

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The second session of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (hereinafter referred to as "the AGBM") was held at Geneva from 30 October to 3 November 1995. The session was convened in accordance with the schedule confirmed at the first session (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2, para. 15).

2. The Chairman of the AGBM, Ambassador Raúl Estrada-Oyuela, opened the session at the 1st meeting, on 30 October 1995. In welcoming the participants, he noted that recent work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had confirmed the concerns motivating the Convention and the potential for serious consequences of global climate change on developing countries. He recalled the importance of the precautionary principle and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and emphasized the responsibility of developed countries to take the lead. In view of the limited time and resources available, the Chairman appealed to the Parties to take decisions and make progress regarding the analysis and assessment at this session. He drew attention to the fact that at some point the number of policies and measures to be analysed should be limited in order to achieve concrete results. The Chairman also welcomed two new Parties, observing that there were now 138 Parties to the Convention.

3. The Executive Secretary welcomed all participants to the session. He expressed satisfaction that it had been possible to offer funding to the full range of eligible Parties for this session. With regard to the provisional agenda, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the agenda formulations were deliberately brief and that the Berlin Mandate remained the basic element in all cases. He then introduced the documentation prepared for the session. In his comments on the work of the session, he noted the importance of balancing the aim of comprehensiveness with the need to begin focusing future work. He also observed that the AGBM was a forum to which the results of technical analysis could be presented for assessment rather than one where such analysis could be most usefully undertaken.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

(Agenda item 1)

A. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 1 (a))

4. At the first meeting of the AGBM, on 30th October, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary explained the basis and structure of the provisional agenda. Statements were made by seven Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group 77 and China, one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and another speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). An observer State also made a statement. The AGBM, at its 1st meeting, on 30 October, adopted the following agenda, on the