Canadian Intervention Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs (8) and (9)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Canada had the privilege to participate in the workshop on this important issue held in Bonn last month under the deft guidance of the former chair of SBI and the former chair of SBSTA. My delegation found it very informative, despite the unfortunate political tone of the last day.

There was a wide range of views presented and shared in the discussion. The report captures this range. The lack of convergence on many issues that was witnessed at Bonn, underlines the challenge ahead for us in building our knowledge base on these issues.

Canada took away a clear sense of the need to better understand adaptation challenges, particularly at the regional level. Adaptation to adverse effects of climate change is clearly a priority area and my delegation is sensitive to the urgent need to build capacity in this respect among the least developed and most vulnerable countries. On the other hand, the wide variety of estimates on the direction and magnitude of the impact of response measures clearly suggested a need to further refine our models and understanding.

But the absence of perfect knowledge should not be a barrier to action on adaptation.

Mr. Chairman, there are options to move ahead, as we all desire to.

Strengthening the identification, through the National Communications process, of areas of concern will be an important means of further documenting this issue.

An important area that we may have not focussed adequately on is the area of adaptive capacity and its role. Whether it is an understanding of how traditional societies have coped with change or on economic diversification strategies. This may help us in better supporting the adaptation process, particularly for the least developed and the most vulnerable.

This meeting must also closely follow related discussions on capacity building and technology transfer to ensure an integrated response to the needs of developing countries, again, particularly the most vulnerable and the least developed.

And finally, I have noted, there is a need to focus on research and analytical energies, at this time. The workshop report provides some useful guidance in this area.

Canada is committed to working with other parties in the search for solutions on these elements of the Convention.