

Boutros Boutros-Ghali

**MESSAGE TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Geneva, 8 July 1996

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you today to present this message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General sends his regrets for not being able to join you, and offers his sincere wishes for a successful meeting.

You gather today as Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. That landmark legal instrument now has 159 ratifications, and the Parties to it are diligently moving forward to strengthen their earlier commitments. Such steps represent significant progress towards global climate security.

Remarkably, it was only six years ago that negotiations began on the Framework Convention. Since then, great strides have been made in understanding the science of climate change and in formulating effective policies to address its risks and consequences. I wish to highlight the special contribution of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, whose Second Report is the most comprehensive assessment of climate change issued to date.

Climate change is a global problem that cannot be solved without a global effort. While I strongly believe that the industrialized countries must take the lead in stabilizing and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries can do much to contribute to this process, particularly through increased energy efficiency. However, the latter can only be achieved if developing countries are given access to substantially increased flows of financial resources, to strengthened scientific, technological, and institutional capacities, and to the best available technologies.

The global response must also be coordinated and integrated. Given the linkages between climate change and such varied issues as

energy, transport, oceans and small-island economies, intergovernmental bodies and United Nations actors must cooperate and collaborate. Moreover, new partnerships and joint ventures should be explored. Business and industry are important sectors, particularly in their ability to mobilize resources for research and development and to promote technology transfer. The insurance industry has joined the Convention process. Environmental organizations and others at the grass-roots level are other crucial stakeholders.

As you know, a special session of the General Assembly will be held next year to review the progress achieved in implementing the commitments made at UNCED and to discuss strategies for the coming years. The Assembly has asked that the Conference provide input for this vitally important event. You might consider making this contribution in four priority areas:

- the need for improved energy efficiency;
- the importance of promoting the use of sustainable and environmentally sound, renewable energy sources;

- the need for increased research-by Governments and the private sector into energy and material efficiency and more environmentally sound production technologies; and
- arrangements that might foster links between energy and sustainable development within the United Nations system.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change is a fact. Its consequences threaten us all. In adopting the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the international community displayed extraordinary political will. The challenge now is for the Parties to the Convention to find ways to involve the whole of the international community in its effective implementation.

Thank you.