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**MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Berlin, 28 March 1995**

At the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, I declared that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was a milestone for the Earth. The Convention launched a process of cooperation aimed at keeping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere within safe limits.

Since this landmark Convention was opened for signature, 165 countries and the European Economic Community have become signatories. Gathered here in Berlin, you represent the 127 that have ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The speed with which this first meeting of the Conference of the Parties has been convened is remarkable. Only four years have passed since negotiations first began. And the issue itself -- global warming and its impact on the climate -- first appeared on the international agenda little more than a decade ago.

Such progress speaks to the ability of the nations of the world to reach a consensus on matters of global concern. You are here today to take the Convention to its next stage -- from consensus to cooperation, from commitment to action.

Your work is an integral part of the worldwide collaborative effort for sustainable development. The Convention on Climate Change takes its place in the spectrum of activities addressed by the Commission for Sustainable Development. Within the framework of Agenda 21, actions taken under the Convention can be brought into a process of

intergovernmental policy coordination. In that context appropriate linkages can be established between climate protection and other key issues such as sustainable development of forests and management of the marine environment.

The Convention provides a crucial lever for shaping production and consumption patterns to promote rather than hinder sustainable development. This is especially important for energy, where future demand will apply pressure to supply sources and where the environmental impacts must be contained. Energy demand and supply must be addressed in a spirit of commonality and cooperation. It is in that same spirit that you must go forward in your effort to make this Framework Convention on Climate Change a reality. It is in that spirit that the United Nations shall endeavour to provide a supportive home for the Convention, and I am encouraged that you will consider modalities for establishing institutional linkages to the United Nations. Together, we can work for the welfare of our earth, of all peoples and of generations to come.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

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