

Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate
Fourth Session
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CANADIAN STATEMENT
STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENTS IN ARTICLE 4.2(a) and (b)
July 15, 1996

Thank you Mr. Chairman for this opportunity to comment on strengthening the commitments in Article 4.2 (a) and (b).

Canada has always advocated a combined approach, including both policies and measures and limitation and reduction objectives, in a protocol or other legal instrument. We note your idea for an equation involving policies and measures and QELROs today.

Identifying discrete actions to address climate change, whether nationally or in cooperation with other Parties, is important if we are to begin to take meaningful and long term action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We can make serious inroads in meeting our future commitments if we are successful in identifying policies and measures that reinforce a positive relationship between the economy and the environment.

We have already seen over the past twenty years, the positive impacts of energy efficiency gains and air pollution controls on our quality of life. This impetus needs to be continued as we address the thorny issue of limiting and reducing our net greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining sustainable and prosperous economic growth.

With respect to policies and measures, the annotated agenda focusses on four main issues -- the general approach, categorization, priorities and review mechanisms. Canada would like to make the following points on these topics.

My delegation would like to note that Canada supports a comprehensive approach which means that the narrowing down exercise should not mean closing off options. It is important that Canadians have full flexibility in selecting the most appropriate instruments in meeting its commitments on climate change.

That said, Canada recognizes that relatively few policies and measures would actually qualify as a feasible common action. Our government, in collaboration with the private sector, non-government organizations, provinces and municipalities, will be seeking to identify this fall, if any discrete policies and measures could be considered in an eventual legal instrument. The Canadian government and other stakeholders in Canada have also participated in the Annex 1 Experts' Group Project on Common Actions. We believe that the first tranche has been a valuable exercise in focusing our attention on several policies and measures that might be appropriately implemented in a coordinated manner. The studies coming out of that project should be informing domestic consultations on identifying appropriate policies and measures for an eventual legal instrument.

In so far as possible methods for categorizing policies and measures is concerned, Canada believes that it is most practical to identify a discrete few policies and measures for common action. Instead of a categorization exercise, Canada believes that guidelines may