

Speaking Notes

for

The Honourable Sheila Copps, P.C., M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment
of Canada

First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Madame President, Distinguished Delegates:

Die kanadische Delegation dankt der Bundesrepublik Deutschland für die bewiesene Gastfreundschaft. Ein Besuch in Berlin ist ein freudiges Ereignis. Die Bürger und die Entwicklung Ihrer Stadt beweisen, dass in allen Belangen der Menschheit stets Grund zur Hoffnung besteht!

Congratulations to all parties for ensuring that, three years after Rio, the Framework Convention on Climate Change is in place and running. The very fact that a Convention actually exists is a significant accomplishment.

Les changements climatiques nous posent des défis à tous. Les solutions passent par une nouvelle approche du développement de nos sociétés. Nous progressons et le Canada est déterminé à faire accélérer cette progression.

Canada is the world's second largest nation in size, adjacent to three oceans and home to eleven distinct climate zones. Canada comprises boreal forest, Arctic tundra and other vast and vital components of the global climate system.

Le secteur des ressources naturelles est très important au Canada. C'est pourquoi les Canadiennes et les Canadiens comprennent les aspirations des pays producteurs d'énergie.

Canada is an industrial nation and a trading nation. That means Canadians recognize the need to enhance our global competitiveness through pollution prevention and energy efficient actions and technologies.

Canadá tiene su fundamento en la diversidad climática y, en su calidad de nación del Norte, se enfrenta a mayores riesgos que el resto de los países a causa de los cambios climáticos. Esto significa que los canadienses conceden un gran valor a las preocupaciones de aquellos países que elevan sus voces para demandar nuevas acciones con objeto de combatir los cambios climáticos.

We are deeply committed to global cooperation and to the improvement of life for all humanity. We believe in consensus and broad-based, substantive, ongoing advances flowing from this conference.

C'est, à Toronto, en 1988, que les scientifiques ont lancé pour la première fois un appel à la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Le Canada accepte les preuves scientifiques qui nous forcent à agir. Aujourd'hui, je suis heureuse de déposer le Programme d'action nationale concernant les changements climatiques du Canada.

En ratifiant la Convention sur les changements climatiques et en élaborant un Programme d'action nationale, le Canada confirme que nous considérons les changements climatiques comme un problème sérieux exigeant des actions concrètes à l'échelle planétaire.

Our Action Program represents a collective effort and the shared determination of our federal government, province and territories.

Our Program is based on the principle of sustainable development as advocated by the Brundtland Commission: an approach in which environmental, social and economic policies are fully integrated.

Our Program is a first step. It is a living plan which can and will mature. Canada will stabilize its emissions at 1990 levels and we believe that we have a duty to our children and our grandchildren to go further. In fact, the Government of Canada made a commitment in its election platform, known as the Red Book, which states that "a Liberal government will work with provincial and urban governments to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energies, with the aim of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent from 1988 levels by 2005."

Under our Federal Buildings Initiative alone, we are retrofitting 4,000 federal buildings which will result in a reduction of up to 20 percent in energy use and save Canadian taxpayers over \$160 million per year while creating 20,000 jobs.

Our Program must provide real strategic directions as Canada adopts new answers. We are moving ahead. For example, Canada is shifting energy policy from a focus on supply towards efficiency and alternative energy sources. The Montreal Protocol and our decisive action on acid rain are examples of our strong resolve to reach concrete goals and timetables. We will do no less with climate change.

Le Canada comprend que les nations industrialisées ont la responsabilité de faire davantage. Le Canada souscrit à l'Initiative sur les changements climatiques comme moyen d'accélérer l'élaboration et la disponibilité à l'échelle planétaire de techniques respectant les climats. Le Canada favorisera la coopération gouvernementale pour diffuser de manière économique les techniques naissantes et ce, grâce à une meilleure accessibilité, l'ouverture de marchés et la tenue de projets de démonstration.

Here in Berlin, developing nations have raised legitimate concerns about technology transfer. Canada understands and appreciates those concerns. Canada has long their supported efforts and is ready to continue to do so.

Afin de créer des liens et bâtir la confiance entre les nations et atteindre des résultats tangibles au chapitre des changements climatiques, le Canada propose le jumelage technologique entre pays industrialisés et pays en voie de développement.

Technology twinning will encourage private sector initiatives to disseminate state-of-the art, clean technologies to enhance technology development, innovation and capacity building in all countries.

Technology twinning is a means of bringing modern emission reduction possibilities to all countries through commercial, market-driven arrangements that are over and above any present international efforts. Technology twinning is good for the environment, good for the economy and good for the peoples of participating nations.

Il faut que le jumelage technologique soit adapté aux conditions et aux coutumes locales. Pour y arriver, le Canada entend faire son possible pour que les pays en voie de développement aient accès aux services en énergie qu'ils souhaitent obtenir et dont ils ont besoin.

We need dollars to make this happen. Canada is establishing a start-up trust fund in the World Bank to facilitate opportunities for the transfer of climate friendly technologies between Canadian businesses and their counterparts in the developing world. We want to work with creative innovators like Maurice Strong to make sure that any international framework is balanced and above all structured to accelerate technology investment for greenhouse gas reduction to our global benefit.

In partnership with other nations, Canada will pursue with vigour the scientific, technological, investment and educational measures needed to address climate change -- in the short and the long term.

Cooperative action is a must. We owe it to our planet. We owe it to our children.

Thank you.

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