



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE – Secretariat
CONVENTION - CADRE SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES - Secrétariat

Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Message of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

BONN, 25 October (UNFCCC) – Following is the text of the message of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany (25 October to 5 November), delivered at the opening session of the Conference by Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC.

I am pleased to convey my greetings and best wishes to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The presence of His Excellency Chancellor Gerhard Schröder at the start of these proceedings shows how high this issue can climb on national agendas. I am grateful for his show of support and also to the people of Bonn for welcoming this important meeting.

In the five years since the Convention on Climate Change entered into force, the Parties to it have laid a solid foundation for long-term action to minimize climate change and its consequences. You are building effective institutions and technical capacities at the national level and a credible international system of data-gathering and information-sharing. You have started to set targets and design a system to ensure compliance. You are basing your policy decisions on the best available science, drawing on the respected assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. You have stressed cost-effectiveness through mechanisms that engage the resources and ingenuity of business and industry. And you have opened your work to the scrutiny of civil society.

These are signs of a maturing international regime. You can take pride in your achievements. But now is no time for complacency. Your efforts will bear fruit only if they are