

I can also inform you that we have started to redeploy staff members into the positions that they will occupy in the staffing structure derived from the new programme budget. This will ensure that the new secretariat line up will be ready for a prompt start in January, after a brief post-Kyoto process of rest and relaxation.

Finally, let me say how glad I am to have learned that the Climate Change secretariat will be joined in Bonn by the secretariat of the **Convention to Combat Desertification**. The two secretariats shared premises, administration and other services in Geneva for several years, and look forward to renewing that experience here in Bonn. In my statement to the CCD COP 1 in Rome earlier this month, I highlighted the linkages between climate change, drought and land degradation, stating that success in Kyoto will make an important contribution to the fight against desertification. I pointed to opportunities for coordination and integration in work on capacity building, on the communication of information and on scientific assessments. I also believe that there is potential for reducing overhead costs of administration, conference services and information technology for the two secretariats by organizing these services jointly. This is a managerial challenge for the next two years.