

PAPER NO. 5: PHILIPPINES
(On behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

STATEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES
ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
First session of the Ad hoc Working Group
on the Berlin Mandate,
Geneva, 22 August 1995

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and to reaffirm the support and cooperation of the Group to you, Mr. Chairman, in the performance of the difficult tasks before us at this first meeting of the AGBM.

At the outset, and since this is the first statement made on behalf of the Group, please allow me to express the grave concern of the Group on the lack of funding for the participation of developing countries, which sorely hampers the effective participation of these countries at this important first meeting. We feel that, if continued, this would be detrimental to the process itself, and we therefore hope that this funding through the Voluntary Fund would be given careful consideration for the continuation of this process.

The Group of 77 and China would like to underline two of the basic positions we have taken on this process:

Firstly, we would like to reaffirm our support for the carefully balanced text contained in Decision 1/CP.1 in its entirety, this being the only legal basis for this Working Group.

Secondly, we would like to recall that the consensus reached on this decision was based on the recognition, as stated in the preambular paragraphs, that Article 4, para. 2 (a) and (b) are not adequate, and that therefore, we have embarked upon this process to render adequate these commitments taken by Annex I countries.

We underline therefore what is stated in para. 2 (b) of the Decision, "that the process will not introduce any new commitments for Parties not included in Annex I", and would ensure that the discussions on analysis and assessment that will now take place would not in any way detract from this fundamental position.