

It is our expectation that any measures being pursued should provide for win-win opportunities, that is policies and measures which are consistent with, and complement, other policy priorities, related to economic stability, employment growth, health protection and environmental sustainability. It would also be important that identified measures are flexible enough to be implemented across a range of national circumstances. That being said, it must also be emphasized that selected measures do not represent policy preferences on the part of the Participants. This project is an analytic exercise only, and is not intended to prejudge nations' preferences on policies and measures. The success of the Project on Common Actions will be based on it remaining apolitical in its orientation. It is not intended to become another venue for negotiations, but instead, one that will help to inform and enlighten Parties as they develop their response to climate change for the post-2000 era.

Mr. Chairman, a brief explanation regarding the change in the name of this group may be in order. This modification is intended to clarify that while the analytic work being done on these projects will, to a large extent, be dependent on the contributions of the OECD and IEA Secretariats, it is the Annex 1 Experts' Group that is ultimately accountable for the results. In that respect, we need to be clear that the activities of the project on common actions and on methodologies are outside the formal consultative mechanisms of either the OECD or the IEA.

As far as consultations with non-government bodies and non-Annex 1 countries are concerned, this means that while governments are free to make available their inputs into this project to others, outputs from this project will initially be reviewed by participating governments. After the review, a revised draft would be made available to others for their comments. Any comments from non-government bodies will be coordinated through government delegations, who will then pass on those comments on to the Annex 1 Experts' Group through the OECD and IEA Secretariats. In an effort to keep this process open and transparent, it is the intention of the group to regularly brief plenary sessions of the AGBM on our work to ensure that others are being kept adequately informed.

Mr. Chairman, it is our hope that the work of the Annex 1 Experts' Group can offer valuable analytic assistance to Annex 1 and other Parties as we address the next steps towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Climate Change Convention. I would also like to, on behalf of Annex 1 Parties, extend our deep thanks for the dedicated and professional work of the OECD and IEA Secretariats in ensuring that this important work stays on track and on time.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Copies of this intervention are available at the back of this room.