

**US Statement  
Second Compilation and Synthesis of National Communications  
SBI, July 11, 1996**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman;

The Compilation and Synthesis Reports are the primary tool by which we review our collective efforts to address climate change. Once again, as it did in its first compilation and synthesis report, the Secretariat has done a truly excellent job in providing us with a complete and thorough review of the national communications submitted to date.

The synthesized information provided by 31 Annex I Parties, supplemented by information from the in-depth review process presents a current snapshot of the diverse activities underway to implement our commitments. This information better enables us to carry out three of the discrete elements required by FCCC Articles 7.2 and 10.2: implementation of the Convention by Parties; consideration of the overall effects and cumulative impacts of measures taken; and the extent to which progress toward the objective of the convention is being achieved. We would like to address each of these items in turn.

The preparation, submission and review of national communications is one of the fundamental tasks required of Parties to the Convention. We are extremely pleased to note that 31 Parties have submitted such reports. We are disappointed (and somewhat surprised) that not all Parties that had the obligation to report managed to do so in time to see their communications discussed in this text. Sound reasons may exist for this delay; we hope to have such explanations provided to us.

We also note that there are some inconsistencies in national communications, as noted in the compilation and synthesis report, which prevent a fuller assessment or aggregation of actions taken to implement the Convention. However, we are certain that these inconsistencies and barriers to compilation can be readily overcome by adoption of the revised guidelines for Annex I communications which are now being discussed in a separate contact group. By improving the comparability, transparency and consistency of national communications, the revised guidelines will greatly ease the Secretariat's task in compiling the communications; and more importantly, provide the Parties with a better basis against which to assess our efforts.

We fully support the preparation of these compilation and synthesis reports for the Conference of Parties, and look forward to the third compilation, prepared on the basis of at least a preliminary review of the second national communication from Annex I Parties. By the third compilation and synthesis, we will have compiled several years of inventory data, and we will know how effectively our individual and collective efforts to address greenhouse gases have been. To make such information as clear and accessible as possible, we encourage the Secretariat to begin to assess new inventory data, including comparing it to previous inventory data, and comparing new inventory