

Mr Chairman,

I.

First of all, please allow me to pass on the best wishes of the German Environment Minister Dr Angela Merkel for the successful work of this newly set-up ad hoc group of the Conference of the Parties and for cooperation based on good faith between all the delegations from governments, international organisations and institutions as well as the non-governmental organisations. Minister Merkel is well aware of the responsibility assumed by Germany in hosting the First Conference of the Parties in Berlin and of the responsibility she herself bears as President of the Conference. She will continue unstintingly in her efforts to ensure that this negotiating process leads to an ambitious protocol or other legal instrument on the further limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that the Contracting Parties will negotiate and adopt at the Third Conference of the Parties in 1997.

II.

Mr. Chairman, the German delegation is very happy to see you in the chair again. We have profited from your leadership qualities in the past and we are sure we will need them in the two years of negotiations ahead of us. The German delegation is looking forward to good and successful cooperation with you and your future bureau. We are also pleased to see in this ad hoc group so many familiar faces. The experience, esteem and trust that we have developed with and for each other will be essential in our future work. At the same time, I am sure that all our new colleagues will quickly become members of the international "climate family" and their fresh ideas and new concepts will ensure that the process stays innovative and creative.

III.

Germany fully supports the statement of the European Union as presented earlier by the Spanish delegation. Let me just stress some points:

At the First Conference of the Parties in Berlin the Contracting Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change set up this subsidiary body and gave it a commission that is highly demanding from the point of view of substance and time, namely the Berlin Mandate. We all know how difficult the negotiations for this Mandate