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S t a t e m e n t

by

Dr. Angela Merkel

**Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

**on the occasion of the Ministerial Segment
of the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

17 July 1996

Check against delivery

Mr. President,
distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come together to take stock of the Berlin Mandate process and to intensify the efforts to adopt a protocol or other legal instrument at COP 3.

Let me highlight the main steps that I consider to be most important for the fleshing out of the Berlin Mandate:

1. The Second Assessment Report of the IPCC confirms the urgency with which more intensive action for combatting climate change is required. Based on the findings available to date there is a discernible human influence on the global climate. We need to apply the precautionary principle and we have to act now in the interest of future generations as well as our own. We cannot wait for full scientific certainty or, even worse, until adverse and potentially irreversible effects of climate change increasingly become reality.
2. Germany has made great efforts to implement and further develop its climate protection programme. We are aiming to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25 % by the year 2005 compared to 1990 levels. The programme also provides for the reduction of other greenhouse gases. Between 1990 and 1995 CO₂ emissions in Germany decreased by 12.7 %. According to our latest projections we expect CO₂ emissions in Germany in the year 2000 to be about 13 to 15 % lower than in 1990. CH₄ emissions fell by some 8 % from 1990 to 1994; projections indicate a reduction of 30 % by 2000. N₂O emissions fell by some 12 % from 1990 to 1994; projections indicate a reduction of 36 % by 2000, compared to 1990.
3. Effective mitigation of climate change to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention can only be reached in international partnership and cooperation, which must be guided by our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
4. The Berlin Mandate requires, inter alia, both to elaborate policies and measures as well as to set quantified limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames for

developed country Parties, in order to strengthen their commitments under the Convention.

5. Quantified objectives must lead to significant reductions of greenhouse gas emission by Annex I Parties after the year 2000 to below 1990 levels. A simple limitation of their total emissions would not be an adequate response to the threat of climate change. Germany therefore proposed as legally binding reduction objectives for Annex I Parties a reduction of CO₂-emissions of 10 % by the year 2005 and of 15 to 20 % by the year 2010, both against the base year of 1990. We think these are ambitious but still realistic targets. The time horizons chosen are short enough to advance our efforts but also sufficiently far ahead for balanced programmes to be developed and to give the different players sufficient scope for adjustment.

Our proposals are based on the so-called flat rate approach. I recognize that a number of Parties aim for differentiation which they feel could provide a more equitable and efficient result. But can we really afford to take this difficult road in the short time available until COP 3? How should we ever manage the complicated selection of the relevant indicators and criteria, their respective weight and the generation of reliable and comparable underlying data in little more than a year - knowing that different countries will favour different criteria? We should therefore agree on a pragmatic approach. In analogy to Article 4 paragraph 6 of the Convention, a certain degree of flexibility could be provided for economies in transition.

6. Germany would like to see a considerable number of effective policies and measures being incorporated into the protocol as legally binding commitments. It is not enough to elaborate a purely optional menu. There are many policies and measures which will only be implemented if Annex I Parties harmonize their efforts. The EU has submitted detailed proposals for policies and measures in all relevant sectors to be included in a protocol or other legal instrument. They should be the starting point for concrete negotiations.
7. However, global climate protection can only be successful if we also act on a worldwide level - the findings of the IPCC are quite categorical about this. Therefore we should also consider how to advance the implementation of the existing commitments of all Parties to mitigate climate change. Increased cooperation between all parties, particularly in the field of climate protection technologies with regard to increased energy efficiency, the pilot phase for activities implemented jointly and stronger involvement of the private sector also seem to me to be promising approaches.

8. I also take it that all Annex I Parties are prepared to reaffirm their existing commitment to return greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 and, if necessary, to take additional measures to this end.

We all should instruct our negotiators in the AGBM to immediately engage in concrete negotiations on the text of a legally binding protocol or other legal instrument to be completed in due time for adoption at COP 3 in 1997 in Kyoto.

Thank you for your attention.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Germany NAME OF SPEAKER: Dr. Merkel
 DAY: 17.7. TIME: _____ NOTE-TAKER: AS STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES		
The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <u>legally binding commitments</u>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures <u>flexible</u>	Policies or measures specified: <u>legally binding protocol or other legal instrument to be adopted at Kyoto</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: <u>25</u> % by <u>2005</u> year <input type="checkbox"/> no <u>13-15% by 2000</u>	Comments: <u>all S4Ss</u> <u>- common but differentiated responsibilities</u>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments:
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <u>increased cooperation between all parties needed in field of climate protection technologies</u>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <u>- can't wait for full scientific evidence (irreversible effects)</u> <u>- requires urgent action</u>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: <u>stronger involvement of private sector</u>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS:

- QELROS with specified timeframe
 - Flexibility for economies in transition