INTERVENTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE TO THE TENTH SESSION OF SBSTA (BONN, GERMANY, 4 JUNE 1999)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. In my capacity as Chair of the Climate Technology Initiative -- the CTI-- I am pleased to provide a brief report on the lessons CTI has learned that relate to Decision 4/CP.4. As you know, CTI is an increasingly productive multilateral endeavor whose mission is to promote the objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change through facilitating the more rapid development and diffusion of climate-friendly technologies and practices for all activities and greenhouse gases.

Under Decision 4 on Development and Transfer of Technologies taken at the Fourth Conference of the Parties last November in Buenos Aires, Mr. Chairman, you were requested to establish a consultative process to consider an extensive list of issues and questions contained in the annex to this decision. Among others, the issues raised in this decision are: (the need to) Promote bilateral and multilateral technology cooperation to facilitate technology transfer.; (the need to) Promote and assist developing country Parties to access technology information.; and, (the need to) Promote capacity-building in developing country Parties through provision of concrete programs. Among others, the questions posed in this decision are: How should Parties promote the removal of barriers to technology transfer?; What areas should be the focus of capacity building and how should it be undertaken?; and What measures, programs and activities can best help to create an appropriate enabling environment for private sector investment? And, of course, there are many, many more. The consideration of these and the other issues and questions listed in Decision 4/CP.4 presents a daunting task for this body.

I am pleased to report that the CTI has already begun supporting and contributing to this consultative process by providing partial answers to these questions through its results-oriented response to technology transfer under the Framework Convention. This response focuses on addressing the issues raised by Decision 4 through a variety of means, including regional seminars, training courses, cooperative technology assessments, and other related activities, such as Web-based information exchange.

In addition to pursuing medium and longer-term solutions to reducing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases through CTI's support of research and development, the CTI is committed to a series of capacity building and technology enhancing activities designed to develop capability within developing and transition countries so that they can effectively implement environmentally sound technologies consistent with their particular sustainable development goals. One of CTI's results-oriented activities is a series of regional seminars on technology diffusion which CTI holds in coordination with our industry partners. This series is designed to bring together government and private sector decision makers to address the very issues identified in Decision 4 by sharing views on the Framework Convention process, on technology needs and barriers to technology deployment, on climate mitigation strategies, on access to technology information, on the potential for project-based flexibility mechanisms, and on many other issues.