



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

First session

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Agenda item 7 (c)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session

Addendum

Rapporteur: Ms. Rungano KARIMANZIRA (Zimbabwe)

XI. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

(Agenda item 6)

A. Address by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

(Agenda item 6(a))

1. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 5 April, Dr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, inaugurating the ministerial segment of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, welcomed all participants to Berlin, the capital of a reunited Germany. He recalled that, in 1989, the fall of the Berlin wall, which had been seen as a symbol of the division of Germany and of Europe, had cleared the way for the reunification of Germany and had marked the end of East-West confrontation. Never again must walls of enmity be erected between peoples, nations or States, between East and West or between North and South: that was the lesson to be learned from the history of Berlin. The fall of the wall had opened up new opportunities for freedom, understanding and cooperation across borders. The end of the global East-West confrontation also gave mankind a chance to tackle the great humanitarian task of the future, namely, the preservation of creation and the maintenance of the sources of life.

2. The outcome of the Rio Conference remained a mandate and an obligation. There, the countries of the world had taken up the question of environment and development as a central theme of international politics and had documented their readiness to look beyond very divergent positions and interests in seeking common solutions. Because of the recent worldwide recession, however, the expected momentum had failed to develop. National self-interest had come to the fore and, in the desire for economic recovery, environmental considerations had often been disregarded and forward-looking projects placed on the back-burner as expensive luxuries, indicating that Rio's message of sustainable development was not yet accorded sufficient importance by States. Yet it was a dangerous mistake to believe that long-term positive economic development could be achieved at the expense of the environment. Global environmental problems were increasing rapidly and no country alone could overcome the dangers arising from global climate change. What was needed, therefore, was not only joint action by States, but a streamlining and strengthening of international environmental protection machinery within the United Nations.
3. Scientists attributed the warming of the earth's atmosphere by 0.7° C in the current century predominantly to human influence. Without an active climate policy, the earth's temperature was likely to increase by an average of 1.5 to 4.5° C by the end of the twenty-first century, thus threatening efforts to achieve economic development and increased prosperity. Climate-related natural disasters in recent years had caused substantial damage to economies worldwide, and the Alliance of Small Island States had pointed out with some urgency that a further increase in global carbon dioxide emissions would threaten their very existence.
4. Securing sustainable development was a task for the whole of mankind. The rapid growth in world population was placing additional burdens on the earth's ecosystem, making it even more urgent to halt the reckless exploitation of natural resources in order to preserve development opportunities for succeeding generations. Everyone was affected by the repercussions of environmental neglect. The destruction of the ozone layer, overfishing of the seas, desertification, water pollution and deforestation all endangered the survival of nature and mankind and called for resolute action.
5. Since 1950, worldwide energy consumption had more than quadrupled. A growing world population and an expanding world economy would intensify that trend, bringing the threat of increased greenhouse gas emissions, unless mankind succeeded in making better use of natural resources and technological capabilities. Ecology and the economy were compatible, and intelligent solutions linking environmental protection and economic development must be found. Improved energy efficiency could not only supply more people with heat and electricity using the same quantity of resources, but could at the same time reduce environmental pollution. Modern technology could not only make a large contribution towards ensuring that environmental conditions allowed a decent life for future generations, it also made long-term economic sense.
6. Since reunification, modern internationally competitive industries had been created in the eastern part of Germany, and highly polluting production methods had been replaced with

modern, environment-friendly processes. With funding and technology transfer, eastern German productivity had been increased markedly and at the same time pollution had been considerably reduced. Thus, carbon-dioxide emissions in the eastern part of Germany had been reduced by 43 per cent between 1990 and 1994. Germany remained committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions to 25 per cent below 1990 levels by the year 2005, while maintaining economic growth.

7. In Rio, it had been agreed to reduce production of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Efforts must be made, however, to ensure that emissions did not start to rise again after that date. The high energy consumption and large emissions of greenhouse gases by the industrial nations meant that they had a special responsibility to take the lead in environment protection measures. Developments over the past few years had shown that it was economically and technically possible to adjust to ecological necessities, given the political will. He therefore expressly welcomed the good example set by the European Union in committing itself to preventing a rise in carbon-dioxide emissions after the year 2000. He called on all industrialized States to join the European Union in that commitment. Above all, the Conference must provide for the further limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions after the year 2000. He therefore appealed to all participants in the Conference to agree on a substantial mandate for the negotiation, by 1997, of an internationally binding protocol laying down clear objectives, target dates and measures for reducing all greenhouse gases.

8. It would be pointless for the industrialized countries to make environmental demands which exceeded the economic or financial resources of some developing nations. The Rio Conference had laid down the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, varying according to each country's capacity. In the joint battle against greenhouse gases, consideration must be given to ways of achieving a substantial transfer of knowledge and technology to the developing countries, while using the funds globally available for climate protection as effectively as possible. One promising way of combining both goals was the joint implementation of measures already envisaged in the Convention.

9. In many countries, industrial facilities and power stations could be made considerably more efficient through modernization. While pollutant emissions from modern power stations could of course be further reduced, such improvements were minimal compared to those that could be achieved with the same financial resources in the case of out-of-date power stations. Consequently, as part of joint implementation, the industrialized States, which would have to bear the greater financial burden, should be given incentives to undertake climate protection investment outside their own borders and allowed to set off part of those efforts against their obligations to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

10. The reservations of developing countries regarding joint implementation must be taken seriously. Joint implementation must be a matter of joint responsibility and must not enable the industrialized countries to neglect their own climate protection efforts. The use of available technology and know-how to improve international climate protection called for

scientific and technological dialogue, in particular with the developing countries. Consistent use should be made of the opportunities arising from the resulting transfer of know-how and technology. Experience could be gained and mutual trust created in a relatively short time by means of voluntary pilot projects. On that basis, specific agreements could be reached at the following session of the Conference.

11. A habitable environment, for which climate protection was a basic prerequisite, was something to which all human beings were entitled. The international community had a responsibility not only towards people currently in need of food, work and social security, but also towards future generations. There was no room for short-term thinking or for shirking uncomfortable decisions.

12. The Conference should not be content with non-committal declarations, but should achieve breakthroughs without delay on three central issues. Firstly, the industrialized countries had the responsibility to limit carbon-dioxide emissions permanently beyond the year 2000; that was a vital first step and should remain a firm goal. Secondly, with a substantial negotiating mandate, the Conference must set the course for a marked reduction in greenhouse gases after the year 2000. Thirdly, industrialized and developing countries should reach agreement on the joint implementation of climate protection measures and thus make possible the necessary transfer of know-how and technology. The international community must continue boldly and steadfastly along the path embarked upon in Rio. The adoption of the measures necessary to protect the global climate would be justified in the eyes of future generations. He therefore urged participants to make the Conference a success and communicate to the peoples of the Earth their genuine concern about the future of the planet and their readiness to take innovative decisions and measures.

B. Statements by ministers and by other heads of delegation of Parties
(Agenda item 6(b))

13. At the 6th, 7th and 8th plenary meetings, on 5 and 6 April, statements were made by ... ministers and by ... heads of delegation of Parties. For a list of the ministers and heads of delegation who made statements under this sub-item, see Annex I below.

C. Conclusion of outstanding issues and adoption of decisions
(Agenda item 6(c))

[to be completed]