

**Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties  
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change  
Milan, 12th of December, 2003**

**Closing remarks of H.E. Mr. Miklós Persányi, President of COP 9,  
Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Hungary,**

*Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.*

After this Session, experts, NGOs and the media will interpret very differently the outcome of the work we have done in COP9. It is not surprising since viewpoints and expectations were also different. To be honest, **results of this COP will not generate breaking news and thick headlines in the media.** Some people and the public might feel that that they expect much more from such an important event.

But you may remember my **example on the Cathedral of Milan.** The construction of the Cathedral took 426 years. It has high walls, many thousands of little and large statues and ornaments on it. It is a perfectly completed structure as it is. **Many thousands people worked on the Duomo and all of them added something valuable to the final product.** Some of the carved the marble, others carpentered the roof, others layered the bricks.

**We have done the same here in Milan on our virtual Cathedral.** We contributed to raising higher the walls of our cathedral, which is the Framework Convention Climate Change. **All of us have had and will have her or his own brick** in the walls of our common construction which protect us from the heat of the Sun.

*Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.*

We can proudly report to the world that **we were able to work together well,** we were able to raise some important segments of the wall of our symbolic cathedral higher, we were able to carve stones into nice new sculptures and we were able to put them on their right place into the wall. **All of us know that the building is not perfect,** and big parts of the roof are still missing. But **we worked hard and we still have the hope** that we will be able to continue our cooperation in this manner.

I was confident in my opening speech of the High Level Segment that we shared the same endeavor: to contribute to the **progress and take important decisions** during this session. And this is what we have reached. A higher level of confidence, a better atmosphere for cooperation and fruitful high level political discussions. These certainly required the **support and close co-operation of all Parties** at the session.

I promised to you at the beginning that I would do my best **to facilitate this co-operation** as President of COP 9. I attached great importance to **building and reinforcing confidence** between the different groups of Parties as well as to strengthen to co-operation with the stakeholders who represent the major groups of our societies. I was ready to work together with all delegations and was open to all ideas, suggestions which move us closer to our common goals.

*Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,*

Let me take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all who made this meeting such a success. I would like to **thank the Parties and the Bureau** for their diligence and dedication to ensure the best outcome possible. I would like thank you all for the **constructive approach** I also want to express my appreciation for all the support I was given by the Secretariat, especially by Ms. Joke Waller Hunter and Mr. Richard Kinley.

**Thank you all.** Please take home the news, that the Cathedral is there. And please, **tell everybody that the construction is going on.**

\* \* \*