

were. They were successful only because the necessary willingness for agreement on a balanced compromise was present on all sides. That is precisely the reason why we feel it is essential that we start the work in this group with the clear and unambiguous understanding: the Berlin Mandate with all its elements is the basis and commitment of our joint work. We must conduct our negotiations in the next two years according to the wording and in the spirit of this Mandate.

IV.

At this 1st meeting we are concerned with creating the organisational and structural conditions for targeted and success-oriented work. We thank the secretariat for document no 1 which contains useful proposals, ideas and questions which we will return to individually in the course of this meeting. First of all let me develop a few basic considerations:

1. The climate protocol or other legal instrument should further implement and develop the Framework Convention on Climate Change, particularly by means of strengthening commitments for the Annex I Parties above and beyond Article 4, paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of the Convention as well as continue to advance the implementation of the existing commitments of all Contracting Parties from Article 4, paragraph 1. The drawing up of such a new instrument should keep us focused on the short and long term perspectives: in the short term we have to determine the next step towards the limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for the period after 2000. In the long term we should create a suitable mechanism for many further steps towards continuous implementation and further development of the Framework Convention on Climate Change with the aim of achieving the ambitious ultimate objective of Article 2 of the Convention. The work programme of the AGBM must take appropriate account of both of these aspects.
2. Our work programme must implement the elements of the Berlin Mandate. Our top priority is the strengthening of the commitments of the Annex I Parties by means of the combined setting of policies and measures as well as quantified limitation and reduction objectives within specified time-frames such as 2005, 2010 and 2020. Federal Chancellor Kohl stated this quite categorically in Berlin: In view of the high energy consumption and considerable emission of climate-damaging greenhouse gases in the industrialised nations, it is these countries which are called upon to take the first step. We must meet our special responsibility for protecting the global climate.