

## BEIJING MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

On 18-19 June 1991, 41 ministers from developing countries met in Beijing to discuss environment and development issues. Of the 41 Ministers, five came from the top eleven non-OECD carbon dioxide emitting countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

Some of the relevant passages related to climate change are:

- "environmental protection and sustainable development is a matter of common concern to humankind. . . we hereby reaffirm our solemn commitment to participating actively, on the basis of differentiated responsibility. . ."
- "the right to development of the developing countries must be fully recognized, and the adoption of measures for the protection of the global environment should support their economic growth and development."
- "Each country must be enabled to determine the pace of transition, based on the adaptive capacity of its economic, social and cultural ethos and capabilities."
- "The environmental problems of the developing countries arise from the conditions of poverty."
- "International co-operation . . . should be based on the principle of equality among sovereign states. The developing countries have the sovereign right to use their own natural resources in keeping with their developmental and environmental objectives and priorities."
- ". . . the developed countries bear the main responsibility for the degradation of the global environment. Ever since the Industrial Revolution, the developed countries have over-exploited the world's natural resources through unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, causing damage to the global environment, to the detriment of the developing countries."