c) active participation in domestic entities and ecological preservation programmes; and

(d) the inclusion of environment-related subjects in domestic school syllabi.

Internationally:

Uruguay has committed itself under the following international instruments:

(1) The Latin-American and Caribbean Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (Tlatelolco, 1967)

(2) The Convention on Marsh and Boglands of International Importance Especially as a Habitat for Aquatic Birdlife (Ramsar, 1971)

(3) The International Maritime Pollution Prevention Convention (MARPOL), (London, 1973), The Protocol to that Convention (London, 1978), The Amendment to that Protocol (1985)

(4) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982)

(5) The Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985), The Montreal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances (Montreal, 1987), The Amendment to that Protocol (1985)

(6) The Basle Convention on Monitoring Trans-Boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Elimination (Basle, 1989)

(7) The Agreement on the Creation of the Interamerican Global-Change Investigation Institute (Montevideo, 1992)

(8) The Convention on Protecting Species and Habitats (Biodiversity Convention) (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

(9) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

II HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN MATTERS RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay has been involved in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (as created by a United Nations General Assembly Resolution) both during sessions prior to the Rio Conference (UNCED 92) at which that Convention was drafted and during sessions following the adoption and signing of the Convention at which were prepared the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the promotion of the ratification and application of the Convention (the dates being 12 June 92, 3 July 93, 8 August 93 and 2 September 94).

Uruguay signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro on 11 June 1992 on the occasion of the UNCED. The Legislative adopted it on 12 July 1994 under Law No.16,517 and the instrument of ratification was deposited on 18 August 1994.

The National Meteorological Office itself participated in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Climate Change.

External technical assistance has been sought with the implementation of domestic projects such as the taking of a national inventory of carbon monoxide as a first step towards a nation-wide inventory taking in all other gasses with a greenhouse effect that are not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. This project was prepared by the Global and Regional Affairs Division of the National Environmental Directorate of the Ministry of Housing, Town & Country Planning and the Environment as a supplement to Art.4 (I.A.) of the Convention.

Uruguay is a Founding Member of the Interamerican Institute for Global Change Investigations which was created under an agreement reached at the High-Level Meeting held in Montevideo in May 1992.

Uruguay has a National Global Change Commission involving many institutions, which follows up this matter and which held a Workshop Seminar in Montevideo on Estuary and Coastal Processes.

Uruguay normally participates in various meetings of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol at which Ozone-depleting substances are discussed.

A project is being conducted in Uruguay for the monitoring of stratospheric ozone in the Southern Cone of South America which is being financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and administered by the UNDP.

Likewise, a Country Programme has been set up for studying the effects of climate change on the domestic agricultural, livestock and coastal sectors.

Our country, as a developing country with a low level of consumption of those substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, has submitted for financing by the Multilateral Fund, a number of projects to complement the objectives of the Protocol.

Uruguay was actively involved in the process of restructuring the GEF in 1993 and up to the time it was established in 1994, once the instrument had been approved by the governing bodies of the three agencies that implemented it (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank).

III CHARACTERISTICS AND CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY OF INTEREST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE

GENERAL ASPECTS

Uruguay is one of the smallest countries of South America. Nevertheless, it is particularly strategically located, being at a certain distance from the highly developed countries on the continent yet very close to the great urban centres of the Southern Hemisphere (Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile) with the diversity of additional options that this offers.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, located on the banks of the River Plate, is a cosmopolitan and pleasant city that offers potential for the practice of whatever activities might interest its inhabitants and visitors passing through.

Uruguay is home to the regional offices of a number of international organisations such as the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology (ROST), the Latin-American Integration Association (LAIA), the Secretariat of the South-American Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Interamerican Vocational Training Investigation and Documentation Center (CINTERFOR/ILO), the Interamerican Child Institute (ICI/OAS) and the International Development Investigation Center (IDIC/Canada).

The economic development strategy adopted by the Uruguayan Government is based on active participation in the private sector which it sees as the prime moving force behind economic growth. Sustained growth is sought in exports and the service sector and tourism constitutes an ever-expanding source of important resources.

The climatic conditions of the country are such that the inhabitants enjoy temperate weather, far from any possible violent phenomena such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes or snow storms. There are four clearly defined seasons with average Winter and Summer temperatures of around 10 ° and 22 °C respectively (equivalent to 44 ° and 68 °F respectively).

Environmental contamination levels are low. The Uruguayan Government is most concerned with keeping them low and further improving conditions.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS

Uruguay is considered, by international standards, to be a very safe country when it comes to personal tranquillity and security. It has a stable and traditionally democratic political system that allows for the peaceful coexistence of differing schools of thought.

There is total freedom of religion and there is no official State religion.

The social, economic and cultural characteristics reigning in Uruguay are such that the possibility of settling there could be most appealing to foreigners. Uruguayan hospitality is well-known and, together with the excellent local facilities, offers ideal conditions for the social integration of foreign residents.

LOCAL FACILITIES

Carrasco International Airport, just 20 minutes out of the centre of Montevideo, has daily flights to all parts of the world.

There are no housing problems in Montevideo and it is quite possible to rent or buy high-quality, comfortable and spacious residential and office premises in safe areas very close to the town centre.

The Uruguayan educational system is widely acknowledged. It should be noted that public education, at primary, secondary and university levels alike, is completely free of charge. This is reflected in the low level of illiteracy of between 2 and 3%.

There are, in Montevideo, a large number of private, bilingual schools (English, Italian, French, German, Hebrew and Armenian to mention but a few) and many of them offer a US or European curriculum. The cost of private education varies between US\$ 300 and US\$ 400 a month for school and pre-university education and around US\$ 350 a month for university education.

Medical care is first rate. Given the social and economic condition of the country, there are no epidemics for which special precautions need be taken.

Montevideo offers countless forms of entertainment for the entire family. For example, there are facilities for the practice of many sports and excellent clubs for tennis, horse-riding, yachting and golf with one of the best links in South America.

COMMUNICATIONS

Fine communications facilities make for ease of reception and transmission of information. It is currently possible to take advantage of really low rates over link-ups with international communications networks and electronic mail.

LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS

If Uruguay were to be honoured with hosting the Permanent Secretariat Office, the Uruguayan Government would grant it the status of non-profit-making international organisation. As such, the two Parties would sign a Headquarters Agreement providing for all the immunities and privileges normally accorded international organisations. Basically, such treatment would involve the same conditions as are accorded Diplomatic Missions plus such special benefits as may be granted under a Headquarters Agreement, viz.

- Inviolability of premises and assets
- Inviolability of records and documents wherever located

And, as with other Headquarters Agreements in effect:

(a) Free import of all personal effects and chattels necessary for the normal performance of duties, free of any foreign exchange formalities and exempt from any customs duties, levies or related charges.

(b) Free import of vehicles for the official use of the Institute on the same conditions as those mentioned above. Possibility of transferring ownership of a vehicle, free of any levies or charges, after two years.

- Immunity to criminal prosecution.
- Immunity under civil and administrative jurisdiction as set down in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
- Tax exoneration for the international staff of the Permanent Secretariat similar to the advantages extended to a Head of Diplomatic Mission. Tax exoneration for international staff would include exemption from road tax on vehicles (one per person) for personal use as well as on other effects and chattels necessary for the proper performance of their functions.
- Exoneration from payment of social security charges for international staff.
- A diplomatic visa would be placed in the passports of international grade civil servants and their families for the first two years of their service and annually thereafter.

FINANCIAL ASPECT

The Uruguayan financial system provides for total freedom of movement of foreign currency both in to and out of the country. There is absolutely no need to acquire any sort of authorization for the performance of any type of banking operation such as the buying or selling of foreign exchange, arbitrage in any currency for spot or forward operations, repatriation of funds and the sending of profits and transfer of funds to other countries. Bank accounts may be held in any currency.

The banking system is wholly protected by banking secrecy.

The possibility is offered of access to an international banking network with a high level of technical sophistication through which funds can be rapidly and safely transferred to any part of the world from terminals in the customer's own offices.

Special reference should be made to the tradition of security, absence of interventionism and loyal performance that have been the hallmark of successive Uruguayan Governments.

LABOUR RELATIONS

The good educational and occupational level of the Uruguayan people ensures a supply of highly skilled personnel for the various tasks to be assumed by the Permanent Secretariat and at a most reasonable cost as compared with other countries in the region.

Uruguayan workers make a mandatory contribution to the Social Security Fund (BPS) of approximately 23% of their income in return for which they are entitled to medical care, family allowances and retirement pension.

VI THE URUGUAYAN OFFER FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Uruguay is offering the Secretariat all necessary facilities it possibly can to ensure that it may properly perform the functions entrusted to it as the administrative organ of that Institution.

These facilities will include the following:

- Recognition of the Permanent Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a non-profit-making international organisation.
- A Headquarters Agreement embodying the conditions set forth above.

- Sufficiently spacious premises for the proper functioning of the Secretariat.
- All necessary telephone and telefax lines.
- Direct connection to INTERNET through the Uruguayan node.
- Support of the National Environmental and Meteorological Directorates and their Secretariat in all matters relating to the administration of the Executive Secretariat and the installation of the Office.
- A building of sufficient capacity to house the Permanent Secretariat with an approximate floor area of two thousand square metres (21,500 square feet).
- Suitable rooms for storing records and processing all documentation relating to the Convention (translation, printing, publications and libraries).
- Meeting rooms with seating capacity for approximately 50 persons for Bureau and Secretariat meetings.
- Rooms for ordinary and/or extraordinary meetings of the Conference of Parties, seating approximately 1200 persons and including sufficient space for the Secretariat and Interpretation services.
- All of the meeting rooms will have sufficient space to take six interpretation booths for interpretation into the official United Nations languages.

**ANNEX TO THE URUGUAYAN PROPOSAL
TO HOST THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Legal Framework

1. The Uruguayan Government will recognise the Secretariat as a non-profit-making international organisation with which it will sign a Headquarters Agreement.
2. It is intended to grant all the immunities and privileges normally accorded to international organizations.

Dimensions of the Office and details of services to be provided

1. There are various options for the geographical location of the Office:

Alternative A: Location in the Commercial Centre of town in a two-storey building of approximately 1000m² each.

Alternative B: Location in a semi-residential zone not far from the town centre, in a two-storey building similar to that in Alternative A, in a building complex given over entirely to offices and with conference and convention facilities in the same complex.

2. The Government would retain ownership of the property, ceding enjoyment thereof to the Secretariat at no charge.
3. The Permanent Secretariat would meet only the normal maintenance costs of the building (security, cleaning, minor repairs, etc.) and the service bills (telecommunications, water supply, electricity, etc.).
4. Details relating to paragraphs 2 and 3 above would be settled once the location of the Permanent Secretariat had been decided upon.
5. The Government would be able to provide suitable furnishings for the operation of the Secretariat.

Facilities

1. In addition to housing facilities contained in the proposals, we should point out that there are some dwellings of optimum standard suitable as residences for international officials as well as excellent public and private schools for the education of their children.
2. Privileges and immunities would be as already described in our proposal attached.

Geneva, 28 September 1994

**DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN MONTEVIDEO
REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY**

ARGENTINA	IRAN	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
BOLIVIA	ISRAEL	UNITED KINGDOM
BRASIL	ITALY	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BULGARIA	JAPAN	VENEZUELA
CHILE	LEBANON	
CHINA	MEXICO	
COLOMBIA	NETHERLANDS (THE)	
COSTA RICA	ORDER OF MALTA	
CUBA	PANAMA	
CZECH REPUBLIC	PARAGUAY	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PERU	
ECUADOR	POLAND	
EGYPT	PORTUGAL	
EL SALVADOR	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	
FRANCE	ROMANIA	
GERMANY	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	
GREECE	SOUTH AFRICA	
GUATEMALA	SPAIN	
HOLY SEE	SWITZERLAND	
HUNGARY		

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN URUGUAY

- ONU - (ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS)
COORDINADOR RESIDENTE
- CEPAL - (COMISION ECONOMICA PARA AMERICA LATINA Y EL
CARIBE) DIRECTOR
- CINTERFOR - (OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJO CENTRO
INTERAMERICANO DE INVESTIGACION Y DOCUMENTACION
SOBRE FORMACION PROFESIONAL) DIRECTOR
- FAO - (ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA
AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION) REPRESENTANTE
- FMI - FONDO MONETARIO INTERNACIONAL) REPRESENTANTE
RESIDENTE
- OIT - (OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJO) DIRECTOR
DE LA OFICINA REGIONAL PARA ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY
Y URUGUAY
- OPS - (ORGANIZACION PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD)
REPRESENTANTE DE LA OFICINA SANITARIA
PANAMERICANA Y DE LA OMS (ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL
DE LA SALUD)
- UNESCO - (ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA EDUCACION LA CIENCIA Y LA CULTURA)
DIRECTOR DE LA OFICINA Y REPRESENTANTE EN
PARAGUAY Y URUGUAY
- UNICEF - (FONDO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA INFANCIA)
REPRESENTANTE DE OFICINA DE AREA PARA ARGENTINA,
CHILE Y URUGUAY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN URUGUAY

- ARPEL - (ASISTENCIA RECIPROCA PETROLERA ESTATAL LATINOAMERICANA) SECRETARIO GENERAL
- BID - (BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO) REPRESENTANTE
- CEFIR - (CENTRO DE FORMACION PARA LA INTEGRACION REGIONAL) DIRECTOR
- CIER - (COMISION DE INTEGRACION ELECTRICA REGIONAL) SECRETARIO GENERAL
- COMITE INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA - DELEGACION
- INFOPESCA - (CENTRO PARA LOS SERVICIOS DE INFORMACION Y ASESORAMIENTO SOBRE LA COMERCIALIZACION DE LOS PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS EN AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE) OFICIAL A CARGO DE LA SEDE DE INFOPESCA
- IICA - (INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE COOPERACION PARA LA AGRICULTURA) REPRESENTANTE
- IIN - (INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO) DIRECTORA GENERAL
- OEA - (OFICINA DE LA SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS EN URUGUAY) DIRECTOR GENERAL
- OIM - (ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL PARA LAS MIGRACIONES) JEFE DE MISION
- UAEP - (UNION POSTAL DE LAS AMERICAS, ESPAÑA Y PORTUGAL) SECRETARIO GENERAL
- ALADI - (SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA ASOCIACION LATINOAMERICANA DE INTEGRACION) SECRETARIO GENERAL