

wanted to participate in reducing emissions and needed to build the "capacity" to do so. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action would allow them such opportunities.

Kyoto Mechanisms

The text produced by the Secretariat last summer (the Second Synthesis of Proposals) will be augmented by further submissions and consolidated into a basic text for further negotiations next June and September. The language adopted by CoP-5 makes it clear that the text will be the negotiating text and specifies that there will be inter-session meetings and workshops "to assist in undertaking preparatory work for the CoP-6". CoP-6 will consider the consolidated text as a basis for further negotiations on principles, modalities, rules and guidelines, with priority given to the clean development mechanism and with a view to taking decisions on all mechanisms under Articles 6, 12 and 17. In fact, the consolidated text will need considerable discussion before agreement can be reached at CoP-6. A range of views exists on almost all aspects of CDM and Parties did not discuss issues at length at this meeting. However, the messages from the inter-session meetings held since the tenth meeting of the subsidiary bodies in June 1999, including the ministerial meeting in Ottawa in October, made it clear to developing countries that CDM is not official development assistance (ODA). CDM is largely investment from the private sector where a rate of return and value are required. If the projects do not generate profits and provide value, no investments will be made.

Sinks

The key issue in sinks is that not all sinks are included in the Protocol and depending on what is finally included, some Parties could meet their target commitments. This could tilt the playing field in terms of trade. Because of this, the politics behind the issue of sinks are becoming more apparent. Japan placed a reservation on the language of the draft conclusion on the basis of the words "initial decision". The language of the final CoP decision is stronger than in past sessions and requests an initial decision from CoP-6. This makes the path to further decisions by subsequent meetings of the CoP more manageable.

Technology transfer

The development and transfer of technologies is identified as an obligation of the Annex II Parties to the Framework Convention and has been reaffirmed in the Kyoto Protocol. The central issue is the term "transfer". What does it mean to "transfer" technology? Who will bear the costs and will the "transfer" be facilitated? The consultative process established at CoP-4 and the workshops held subsequently underscored that technology is owned by the private sector and it is not the prerogative of governments to provide technology at low/no cost. Two more workshops are planned next year and a final report from the consultations will be developed for CoP-6. There seems to be a consensus on the importance of the goal of technology development and transfer. However, the issue may eventually be linked to efforts to support capacity building in developing countries and may be linked to activities to facilitate, promote and finance the transfer or sale of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. This issue will evolve further at future sessions.