

Parties, the meeting concluded that Parties were fulfilling their obligation to report detailed information on national policies and measures on the mitigation of climate change. It was recognised, however, that Parties need to take further action to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention. Though collectively Annex 1 countries have reduced their net emissions by about 4.6%, many Parties will not return GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. COP also called on its Subsidiary Body on Implementation to provide additional guidance with respect to information needs and reporting on technology transfer and financial assistance.

**22. Initial National Communications of Non-Annex 1 Parties:** Core issue from a Canadian standpoint was to encourage further national communications from Non-Annex I parties and to establish the basis of a process for their consideration by COP. The final decision agrees that the process of consideration of communications from non-Annex 1 countries should be continued at COP5, with a view to taking a further decision on this matter. Nonetheless, the Secretariat was requested to prepare the first compilation and synthesis report based on submissions by June 1999, for consideration at COP5. This, combined with further workshops to assist communications, represents an important first step. The negotiations were complicated by the demands made by G-77 and China for greater financial and technical assistance for the preparation of initial national communications and second national communications. These issues were played out in the related decisions on the GEF. From Canada's perspective, outcome is generally positive, as it keeps the non-Annex 1 countries engaged in the process of consideration and also assists them in building capacity for analysis and reporting which will be crucial in assuming further actions in the future.