

**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 5, 1999, BONN**

**Report on the Second Week of the Session (November 5, 1999)**

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The second week of negotiations ended with stronger than expected language in decisions on most key issues. The effect of CoP-5 will be to accelerate the pace and intensity of the negotiations in the year 2000. Parties have agreed to develop the negotiating text on the flexibility mechanisms and on compliance in order to have decisions made at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to be held in The Hague in November 2000.

**Overview**

CoP-5 will be remembered as the meeting where developed countries worked with developing countries and where the Africans and Latin Americans pressed the G-77 plus China to have the work programme of Buenos Aires Plan of Action move ahead. Developing countries now see how they will gain from the flexibility mechanisms and this will make the year 2000 a very busy one for the international negotiations. The OPEC countries are more isolated than ever. While still very influential, they are less able to slow or stop progress given the G-77 and Annex 1 push for decisions.

The meeting had a generally positive tone. Whereas at previous meetings negotiators set a slow pace and then asked ministers to make last minute decisions, negotiators at this meeting had cleared away most of the business before ministers arrived. Ministers then gave the negotiators a clear message to speed up the process. The contribution made by developing countries and the better co-operation with and among developed countries caused this change. The African and Latin American delegations (except for Venezuela) pressed for faster progress on the Clean Development Mechanism and in so doing isolated Saudi Arabia who preferred having no negotiating text. China and India, usually the dominant leaders within the G-77, either supported or chose not oppose the African and Latin American approach.

An informal agreement between the Umbrella Group countries and the EU resulted in fewer divisive exchanges on the substantive issues and this allowed G-77 Parties to have more confidence in the potential of the flexibility mechanisms. The informal agreement also allowed additional emphasis to be placed on moving the process forward. An example of this particular tactic was the chair of the Contact Group on Mechanisms repeatedly asking Parties to "walk through my garden noting the issues but not dwelling on them". This skilfully executed approach produced fifteen draft conclusions for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) by Monday night. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) also made progress and another fifteen draft conclusions were ready Tuesday morning. By the time the plenary session of the CoP was held on Thursday, draft conclusions had been produced for all remaining issues.