

STATEMENT NO. 13: CANADA

Mr. President, Senator Hill has spoken on behalf of the Umbrella Group in which Canada has played an active role, but it would be remiss of me not to congratulate you and all the Parties on these splendid achievements which we are confirming at this session. Canada is pleased to have been an active participant in the negotiations leading to the political agreement we have adopted on the rules to implement the Kyoto Protocol. We are pleased to join in this significant climate change agreement. We continue to be strongly committed to the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President, we welcome the political declaration made by the European Union and we are pleased to be associated with it, as it reinforces our ongoing support for developing countries. For us, this means some 35 million dollars per year. You will recall Mr. Chairman, that Canada offered an additional 20 million dollars to top up the GEF in The Hague as part of the deal there. Today, in recognition of the excellent progress made here in Bonn and the special needs of the least developed countries, Canada would like to help meet the immediate adaptation needs of the least developing countries by allocating a portion of this new funding. This would comprise a 10 million dollar contribution to jump-start the Least Developed Countries fund to be established under the GEF for initial least developed countries adaptation work.