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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

First session

Berlin, 28 March - 7 April 1995

Agenda item 5 (d) (iii)

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING

PHYSICAL LOCATION

Offers by Governments to host permanent secretariat

Note by the interim secretariat

Information on offers by Governments to host the permanent secretariat was provided to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its eleventh session in documents A/AC.237/79/Add.4 and A/AC.237/Misc.45, as well as in statements by the Governments concerned (A/AC.237/91, paras. 119-124 and 127).

The interim secretariat has received further information from the Government of Kenya. This information is contained in the attached letter of 20 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi.

FCCC/CP/1995/Misc.3/Add.1

TXL .95-215

Annex

Letter dated 30 March 1995 to the Executive Secretary from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Environment Programme

I have the honour to refer to the Government of Kenya's earlier intention expressed previously at the various sessions and venues of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regarding Kenya's interest to host the Climate Change Convention's permanent secretariat.

Kenya's earlier humble intention to host the Climate Change Convention's permanent secretariat was driven by the high premium that the Government of Kenya attaches to environmental conservation and management at all levels and, in particular, the implementation of the international environmental instruments.

As a host country to one of the United Nations centres and headquarters of two major United Nations bodies, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), it was the Government's humble and most considered intention to host the Climate Change permanent secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya. This offer was based on the firm commitment by the Government of Kenya to fully support the United Nations effort in the protection of the global environment. It was further considered to be in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 1993 which called for the strengthening of UNEP headquarters in Nairobi and also in support of Agenda 21, Article 38, paragraph 22 (h) which also emphasized the co-location of the environmentally related secretariats as a way of maximizing on efficiency and economic use of shared and limited resources.

This position was clearly underscored by the Foreign Minister of Kenya, Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 1994. He urged that the permanent secretariats of environmentally related conventions including Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification be located in Nairobi taking into full account the need for capacity utilization of the proposed new secretariats and institutional linkages with the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Human Settlement secretariat based at the United Nations Centre in Nairobi.

In addition to the advantages of co-location of secretariats of related sustainable development conventions, Nairobi offers an ideal venue and well developed infrastructure including conference facilities, accessibility, institutional support and a wide international representation, all of which are conducive for the proper fulfilment of the secretariat's mandate.

However, in the interest of international partnership, co-operation and transparency in the global distribution of the environmentally related permanent secretariats, i.e. Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Desertification, the Government of Kenya has considered this matter very carefully, and taking into account other competing offers, has decided, notwithstanding the suitability of Nairobi, to honourably withdraw the offer to host the Climate Change secretariat and instead concentrate on her bid to host the Biological Diversity and Desertification secretariats for which we appeal for your overwhelming support.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely those member States who encouraged and strongly supported Kenya, and in particular, the African Group, the Group of 77 and China, etc. Likewise, we would also like to thank the Geneva based Contact Group and the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat for Climate Change for the commendable work they have been doing in the establishment of the permanent secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For purposes of record, the Government of Kenya would wish that this letter be circulated as an information document during the meeting of the First Conference of the Parties held in Berlin, Germany from 28th March to 7th April, 1995.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

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(signed)

H.E. Prof. S.K. Onger, EBS, EGH

Permanent Representative of Kenya

to the United Nations Environment Programme