

Are we on the right track? Are the current aims working? How might they be improved? What changes might be needed to ensure that we make real progress toward reducing emissions of greenhouse gases? If we are serious about this problem, we cannot duck these serious issues. We must think anew and act prudently to ensure that the promise of the Berlin Mandate is fulfilled.

We need to consider very carefully the factors that inhibit reaching the "aim" referenced in Article 4.2(a), and consider as well whether such factors may likewise inhibit reaching another such objective in a different timeframe. We may conclude that an altogether different approach is needed, one that will provide the needed stimulus for action without condemning us, like Sisyphus, never to reach our goal.

We believe that a period of analysis and assessment provides needed time for questions to be asked and answered and for governments to exchange ideas and approaches with respect to the main elements of a protocol or other legal instrument. In the end, we may conclude that an approach similar to the one we have already taken under the terms of the Convention is the correct path to follow. Alternatively, we may conclude that attempting to set a new, specific goal for each country to aim for is counter-productive at the present time, based on our apparent inability now -- or by 1997 -- to reach the goals which we previously set for ourselves.

Fortunately, much work for this analysis and assessment has already been done and needs only to be brought forward. Nevertheless, it is desirable to proceed in an orderly manner, emphasizing analysis and assessment as the precursor to informed and effective negotiation of a new legal instrument.

We have a more formal draft proposal on the timeline and framework for our work, but permit me for a moment to summarize some of the principle features of the analysis/assessment as we envision it unfolding:

We believe that the analysis/assessment should consider the effectiveness of current approaches and suggest ways in which future approaches can be made more credible and effective. This effort should also identify the activities undertaken by all parties in fulfillment of their obligations to advance the implementation of commitments under Article 4.1.

Among the items which might be analyzed or assessed for Annex I Parties (and for non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate) are emissions trends and the experience of parties to date in controlling them. These might include such items as trends in historic emissions indicators, as well as national and global emission forecasts, and in-depth reviews of national communications.