

5. A negotiating process needs deadlines. Pressure must be kept up for results at COP 6, with the aim of bringing the Kyoto Protocol into force by 2002. At the same time, it would be beneficial to reach an understanding on what lies beyond COP 6, including the review of the Protocol by COP/MOP 2, the 2005 performance benchmark and the continuation of the Protocol into the second and future commitment periods, without a break.

Climate change policy is a thread in the fabric of global relations, entwined with many other issues, political and economic. The main breakthroughs in your negotiations can only be achieved in that global strategic context. I therefore close with an appeal to Ministers gathered here to integrate the Convention and the Protocol in that broader international agenda, bilateral and multilateral, so that this global venture may advance successfully to COP 6 and beyond.