

**Address of the Lady Mayor
of Bonn**

Bärbel Dieckmann

**on the occasion of the opening of
the Climate Conference COP 6 (2)
on Thursday July 19, 2001,
3 p.m., in the Hotel Maritim
in Bonn**

President Pronk,

Executive Secretary Zammit-Cutajar,

Minister Trittin,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Six years ago the first Conference of the Parties of the Climate Convention took place in Berlin.

There the decision was taken to settle its permanent headquarters in Bonn. It was with great pleasure, that we received the secretariat in Bonn, it is with great pleasure, that we receive all of you here for COP 6, Part 2.

In this sense as Mayor of this city I most cordially welcome you in Bonn.

Let me include in this welcome my very best wishes for a positive result of your deliberations.

Bonn is with about 400 UN employees still a small UN-city.

But it is constantly growing.

Only this year a Unesco Centre on vocational training and a European office of the World Health Organisation have been opened in Bonn.

There might also be good prospects, that a United Nations University for Environment and Humane Security will soon be established in Bonn. We are confident, that the German Government will continue this process.

This would also help to encourage embassies to keep their branch offices in Bonn.

At present there are ~~37~~³⁸ embassies, ~~37~~³⁹ branch offices of embassies and 6 general consulates in Bonn.

Your conference is part of a series of important international congresses - amongst them a considerable number of UN-conferences - which have been held or are to be held in Bonn. Just to name a few of them:

- The Conference "Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020" in September this year
- The Conference on Biodiversity in October

- . The International Conference on Freshwater in December
- . The international closing ceremony of the United Nations Year of Volunteers

Ladies and gentlemen,

since 1991, Berlin is the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Naturally, the political decisions are taken in the first place in the federal capital Berlin.

Bonn, however, has developed these last years into an important center for telecommunication, science and research and into a focus of global dialogue.

It has become a location where crucial issues of our future are discussed and decided upon. Many partners contribute to this process:

- The UN-Organisations having settled here,
- large development institutions which have been transferred from Berlin to Bonn,
- more than 150 non governmental organisations working in the field of environment and development,
- scientific and research institutes and special scientific networks, which recently have been established,
- and the media.

So for example the Deutsche Welle will move to Bonn next year.

Besides we currently endeavour to establish a new UN-Campus - and I particularly thank Minister Trittin for his initiative - and to transform and enlarge our former parliamentary buildings into an international congress center with the best possible facilities.

~~1~~ 2

Let me cite the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Johannes Rau, who on the occasion of the opening of another COP said:

"A UN-Campus on the Rhine with its own international congress centre based around the former plenary chamber of the German Bundestag - that is a fascinating idea.

The Federal Government, the Land Northrhine-Westphalia and the City of Bonn will, I trust, reach agreement on this project.

Given the city's splendid infrastructure, I am confident still more international organisations will be keen to move to Bonn in the coming years. I expect the Federal Government to continue its efforts to attract other UN organisations to Bonn."

Ende

End of
citation
quotation

I ~~also~~ expect the Federal Government to continue these efforts, because it is in the interest of Bonn, ^{above all} but ~~in the first place~~ in the interest of the Federal Republic of Germany.

I am confident, that the Federal Government, the Land Northrhine-Westphalia and the City of Bonn will come to an agreement about building a new conference center, which particularly suits the needs of the UN, within the next three months. The Land Northrhine-Westphalia has already signalled that it will provide 60 Millions of Deutsche Mark for the new conference center, and I particularly thank the Minister President of Northrhine-Westphalia for his pronounced commitment in this question.

Dear guests from all over the world, I want you to have a good and successful time in Bonn.

We have already handed out to you an event guide of the City of Bonn. I hope it will give you some orientation in our city and guide you through the events taking place during your stay.

Should you need further help, do not hesitate to contact the Bonn Information Desk in the foyer. There you will gather any information desired.

I wish you good discussions and a successful conference here in Bonn. Once more I extend a warm welcome to you in the United Nations City on the Rhine!