

PAPER NO. 5: ICELAND



Ministry for the Environment

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Letter from the Secretary General, Ministry for the Environment of Iceland, to the secretariat of the UNFCCC

Ref.: Contribution of views by Parties on the implementation of the Berliner Mandate - request from the Bureau of the COP.

The Government of Iceland has considered the request made by the Bureau of the first Convention of the Parties (COP1) for the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) concerning views on the implementation of the Berliner Mandate.

The Icelandic Government acknowledges that the commitments by Annex I parties to reduce greenhouse gases to their 1990 level by the year 2000 are not sufficient for achieving the objectives expressed in Article 2 of the Convention. A successful implementation of the Berliner Mandate is therefore of great importance and Iceland will actively participate in the negotiation process, with the aim of reaching an agreement within the time-frame laid down in the decision taken at COP1.

The negotiation process should be organised in a flexible manner in order to ensure that it is possible to take into consideration the development of the coming year's international discussion about Climate Change. The conclusions of the first meeting of the Ac-hoc Group on the Berliner Mandate appears to yield such flexibility.

Iceland would like to underline the importance of thorough analysis and assessment of the alternative actions that the Parties might want to discuss during the negotiations, including proposals presented at COP1 in Berlin. An emphasis on analysis and assessment is imperative in order to establish a credible process and it is clearly in line with the Berliner Mandate. In particular, an effort should be made to identify the policies and measures which are most effective when implemented collectively. However, due to the time constraint, one should draw on existing work and avoid unnecessary detailed analysis. It is clear that many national and international institutions and organisations have conducted outstanding work in