

STATEMENT NO. 7: BULGARIA
(on behalf of Central Group 11)

I wish to express our very great gratitude and appreciation to you, Mr. President, for leading this process to a successful end. When we came to Bonn our hopes, frankly speaking, were not too high. But as the week went by, in spite of all the highs and lows in the negotiations, we were heartened by the good spirit that prevailed and the predominant desire among practically all Parties for a successful outcome.

Mr President, you yourself took on a tremendous burden of responsibility, not only through proposing the "Pronk package," but also by conducting all negotiations practically exclusively on a bilateral basis. It was a risky method, but this makes you merit even more our acknowledgement for your role and perseverance.

What happened an hour ago, and was formally gavelled down just now, is a great step forward in the area of sustainable development for the whole of humanity. We all realize that before us lies the difficult process of ratification, which hopefully will allow the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by the year 2002. We, on our side, promise to do our best to do our part of the job, and immediately when we return home, maybe after resting for a minute, we will concern ourselves with the ratification procedures. We also hope that all those of who today are sceptical about the Kyoto Protocol will be in a position to join this global endeavour in the very near future. We need them and we don't think we can be entirely successful without them.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Zammit Cutajar and the secretariat for the excellent work and support during these long and difficult negotiations.