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Points for statement to COP 6.5, 19.07.01

(Revised after delivery)

A. Negotiations:

- Under the sign of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action
- About enhanced financial and technological support, including capacity building, for developing countries to integrate CC in national strategies for sustainable development [to prepare for adaptation, to move towards lower emissions intensity in their economic growth as they pursue their overriding priorities of sustainable development and poverty eradication.] Good results already, at this session: completed decisions on guidance to GEF and capacity building. More expected on transfer of technologies. Thanks to Chairman John W. Ashe for taking the lead in fashioning these planks of the BAPA.
- About completion of operational rules of the Kyoto system for limiting GHG emissions [legally-binding targets, rigorous performance indicators, flexible implementation options – including sinks and market mechanisms, incentives for emission-saving investments in developing countries]. Waste to leave this work unfinished. Agreed rules will be valuable components of the emerging international regime.
- Political focus on fixes for first commitment period (2008-2012) may obscure the fact that we are building a system to last two or three decades at least. Important to keep the long view, to map the way forward, to keep momentum of change in production and consumption. Jan Pronk gave us two reasons why we must succeed in Bonn. Here is a third: to convince the economic actors that lower emission intensity is one of the keys to the global economy of this century.

B. Bonn:

- Last statement as Executive Secretary to a COP in Bonn. Therefore, some remarks inspired by the spirit of the place and by my experience here.
- Warm thanks to Federal Government – BMU, BMZ and AA - for growing understanding of our needs as an institution and as individuals – through Ministers Trittin and Vollmer, also Wieczorek-Zeul; and to Lord Mayor Dieckmann and City colleagues for friendly support and unfailing hospitality.
- Appointment of special representative – intermediary between UN in Bonn and the Berlin ministries - has helped to build this understanding. We regret the loss of the pioneer in this function, the late Mr. Erich Urmoneit; he was a great friend of the Bonn secretariats. We look forward to working with his successor, Ambassador Ganns.
- Sure all other UN heads in Bonn will echo these sentiments.

- Evaluation after five years: Development of “UN in Bonn” still in its infancy – a slight infant. What is needed to make Bonn a solid and thriving UN centre? This is a shared responsibility – “common but differentiated”.
- Responsibility of secretariats already here: We must work with GoG, understanding our local context, on continuing improvements in conditions for staff, families and visitors – as well as conditions of access for delegates.
- Responsibility of GoG: The breakthrough we await from the host country is a decisive move ahead on the UN Campus – common house for UN in Bonn in the former parliamentary complex – with conference centre where large meetings such as this can be held. We look forward to firm time frame and budget, backed by generous long-term vision. [Note with appreciation information given by Lord Mayor Dieckmann on plans.]
- (Next week in SBI, I will address the specific aspects of this question that concern the UNFCCC secretariat. Meanwhile, I am reassured to know that the various ministries are working on an adequate response to our needs for accommodation over the next five to ten years. I hope this matter can be settled before I leave the scene.)
- Responsibility of Governments (Parties): Typically, governing bodies decide on location, often for political reasons, and then devote little if any time to following up and evaluating the operational consequences of those decisions. This is one source of fragmentation in the intergovernmental system – it is a problem of governance. (cf. my statement on Tuesday to UNEP meeting on IEG)
- At its current scale, the UN in Bonn remains an outpost, off the UN radar screen. It needs the critical mass of activity that would provide an attractive base for career development and help the institutions here recruit, motivate and retain competent staff members – a critical mass that would motivate Governments to retain and reintroduce diplomatic permanent representatives here. Creating this critical mass demands political attention and financial investment.
- Bottom line: UN in Bonn will not be sustainable unless it grows to become a UN centre. More activities and institutions should be brought here. The seed capital that has been placed in Bonn needs to be followed by substantial political and financial investment if the organizations here are to have a healthy future.