

**STATEMENT NO.4: AUSTRALIA**

(on behalf of the Umbrella Group)

Mr. President, I also want to thank you for all you have done. You richly deserve this success. I also want to thank the Executive Secretary and staff - they join with you in that success. I want to thank my colleagues, particularly the Umbrella Group, which I have had the honour once again to coordinate. I would like to thank my officials, those of my collaborators, and those with whom we negotiated. Mr. President, it is not easy to speak on behalf of the Umbrella Group, as you know. We rarely have a common view on anything; but the interesting aspect is that we seem to get on well together and, even if we do not have a common view, we are always prepared to back each other up. I know that this has sometimes made your task confusing, Mr. President.

I am however pleased at so many things that have come out of this process, particularly the emphasis that has been placed upon least developed countries. I am pleased with the increasing response to adaptation, which regrettably is going to be so necessary; also with the development and transfer of technologies which can be part of the solution. It is good to have made progress on the Kyoto Protocol rules: emissions trading; joint implementation; the clean development mechanism, all of which have an important part to play in low-cost and equitably distributed abatement. Not surprisingly, I am particularly pleased with the sinks outcome, emphasizing the legitimate role of sinks in our armoury.

There are always, Mr. President, some disappointments in a negotiating process such as this, but on balance there have been many more pluses than minuses. Most important, I think, is that the international community has, through implementing the Convention and advancing the Protocol, shown a determination to significantly address this major environmental economic and social challenge, and I think that it is worth reminding ourselves that we are still only making early and tentative steps along a very long road - we need to build momentum. I can assure you, Mr. President, that Australia is prepared to play its part and we will meet our responsibility. It has been a privilege to work in this field for the last five years or so and to see such significant and hard-won successes.