

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Agenda item 1)

1. The eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) was held at the Hotel Maritim, Bonn, from 2 to 12 June 1998.
2. At the 1st meeting, on 2 June 1998, the Chairman of the SBI, Mr. Bakary Kanté (Senegal), opened the session and welcomed all delegates and observers. In welcoming participants, he recalled that the current session was the first session of the SBI since the Conference of the Parties (COP) had adopted the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its third session in Kyoto. The Chairman stressed that at this session the SBI had two full weeks in which to complete its work; delegates thus had a considerable opportunity that would not be available during the meetings scheduled in combination with COP 4. He expressed the hope that delegates would assist him in bringing the session to a successful conclusion.
3. Also at the 1st meeting, on 2 June, the Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to the session. He emphasized that the SBI at its eighth session would have the opportunity to make progress and lighten the load which all Parties would have to face in their negotiations at COP 4. To help achieve this, he called upon all Parties to demonstrate flexibility so as to enable the necessary sequencing and coordination between the SBI and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in the consideration of agenda items. He also outlined to delegates the new structure of the secretariat and noted with satisfaction that the number of signatories to the Kyoto Protocol was 37 as at 2 June.
4. At the 2nd meeting, which was held jointly with the SBSTA on 2 June, statements were made by Her Excellency María Julia Alsogaray, Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Argentina, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary (for summaries of these statements, see FCCC/SBSTA/1998/6, paras. 5-7).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (Agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 2 (a))

5. At its 1st meeting, on 2 June, the SBI considered the provisional agenda contained in document FCCC/SBI/1998/1.
6. Statements were made by representatives of nine Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.