

**Your Excellency Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Lord Mayor Dieckmann,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to thank you for the confidence and trust given to me in electing me to this high and important position of the President of the Conference of the Parties. I also wish to especially thank the members of the Eastern European Group for nominating Poland to assume this task on its behalf.

I realize that this position bears a tremendous burden of responsibility - a responsibility of making substantial progress towards COP-6, but also a much greater responsibility for our well-being and that of our children.

The responsibility is passed by my predecessor as the President of COP 4 Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray. I pay tribute to her for her great negotiating skills and for her commitment to the cause of climate change.

Please let me also very warmly welcome our special distinguished guest, His Excellency Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. His presence here is a clear signal that climate change issues are given a special priority by Heads of Government.

Global warming, as a result of climate change observed over the last decades, is currently considered worldwide as the main environmental challenge for the forthcoming years. The targets related to the stabilization and further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, already set in the Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, still require that urgent and effective actions be taken by the Parties. The need for such actions has already been fully recognized last year in Argentina, where the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted with a view to taking important decisions during COP-6. This Bonn Conference is commonly recognized as a milestone towards implementation of key aspects of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which are:

- additional guidance to the financial mechanism;
- development and transfer of technology;