

comfort levels of developing countries. An initial focus on the Clean Development Mechanism as a way of further nurturing these interests should help on this score. Meanwhile, Annex I countries also need to more effectively harmonize positions and strategies, particularly on ways to more formally engage developing countries.

THE BUENOS AIRES ACTION PLAN:

4. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action represents a political compromise packaging together a series of decisions reflecting the differing interests of core climate change blocks. Along with the elaboration the Kyoto mechanisms of international emissions trading, the Clean Development Mechanism, and joint implementation, the following issues form part of the package: (a) decision under the financial mechanism; (b) development of transfer of technology, (c) implementation of ways to address the impacts of climate change and climate change response measures; (d) decision under Activities Implemented Jointly; (e) elaboration of mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol and (f) preparations for the first Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, including work on compliance and policies and measures.

5. The work plan is supplemented by a draft decision regarding preparations for decisions to be adopted, upon entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. The decision allocates preparatory work to the subsidiary bodies or groups working under them and identifies tasks and timelines. In addition to the issues identified in the workplan, the decision covers work on: sinks, guidelines for Annex I communications, methodologies for national inventories, guidelines for review of implementation, and the multilateral consultative process. Specific decisions are discussed below.

KEY OUTCOMES BY ISSUE:

6. **Mechanisms:** Canada's principle interest lay in ensuring that time lines for final decisions on the Kyoto (flexibility) mechanisms was achieved at Buenos Aires. Canada played a strong role in the negotiations, with the Minister, in collaboration with Minister Vargas of Brazil, succeeding in using their married text (decision chapeau with a work programme) as the basis for the final decision on the mechanisms. While noting an initial priority for the clean development mechanism, the decision at Buenos Aires mandates parallel progress on all three mechanisms, with a view to final decisions on international emissions trading (IET), joint implementation (JI) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by COP 6 in the year 2000. More specifically, the decision calls for Parties to elaborate on guidelines for JI; modalities and procedures for the CDM; and relevant principles, modalities, rules and guidelines, in particular for verification, reporting and accountability for IET. The decision also lays out a procedure, with time lines, for workshops and submissions by Parties with a view to beginning substantive negotiations at the next meeting of the subsidiary