



THE NOORDWIJK DECLARATION ON ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION
AND CLIMATIC CHANGE

(1) The composition of the earth's atmosphere is being seriously altered at an unprecedented rate due to human activity. Based on our current understanding, society is being threatened by man-made changes to the global climate.

(2) While there are still uncertainties regarding the magnitude, timing and regional effects of climate change due to human activity, there is a growing consensus in the scientific community that significant climate change and instability are most likely over the next century. Predictions available today indicate potentially severe economic and social dislocations for future generations. Assuming these predictions, delay in action may endanger the future of the planet as we know it.

(3) Fortunately, there is a growing awareness among the world population and their political leaders that action is needed. The basic principle of ecologically sustainable development has gained wide currency following the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. This principle should be fundamental to efforts to tackle the problem of climate change and atmospheric pollution. The protection of the ozone layer is being addressed by the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Further strengthening of control measures contained in the Protocol was called for at the London Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer in March 1989 and the first meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol at Helsinki in May 1989. A decision will be taken by the second meeting of the contracting parties to be held in London in 1990. The process aims at phasing out the production and consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) controlled under the Montreal Protocol by the year 2000 by the developed countries. They should also phase out other controlled substances which deplete the ozone layer as soon as feasible. Developing countries should also phase out these substances as soon as possible after their technology and resource needs are met.

(4) Global warming is being addressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was established by UNEP and WMO, and recognized by UN General Assembly Resolution 43/53 on Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind. The Hague Declaration of March 1989 put forward