

III. Other conclusions drawn from the experience acquired while fulfilling the current commitments and gathered from the available analysis work (notably the elements produced during the elaboration process of the second assessment report by the IPCC).

6. Based on a quantitative objective for the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions, and fixed a priori without prior examination of what each Party could reasonably hope to accomplish, in other words heedless of "national circumstances" (notably the different starting points of the Parties), the present form of the commitments applying to the Annex I Parties leads to weakened results (cf. the first examination of national communications made by the Convention Secretariat, or the declaration by the USA at the first session of the AGBM); however, on the face of it, this was an "easily" achieved first stage;

The main advantage of the present form of the commitments is the simplicity of their expression; on the other hand, they do not respect some criteria the importance of which is underscored in many analyses:

- *efficiency criterion*: seeking to minimize the global cost of the climate change strategy implemented;
- *fairness criterion*: leading to an acceptable burden sharing between the Parties concerned;
- *criterion of compatibility with the rules of international trade*: avoiding distortions of competition between companies of the various Parties, notably in international markets.

7. Further, it must be recognized that present scientific knowledge does not allow the elaboration *on an objective basis* of emission scenarios which countries could undertake to respect (the accent is currently on a rougher indicator, the aggregated level of greenhouse gas emissions over the next hundred years, about which experts are not able to reach a precise decision moreover); in this context, the major trends of emission evolution really are important (the aim is to obtain a progressive inflexion in the trajectories of greenhouse gas emissions of the various countries, hence the greater importance to be granted to the evolution of "derivatives" rather than "arrival points" in a near future²).

² It is to be emphasized that the "return of greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 level before the end of the decade", at the heart of the current commitments, does not guarantee that the Parties will make real headway towards the ultimate objective of the Convention; this commitment may indeed be kept by means of measures having only a transitional effect and in no way modifying the determinants of the long term evolutions of emissions.