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Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Statement at opening of high-level segment
on
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by

Michael Zammit Cutajar
Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

The arrival of ministers brings the Conference into contact with the outside world of real politics - a world in which the issues on which we are focussed here are seen in a different perspective and are influenced by pressures and messages which we must try to understand and to which we must react with conviction and persuasion.

- With our colleagues in the IPCC and the scientific community, we must ensure that the science which underpins political action is communicated to - and absorbed by - those who take political and economic decisions. It is important that the mainstream scientists who advise us in our work keep up their guard against the destabilizing messages of a dissident minority that insists that climate change is not a problem.
- Despite welcome signs of changing attitudes in industry, we need to do more to persuade business leaders that global warming is an inescapable part of their corporate future - and that the response to it is an

opportunity for profitable innovation in technologies and in business practices. Can we mobilize those business leaders who have already shifted to persuade their fellows of the responsible way ahead? And to reassure labour that a climate change response is not an enemy of job creation?

- We must explain to legislators in developed countries that the emerging climate regime is not an unfair deal and that developing countries are indeed making a meaningful contribution to modifying longer-term trends in emissions, through investments that are promoting their national development while putting it on sustainable paths. Such achievements by major emitters in the developing world deserve political recognition now.
- We must convince doubtful policy makers in developing countries of the benefits that can be obtained from integrating qualitative factors into economic growth. Growth without social and ecological sustainability is a recipe for [continuing backwardness and] lack of competitiveness in a world economy that is not waiting for developing countries to catch up.
- Finally, we must respond constructively to those developing countries who are keen to make their contribution to a global climate change strategy but are hindered by overriding constraints of underdevelopment, inadequate capacities, lack of access to technologies and external debt.

While we work in our negotiating bubble, we must be sensitive to such

realities in the world outside and produce results here that will convince the outside world that the Climate Change Convention means business, the business of building a better world.

There are good prospects that this Conference can end with a solid plan of preparation for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, including important new work processes on mechanisms and on compliance and with a linkage to a new process on impacts. And there is an opportunity to put more substance into the Convention's work on transfer of technology. Together, these can constitute the main elements of a convincing package and it is now time for ministers to tie up the package by committing themselves to firm deadlines for political action - deadlines that will maintain momentum and are close enough to maintain the interest and involvement of the private sector.

In working towards these deadlines, the Parties will be able to call upon substantive inputs from the Convention secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system. The secretariat pledges its full support and is ready to facilitate inputs from other United Nations bodies in a coherent, coordinated and cost-effective manner.
