

9. The President asked the COP to take note of the Ministerial Declaration and it will be annexed to the COP decisions, including the reservations. In his report of the AGBM chairman Estrada (Argentina) referred to the Declaration indicating that it will have <sup>an important</sup> bearing on the upcoming sessions. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ A number of developing country Parties including the G 77 chair complained about the lack transparency and openness in its development, that will have to taken into account in future developments under the Convention, even though these Parties had many opportunities to participate in the drafting of this declaration.

10. Ministerial Roundtable: Participants in the ministerial roundtable agreed that the SAR provides important scientific elements to be considered when taking decisions on climate change and a very large majority intend to use the conclusions as the basis for political action. On advancing existing commitments, participants noted that measures taken are strongly influenced by national circumstances and require closer collaboration between the different ministries dealing with questions related to climate change. Ministers confirmed their will to accelerate negotiations under the Berlin Mandate so as to have a legal instrument adopted at COP 3 and many expressed their wish to adopt a ministerial declaration reflecting the outcome of COP 2. The secretariat attempted to organize a strategic discussion among ministers to give direction to the negotiations, however due to opposition by many parties to limiting discussion to ministers only (many dels had no ministers attending), discussion in the roundtable in many cases amounted to a restatement of positions but it did generate support for a ministerial declaration.

11. Ministerial Statements - Minister Marchi was the 12 th minister or head of del to give a statement during the ministerial session of the COP 2. The statement was well received and focused on three essential elements: the belief, on the part of Canada, that science has spoken in a voice that is loud and clear (the minister referred to the recently completed Mackenzie Basin Study as an example of regional impact studies that Canada is embarking on); while the threat of climate change is real, Annex 1 efforts to limit ghg emissions are not working as well as we expected; and, finally the need for all parties to strengthen their efforts as they accelerate work towards a post-2000 agreement at COP 3.

12. Common Interest Group meetings: Canada chaired two meetings of the Common Interest Group (CIG) one of OECD countries to exchange views on the nature of climate change commitments to be taken on by Korea as it accedes to the OECD. As a result, many OECD countries held bilateral meetings to encourage Korea to participate in the negotiations as a developed country Party, but without immediately taking on ghg emission obligations, which Korean officials emphasized would not be possible in light of their economic growth. The other CIG meeting involved Annex 1 Parties (OECD and Eastern European countries) in a discussion of a Ministerial Declaration which contributed to the development of a draft used by Ministers. As chair, we are undertaking to organize a CIG meeting this Fall coincident with the OECD climate change forum in order to facilitate a more