STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINA, ENG. MARÍA JULIA ALSOGARAY, AT COP 5 (BONN, 25 OCTOBER-5 NOVEMBER 1999)

ARGENTINA WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES THAT IT IS NOW PREPARED TO ADOPT A VOLUNTARY TARGET TO REDUCE ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION GROWTH RATE, FULFILLING PRESIDENT'S MENEM PLEDGE AT COP4.

SO WE HAVE COME TO THIS FORUM TO ANNOUNCE THE SET OF POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT WILL ENABLE US TO ASSUME THE 'COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED' RESPONSIBILITIES DERIVED FROM OUR RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION.

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT DOING THIS WE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CREATE MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.

WE CALL ON THE PARTIES TO: i) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ACCEPT ARGENTINA'S VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT AND ii) TO CREATE A BRIDGE TO THE CONVENTION THAT WOULD ALLOW ARGENTINA AND OTHER NON-ANNEX I COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE KYOTO MECHANISMS.

LET ME STATE CLEARLY: ARGENTINA DOES NOT INTEND TO ABANDON ITS STATUS AS A NON - ANNEX I COUNTRY.

TWO FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE DEFINITION OF THIS TARGET. FIRST, THAT IT DOES NOT BECOME AN OBSTACLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND, SECOND, THAT THE TARGET SHOULD BE CREDIBLE, BASED ON A SOUND, TECHNICAL FOUNDATION AND NOT MEANT TO PRODUCE SO-CALLED "HOT AIR".

THE TASK PERFORMED WAS BASED ON FOUR ISSUES:

* 1. THE 1997 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY WAS FULLY ELABORATED, AND THE INVENTORIES FOR THE YEARS 1990 AND 1994 WERE UPDATED AND REVIEWED, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE A BASELINE AND BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT A PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS;

* 2. A PROJECTION TO THE YEAR 2012 WAS MADE OF THE EMISSIONS THAT WOULD RESULT SHOULD ARGENTINA NOT ADOPT ANY EXPLICIT MITIGATION MEASURES. THIS STUDY WAS DONE UPON THE BASIS OF MACROECONOMIC PROJECTIONS AND SPECIFIC PROJECTIONS FOR THE SECTORS ACKNOWLEDGED AS HAVING A KEY INFLUENCE ON EMISSIONS;

* 3. SOME OF THE POSSIBLE MITIGATION MEASURES WERE ASSESSED, AS WELL AS THEIR ASSOCIATED COSTS; AND FINALLY,