

guidelines for Annex 1 national communications.

5. In addition to regular sessions of the Convention, several special events were held in the margins and featured issues such as the concerns of the insurance industry about the potential costs of climate change, the potential health effects of climate change, economic costs of addressing climate change, development of new technologies, and activities implemented jointly.

6. The next negotiating session will take place December 9-18 in Geneva, followed by two or three sessions in Bonn in 1997. The Third Conference of the Parties will be hosted by Japan in Kyoto from 1-12 December 1997, when a Protocol or other legal instrument is expected to be adopted. The Secretariat has requested submissions on elements to be included in a Protocol or other legal instrument, including views on quantified emissions limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) and Policies and Measures (Ps and Ms) by October 15. Submissions on AIJ are due by September 1, and the Second National Communication is due April 15, 1997.

REPORT

7. Ministerial Declaration: On the Ministerial Declaration, also referred to as the Geneva declaration - Environment Minister Marchi was requested by the President of the COP (Zimbabwe's Minister of Environment and Tourism) to chair a ministerial level contact group with twenty two other Parties, with a view to seeking an agreement on a ministerial declaration. Not all parties accepted this Declaration (OPEC members, Russia and Australia expressed their reservations, New Zealand expressed concerns with the lack of reference to least cost approach), hence it was not adopted. Strong support for the statement was expressed by the EU and the United States, along with tacit support from major developing countries, including China, Brazil, Argentina, the Africa Group and AOSIS Parties. Several other G 77 members, in particular the Asian Group, who did not want to participate in the drafting group did not express views on the Declaration. Nevertheless, the declaration reflected a general consensus that negotiations should move forward quickly on climate change.

8. The declaration provides important guidance to negotiators in the Berlin Mandate process. The statement sought to address important issues including the recognition and endorsement of the key findings of the Second Assessment Report, covering the science, impacts and socio-economics of Climate Change; the conclusion that the continued rise in GHG concentrations in the atmosphere will lead to dangerous interference with the climate system; and instructions to Parties to accelerate negotiations for a legal instrument by COP3, that would encompass, inter alia, quantified legally binding objectives for emission limitations and significant overall reductions, and commitments for all Parties to advance implementation of current commitments in Article 4.1.