

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

(Agenda item 1)

1. The third session of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (hereinafter referred to as "the AGBM") was held at Geneva from 5 to 8 March 1996. The session was convened in accordance with the schedule confirmed at the first session (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 15).

2. The Chairman of the AGBM, Ambassador Raúl Estrada-Oyuela, opened the session at the 1st meeting, on 5 March 1996. He stated that 154 States had ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and indicated that this was a clear testimony to the increasing commitment by the international community to the Convention. He further underlined that the third session would benefit from the inputs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He added that the AGBM would also benefit from the results of two informal workshops, one on policies and measures and one on quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs). He expressed his intention to overcome obstacles, avoid procedural traps and facilitate the way forward to fulfilling the Berlin Mandate.

3. The Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to the session. Referring to the presentation to the SBSTA of the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC, he observed that the future stabilization of global greenhouse gas emissions implied the redistribution of those emissions in response to the need for sustainable development in developing countries. The establishment of QELROs would have to take this into account. He urged delegations to evaluate carefully the utility of any major new document that may be requested, bearing in mind that only two months were available for the secretariat to prepare documents for the fourth session. He added that, as work proceeds on the Berlin Mandate, it is the input of Parties and not that of the secretariat which is increasingly vital.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

(Agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 2 (a))

4. The AGBM, at its 1st meeting, on 5 March, adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;