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**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:  
9TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Milano, 1-12 December 2003**

**Round Table discussions at the high level segment; Theme II:  
Technology, including technology use and development, and transfer of technologies**

**Mr. Jan-Erik Enestam, Minister of the Environment of Finland**

Speaking elements:

Mr. President and Madam/Mr. Chair

1. (Need for technological breakthroughs)

The global emissions have to peak and start decreasing within the next few decades, if we want to achieve the ultimate objective of the Climate Convention and avoid serious adverse impacts of climate change, some of which may be irreversible. Meeting this goal requires both full deployment of currently existing technologies as well as new technological solutions that will substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the very long run virtually carbon-free technologies will be necessary. Indeed, another technological revolution is called for. Not only is there a need for technological breakthroughs, but these new solutions must also be developed into practical applications that are accessible to industrialists, providers of transportation services and homeowners in all countries. This is not technological science fiction but prudent risk management based on sound scientific assessment.

2. (Technology development)

The technological challenge can only be met through determined international cooperation. Finland welcomes many research and development initiatives launched to this effect. All countries can contribute to these efforts, and in this field we should not be too concerned with the duplication of efforts – in the creative process, trial-and-error learning by many will be required. Also small countries can contribute in an important way through their own expertise. In addition to being a high-tech country in the field of communications technology, my own country - Finland - has been able to provide essential inputs into the development of energy technologies, in particular in the use of biomass and other renewables. Residues of paper and pulp industries are now fully recycled as an energy source. This is one of the factors thanks to which the share of renewable energy sources is almost 30 per cent of our total energy balance. Other good examples are advanced small-scale combustion technologies developed for combined heat and power generation. Even in the field of wind energy we provide

technological innovations and products, although there is less natural potential for this energy source than in many other countries.

3. (Roles of the private and public sectors)

The private sector plays a key role in technology development. It is largely through its research and development activities that new solutions are found, and through its investments these solutions are diffused. However, I consider it important to stress that also Governments do have a crucial responsibility in creating an enabling environment and even in providing direct support for technology development and diffusion. This support may also be necessary for new innovations to make the final step and become commercially viable. I would also put the future evolution of the climate regime in this perspective: it will give a crucial push to technology development. Industries need consistent signals of future policies. Research and development investments and the resulting commercialization of new solutions in industrialized countries will also benefit developing countries with fewer resources.

4. (Use of existing options)

Yet we cannot wait – while it is important to strive for developing new technologies, the great potential of already existing technologies should not be forgotten. In Finland further increases in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources are crucial elements in the national climate strategy. This objective has been integrated into the work of all relevant sectors, such as transport.

5. Finally, the development and diffusion of technologies is a necessary, but not sufficient condition, for addressing climate change. The use of energy, the accumulation of waste, methods of agricultural production and the destruction of forests are linked to production and consumption patterns which may be unsustainable both because of poverty and because of wealth. The focus on technology should not make us blind to such factors. Economic growth as well as decoupling the economic growth and emission trends will be necessary for the well-being of all nations. Technology has an important role, but also environmental awareness, distributive social policies and transparency and accountability in decision-making are needed. The high level segment of COP9 covers all these elements, and I want to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing these Round Table discussions on such important themes.

6. Thank you Mr. President.