

Speech by Mr Noel Dempsey TD,
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IRELAND

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

As we seek to address the challenge of climate change, it is
~~becoming~~ ^{increasingly} evident that some degree of change is already
unstoppable. Each year that passes reinforces our obligation to
take effective action to protect our global environment. Each
year now seems to bring ^{more} climate related disasters. Tragically,
the recent cyclone in Orissa underlines the human cost of

inadequate action. Making real progress here, so that we can take the necessary decisions at COP6, will allow us to enter the new Millennium more certain of our focus on meeting the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Our responsibility now is to lay sound foundations for success when we meet again in a year's time. But progress has not yet been sufficient to guarantee that success, and we must intensify our negotiating efforts at this Conference and in the intersessional period. The European Union considers that we should maximise progress towards a negotiating text on the Kyoto mechanisms here at COP5, as a firm basis for actual decisions next year. Our political leadership, and our commitment to action, must also provide the stimulus across policy sectors in our countries so that, through effective integration, we will secure their full engagement in meeting Convention and Protocol obligations.

All Parties have legitimate expectations from these negotiations. We in the European Union believe that developed country Parties must strengthen their cooperation with developing countries to assist capacity building through technology and funding transfers. An effective Clean Development Mechanism will provide an important additional mechanism to maximise these transfers in a sustainable manner, which Ireland considers must exclude nuclear energy projects. *Developed Countries* ~~Annex B~~ Parties must also make demonstrable progress towards meeting their obligations to limit and reduce emissions so that additional commitments can be adopted by developing countries in future negotiations.

Ireland stresses the importance of early ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Clearly, further and substantial progress will be needed on a number of key issues to facilitate entry into force in 2002. In particular, COP6 must agree on the operation of the flexible mechanisms in a manner fully compatible with the requirements of all the relevant

provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, and it must provide for a comprehensive and effective compliance regime.

I welcome the opportunity for Ministers to meet in the Round Table discussions tomorrow, so that the necessary guidance and impetus towards COP6 will be given to our negotiators. This Conference must bring us closer to the realisation of our shared ambition: to protect the global climate on which life ultimately depends.