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“Groups Silence Criticism of Bush”

By John Heilprin

Associated Press Writer

Monday, Sept. 17, 2001; 5:50 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON, DC. Environmental groups that have been the biggest critics of President Bush his first seven months in office said Monday that in light of the terrorist attacks they are pulling advertisements and withholding statements that criticize his policies.

"In deference to the fact that we need to pull together as a nation, we're not going to be making any kind of statements on the issues at this point," said Elliott Negin, communications director for the Washington office of the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council.

"We want to show our support for the administration. This was a heinous act and it's unseemly for anyone to try to exploit this tragedy by pushing a pre-existing agenda. So we're basically just sitting tight," he said.

NRDC pulled an ad urging the administration to lower arsenic standards for drinking water and started posting Web site information on relief efforts. Other groups, such as the Sierra Club, sent memos to staff telling them to stop criticizing Bush publicly. The Sierra Club also pulled television, radio and print ads, shut down phone banks and removed Internet material seen as critical of Bush.

The two groups along with other environmentalists had been gearing up for Senate action on an energy package. They say how long they will sit on the sidelines depends largely on what Congress does.

Jennifer Ferenstein, president of the Sierra Club, said it took her group just minutes to step back, shift focus and immediately cancel an annual meeting in San Francisco the week of the attacks. The group also urged its members not to do anything disrespectful, she said.

"Out of common decency and respect right after it happened, we made the decision it wasn't appropriate to distract the American public at this time," said Ferenstein. "But the environment will still always be important. Whatever steps we taking in responding to terrorist violence, we need to think about protecting our environment because that's an American value."

On the Net:

NRDC: <http://www.nrdc.org>

Sierra Club: <http://www.sierraclub.org> <<http://www.sierraclub.org>>

September 19, 2001

“Environment-Latam: Oceans Or Open Sewers?”

MEXICO CITY, Sep 17, 2001 (Inter Press Service via COMTEX) -- Nearly 60 percent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean live in coastal or riverbank areas, and most of the waste they generate is dumped into the sea untreated, said experts attending a workshop organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the Mexican capital.

Household trash, chemicals, plastics and especially fecal matter threaten the balance of marine ecosystems and the health of coastal dwellers, said participants in the Latin American Workshop on the Management of Municipal Sewage, held last week in Mexico.

If the situation continues unchecked, Latin America's beaches will cease to be a tourist attraction, and the food production potential of coastal areas will drop, warned Ricardo Snchez, UNEP director for Latin America.

It is urgently necessary to treat municipal waste in the region, where 60 of the 77 largest cities are located on riverbanks or the ocean, underlined delegates of national and local governments and NGOs from several countries in Latin American and the Caribbean.

"There is a wide variety of pollutants dumped into the sea, but we believe the most important is municipal waste, especially fecal matter," the coordinator of the seminar, Oscar Ramirez, told IPS.

UNEP studies show that the level of contamination of coastal waters throughout the region has risen sharply due to the increase in volume of municipal waste flows.

An illustration of that phenomenon is the Ensenada Bay off the northern Mexican state of Baja California, where the water has been found to contain 160,000 units of fecal coliforms per 100 milliliters of water -- compared to Mexico's legal limit of 500 per milliliter.

In the Caribbean, which receives around 100 million tourists a year, between 80 and 90 percent of sewage is dumped untreated into the sea, reports UNEP.

Tourism accounts for 43 percent of that region's combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is equivalent to one-third of exports.

Studies indicate that in Caribbean nations like Barbados, Jamaica and Haiti, the dumping of untreated fecal waste into the sea contributes to coastal erosion and the destruction of beaches.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, tourism represents 12 percent of GDP, and is the mainstay of resort towns.

Around the world, tourists visiting coastal areas spend around \$100 billion annually, according to estimates by the Washington-based environmental organization World Watch Institute.

However, the deterioration of water quality not only threatens tourism, but the marine habitat and human health as well, warns Worldwatch, which reports that seafood provides around 16 percent of the animal protein consumed globally.

Diseases like hepatitis, cholera and dysentery, as well as many skin ailments, are directly linked to contamination of the oceans, Ramirez pointed out.

Research has also found that the growing mortality of fish is directly related to the diminishing level of oxygen in the water, caused by the dumping of urban sewage, he added.

In this region, a few recent advances have been made -- in Chile, Mexico and Peru, for example - in the treatment of waste water conveyed into the sea, but a broad program of action is absolutely essential, underlined workshop participants.

"The problem has been addressed with a short-sighted view, and urgent action is needed," stressed Ramirez.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

September 19, 2001 edition -

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2001/0919/p7s2-woaf.html>

“Kenya's tourism industry grows 'greener”

By Danna Harman | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MASAI MARA, KENYA - The lion stirs from his late-afternoon nap, stretches, and lets out a roar. A herd of zebras, munching grass in the distance, lift their heads to listen. A whine issues from the sidelines: "What about the cheetah? I want to see a cheetah!"

The king of the jungle shakes his mane, and - ignoring the whine, the cameras, the binoculars, and the seven white minibuses - saunters off into the bush. The tourists happily check off the "lion" box on their safari log books and head off in search of the elephants.

Just another day at the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya, where thousands of tourists come every year to get a glimpse of the "big five" - lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, and leopard.

With 700,000 visitors annually, Kenya is second only to South Africa as a tourist destination on this continent, and tourism is the second-largest contributor to Kenya's economy, after agriculture.

But years of unregulated mass-market tourism are taking a toll. Off-road minibus driving is wrecking the vegetation in national parks and game reserves, sewage is seeping into rivers, trees are being cut down for firewood, and some animals - such as the cheetah - are even changing

their hunting habits to avoid tourists. And both Kenyan tour operators and discerning visitors are looking for an alternative.

Enter ecotourism: environmentally and community-oriented travel.

"The future of Kenyan tourism is green," says Judy Gona, executive director of the Ecotourism Society of Kenya (ESOK). "The trend in the world, as well as in Kenya, is to create a tourism industry which will be low impact. It will meet our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.... Those who realize this, and begin to change their thinking and actions, will reap the long-term benefits."

There is, as yet, no official definition of ecotourism. However, the United Nations - which has declared 2002 the year of ecotourism - has identified its general characteristics. Ecotourism, it says, is sustainable, nature and culture based, invests in and supports the protection of the environment, and respects and involves local communities.

There are some 80 members of ESOK, many of which either call themselves ecotourism destinations or are working to become such. The majority of these camps and lodges are small and secluded, catering to no more than 20 visitors at a time. They are built with materials found in the region, use alternative energy sources, are very careful about their waste products, and try to serve food grown and produced nearby.

Most of the destinations are situated outside big-game parks, and many discourage minibus travel, promoting walking tours instead as well as lectures by local villagers. These establishments are either run by, or in conjunction with, the local population and often support community projects.

"People don't specifically ask for ecotourism vacations," says Allan Dixson, managing director of Lets Go, one of the largest travel agencies in the country, "but when they describe what they want, they increasingly use words like 'not crowded' or 'unobtrusive.' They want to know the county in a more authentic way [and] are willing to pay for this."

"There was a tunnel vision here as regards the package market, and we were late in seeing what other countries, like Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa saw awhile back - that there is advantage in smaller-volume, higher-value tourism," says Chris Flatt, director of Bush Homes, a small, very upscale tourist operation in Kenya. "The country has been forced to shake itself up. Mass tourism has cheapened the product as well as hurt the environment, and the industry is now in the process of moving away from that."

Even before last week's attacks on the United States raised new concerns about travel and security, tourism was down here. Airlines have reduced flights, and several hotels along the coast are in receivership.

According to the director of one tour agency, package-tour visitors account for most of the cancellations. Those planning more exclusive trips, including visits to ecotourist sites, have been sticking with their plans. Meanwhile, even operations that don't fall under the ecotourism banner

are, as one tour operator said, "being bullied by the changing market" to adopt eco-friendly policies. Most of the large lodges in the Masai Mara, for example, are moving away from using firewood to heat water and turning to solar energy, gas, or fuel briquettes - made of everything from coffee husks and water hyacinth to manure.

Mara Intrepids, one of the larger luxury camps in Masai Mara, gave a briquette-making machine to the nearby village of Kolong, and now buys cow-dung briquettes from villagers instead of wood.

"We used to bring in two trucks of firewood every week," says Shadrack Kahindi, the Mara Intrepids manager. "Now, we realize that if we and every other lodge kept doing this - and if visitors continued to take their two hot showers a day - we would eventually end up with a desert around us."

At Kolong, the women - who, in Masai tradition, are assigned the task of gathering wood - are thrilled with their new briquette maker. They keep it safe behind a small fence of dried twigs and take turns collecting, mixing and stirring the cow dung that is the main ingredient.

"It's wonderful," says a beaming Nailepo, the elderly woman in charge of operations. "Instead of going all day to look for firewood, we stay here and have more extra time for ourselves.... We can fix our hair or do beadwork or fetch more water."

With the rising popularity of ecotourism, there are many trying to cash in on the label.

"A hotel gives nature walks and calls itself an ecotourism venture, or asks its guests not to have their towels washed every day, and thus feels like it's doing it's part," reads an editorial in the quarterly Ecoforum magazine.

"There are many operators jumping on the bandwagon," says Flatt, "but this term should not be abused."

To address this issue, ESOK is in the process of setting up an ecotourism rating and certification system. If implemented early next year as planned, the system would be the first of its kind in Africa and would, it is hoped, go a long way in helping Kenya to preserve its place as a premier safari location - without jeopardizing its future.

“Forest ranger heads abroad to help eco-tourism”

By Joanne Ditmer, The Denver Post

Tuesday, September 18, 2001

DENVER -- After nine years "in the woods," Wesley Massey is going to Paris. The U.S. Forest Service ranger will be the only American on the United Nations Environmental Division's team gathering data for the International Year of Eco-Tourism and the World Eco-Tourism Summit to be held in Quebec City in May.

She's sponsored in a partnership between the Forest Service and the University of Colorado business school's Center for Sustainable Tourism. She left Denver earlier this month, headed for Paris, where her six-month assignment begins Oct. 1.

"Everything I've done my whole life leads up to this," said Massey, 32, a Forest Service outdoor-recreation information specialist.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas in forest management, she has worked on outdoor-recreation planning, tourism management, environmental education and scenic byways in national forests from Pisgah in the Smoky Mountains to the Grand Tetons to Kaibab near Flagstaff, Ariz., and Washington, D.C. She also developed two-minute environmental-education spots for public radio.

Her most recent assignment was in Denver to open and staff the pioneering Outdoor Recreation Information Center, located at the downtown REI store. The information center offers a one-stop location for recreation information on all public lands in Colorado.

"The United States has some of the best research in the world on recreation and tourism. The Forest Service has 10 research centers, working on how to solve waste problems, air pollution, all the challenges that come with increasing numbers of tourists.

"Developing countries will have these same problems as they develop tourism, but may not have the money or time to do the research. We're working to get some of this information out to other nations.

"One of the biggest problems is how to keep the indigenous culture intact, and how to protect it against tourism's demands. We can help others even as we learn," Massey explained.

"The U.N. eco-tourism team will gather and facilitate all information that comes in, and enter it into a database so that any and all countries have access. Take archaeological sites say the National Park Service has found a way to remove spray-paint graffiti without damaging the original material. That would be valuable information for any other site facing the same problem."

In 1998, Massey served as a Rotary Club ambassador to Italy, giving 15 speeches with slide shows on eco-tourism in America, showing national forests and parks.

"So many countries are so crowded, they don't have the luxury of our great open spaces and can't imagine how you manage tourism and protect the resource. Yet as more countries learn about our great spaces there are more and more tourists, and the problems we face other nations will (learn to manage and protect), too, as their tourism increases.

"The Forest Service does natural-resource management and people management, and we can share a great deal of knowledge. The United Nations is thrilled that the U.S. is participating. I want to show that we're a team player, and we want to help out."

Massey was at an eco-tourism conference in Chicago where the United Nations made a presentation on the 2002 Summit. She asked who in the United States was working on the project, and when she found that no one was, because the U.N. couldn't afford to pay for such staffing, she went to work forging a partnership between the Forest Service and CU.

"The payback will be that we'll have access to that great database," she said. "We'll be helping and learning."

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Nation & World; Monday, October 01, 2001

"Environmental issues will resurface as truce ends"

By Elizabeth Shogren and Deborah Schoch

Los Angeles Times

Stilled by the events of Sept. 11, strong disagreements over the environment could resurface as early as this week to test the political truce in Washington, D.C.

Lawmakers are poised to resume a partisan fight over oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And as they return to the nation's domestic agenda, they must contend with global warming, national forest protections, arsenic in drinking water and air quality.

All are issues that had put the environment near the center of the policy divide separating the White House and congressional Democrats.

That divide all but disappeared, or so it seemed, as Washington came together in response to the terrorist attacks.

Major environmental groups laid down their swords, some purging their Web sites of anti-Bush rhetoric, delaying direct-mail appeals and encouraging members to redirect donations to rescue efforts, such as the American Red Cross.

Now, signs of renewed strife are emerging as some Senate Republicans seek to make domestic energy a national-security issue, and dissenters rise to argue that a national emergency does not require sacrificing environmental goals.

That discord could erupt when the Senate reconvenes this week, and especially if Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, joins Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., in trying to force a vote on an energy bill that would allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Many environmentalists hope to delay a vote on the entire energy package until early next year. Inhofe tried to force the Senate to vote last week on the energy legislation by filing an amendment on an unrelated defense-authorization bill. The effort by Inhofe and others brought that bill to a standstill.

When the Senate adjourned for a long weekend, Inhofe had not given up on his plan to offer the amendment unless he gets a commitment from the Senate leadership to take up energy legislation by a date certain.

"I will not agree ... to attempts to force through a one-sided energy bill or to short-circuit Senate consideration of these important issues," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., Senate Energy Committee chairman.

Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt., Environment and Public Works chairman, warned his colleagues that Inhofe's amendments could hurt public health and environmental quality and raise greenhouse-gas emissions at a time when the United States faces international criticism for failing to pay serious attention to climate-change issues.

But Murkowski said last week that the new war against terrorism makes it imperative that the United States develop oil reserves on its own soil, decreasing dependence on Middle Eastern oil. Since Sept. 11, lobbyists on both sides of the energy debate have remained relatively quiet.

But for environmentalists, the energy bill could be the point at which any truce ends. For them, the challenge is how to be loyal Americans at the time of national emergency while still being true to their values and to their supporters.

Before Sept. 11, the issue of global warming also loomed large.

Bush was receiving widespread public criticism for rejecting the Kyoto accord, the international agreement to reduce greenhouse gases.

The administration was under pressure to produce a U.S. strategy to unveil at the next international climate-control meeting, scheduled for late next month in Marrakech, Morocco.

But some of the administration's strongest advocates of a global-warming policy, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, are deeply involved in the immediate crisis.

The United States still plans to send a delegation to Marrakech, but expectations are not high that the administration will produce a viable option to Kyoto.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is delaying introduction of legislation that would change the federal government's approach to regulating pollution from power plants.

The EPA had said it would release its blueprint in September for controlling mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen-oxide emissions from power plants.

But EPA spokesman Dave Ryan last week said the schedule for that initiative and many others had slipped as a result of the terrorist attacks. Now the target for producing the administration's plan is sometime this fall, he said.

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October 5, 2001

“EU stance on environment threatens new trade round”

By Frances Williams in Geneva - Oct 04 2001 21:44:04

European Union insistence that the World Trade Organisation negotiate on environmental rules could sink prospects for a new global trade round, trade diplomats said on Thursday.

Just five weeks ahead of the prospective launch of a round at the WTO's ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar, Brussels' stance has emerged as the most serious stumbling block so far in talks on a draft agenda for future negotiations.

EU officials told WTO members this week that talks on the environment were, in effect, a quid pro quo for EU agreement to ambitious negotiations aimed at slashing state supports for agriculture. For many developing countries, which make up the bulk of the WTO's membership, this is by far the most important benefit they hope to achieve from a new WTO round.

However, "if there's one thing that unites developing countries, it's opposition to negotiations on trade and environment", one developing country official said on Thursday, noting fears that it could lead to more restrictions on their trade. "If the EU says it's a deal-breaker, so be it. There are just too many people against it."

Others said the EU risked hardening positions even among "moderate" developing countries. "People on this side will start asking for more and then we will never agree on anything," said a senior WTO ambassador. "They [the EU] will have to step back at some point."

The first draft of the Doha ministerial declaration setting out the agenda for forthcoming WTO talks refers to further study of trade and environment links but makes no mention of negotiations. However, some developing countries say even these references go too far.

Poorer nations have already signalled their dissatisfaction with an accompanying draft paper aiming to tackle their grievances over the implementation of existing WTO agreements, which they say is inadequate. Meanwhile, the US, under strong pressure from Congress, is pushing for changes that would water down draft proposals for negotiations on anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures.

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October 9, 2001

“Saving the planet after September 11”

By Gary Strieker

CNN Environmental Correspondent

(CNN) --The memo from the senior executive revealed that he was clearly concerned about the future. 'Signals are very mixed,' he warned, 'and this will be a period of uncertainty.'

For the scientists and field workers who received the memo from their boss, it was sobering proof that the tragedy of September 11 could have a severe impact on their mission to save the planet.

Like many corporate leaders, the senior executive and others like him who manage international nonprofit conservation organizations are facing troubled times. They're worried about their revenues and the safety of their staffers in distant and sometimes hostile lands.

There are dozens of major nonprofit organizations on the leading edge of the campaign to conserve the earth's biological diversity. The World Wildlife Fund has the highest popular profile, but there are many less well-known groups with far smaller budgets that carry out critical international work on endangered species and threatened habitats including tropical forests, marine ecosystems and rivers.

Most conservation organizations rely on donations from individuals and foundations to finance their operations. Some of them receive substantial funding for specific projects from government sources such as USAID and the European Union. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, revenue from all these sources could be cut.

Crashing stock market values could take their toll, according to John Robinson, a vice president at the Wildlife Conservation Society based at the Bronx Zoo in New York. 'Those foundations which are being affected by the stock market,' he says, 'may have to cut back pretty significantly.'

Other managers say they're concerned about changes in government priorities that would trim budgets for environmental projects in favor of expanding coffers for defense and security measures.

An informal survey of senior staffers in international conservation organizations based in the United States indicates a widespread feeling of cautious optimism that revenue sources will not be severely affected, but many of them are taking protective measures, just in case. They're reviewing their budgets, postponing projects, delaying hiring and avoiding non-essential travel.

At the Wildlife Conservation Society, they've saved more than \$80,000 by postponing their Asia regional meeting. A decision like this only defers expenses until later, but it 'buys time and options for the future,' according to the manager who was organizing the meeting. By January or February, he says, 'we may have to make some hard decisions. But our financial actions over the next few months will determine how hard and how many decisions we'll have to make.'

If their fund-raising is severely affected in the months ahead, many of these organizations would be forced to cut their expenditures by canceling projects, firing staff and rolling back many ambitious programs that were launched when they were flush with donations in the past few years. If this happens, some conservation efforts could lose the momentum they've achieved, and may never recover.

In Indonesia, for example, during a momentous period of political change, some conservation groups are working behind the scenes to influence official policy on timber exploitation. The outcome could make the difference between life or death for that country's forests and wildlife. If budget cutbacks cause the conservationists to falter, the consequences could be an irreversible setback, a major blow to the planet's forest resources.

But it's still far too early for these dire predictions, most executives agree. 'There is a strong cadre of people out there who believe in the importance of biodiversity as much as we do,' says Conservation International's president Russ Mittermeier, 'And they will continue to support the kind of work that we are doing.'

Indeed some conservationists say they believe that overall philanthropic giving may actually increase in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. This seems to be a minority view. But there's wide agreement that in the United States that September 11 is certainly causing a new outlook on international issues that could result in greater support for conservation efforts in other nations. 'If the country does in fact re-engage with its global responsibilities and move away from the whole 'fortress America' mentality,' says Robinson, 'support for aid programs aimed at disenfranchised people and marginal and fragile areas may indeed increase. Conservation and development activities are a way to strengthen civil society, a way to engage with the disenfranchised people of the world, a way to stimulate good governance - and those activities might very well be up-valued in a post-September-11 world.'

This raises a point that is often not fully appreciated: Conservation of natural resources benefits people. Saving forests and coral reefs and clean rivers means a better life for local communities that rely on them for food, water and raw materials. Providing aid to impoverished nations cannot be separated from conservation of their natural assets.

Mittermeier says we cannot ignore 'the linkages between large-scale environmental degradation and increased poverty, disease and political instability. It may not be a coincidence that the Middle East is one of the environmentally most degraded areas on the planet.'

Beyond fund-raising, many conservation executives are now taking a hard look at security problems that might affect their personnel in the field. In some cases, practically all field work is carried out by local nationals, but often it is necessary to send in expatriates on special assignments that might take them to hostile areas. Under present circumstances the risks are even greater, especially for Americans and Europeans.

Conservation International's CEO, Peter Seligmann, admits that for the time being he will avoid sending any technical support staff to Indonesia. 'I'll wait until things settle down there,' he says,

'because it's a Muslim nation with a great deal of anger directed against the United States right now.'

Whatever happens in the widening wake of September 11, conservationists say their mission remains unchanged.

'All speculation aside,' says Mittermeier, 'life on Earth, as manifested by the amazing diversity of species, ecosystems and ecological processes that surround us, remains a unique phenomenon in the universe, and its irreversible loss must be seen as a true global crisis. Conserving biodiversity requires clear strategies, long-term commitment, and a deep-seated belief that this is indeed one of the most important issues of our time.'

"The bottom line is that protecting biodiversity is no less important today than it was before September 11.'

October 10, 2001

“Business sees key consumer role at Jo'burg Summit”

Paris, 9 October 2001 - Business preparations for next year's World Summit on Sustainable Development moved into top gear today with an appeal to governments for clarity about what should be expected of companies - and insistence that consumers have a key role to play.

Opening a two-day conference of Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD), a network of organizations covering the full range of business and industry throughout the world, BASD Chairman Sir Mark Moody-Stuart said: "We are here to act as a channel, an amplifier, a co-ordination unit and a focal point."

Top United Nations officials taking part included Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, who said next September's Johannesburg summit- 10 years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro - would involve not only governments, but all stakeholders.

"It's not just prime ministers and presidents, but chief executive officers, trade union leaders, cooperative and local authorities. They can make just as big a difference," the UN official said.

Sir Mark, former Chairman of Shell, said BASD wanted to identify some of the best examples of progress made by business to date and visions of future direction. BASD is an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

"We need to discuss how we can best project those examples and the lessons learned from them, and how business will best participate at Johannesburg, " Sir Mark declared.

As the conference met, a handful of anti-business demonstrators attempted to block access to the ICC International Secretariat on the right bank of the Seine opposite the Eiffel Tower. Drummers

pounded out samba rhythms that were plainly audible in the conference room while other demonstrators blew bubbles at arriving participants. They distributed leaflets that pilloried BASD as an attempt at corporate greenwash.

Inside the conference, Sir Mark said: "While the effectiveness of business is often acknowledged, a by-product is a deep suspicion that the economic power of business allows it to exert undue influence."

Business, he said, needed a framework within which it could see clearly where it needed to work with others "and where others can see clearly a constructive role in relations to business. I believe that such a framework or model is developing."

An industry sector itself might identify an issue related to sustainable development, or equally others might do so - governments, NGOs, or affected communities.

"There will undoubtedly not be complete agreement on what needs to be done, but a key ingredient in the process is that the targets and timetable should be clear and that there be open reporting against those targets to build trust.

"Consumers play a key role in this process, rewarding leading companies with their business, with those not complying with improved practice being gradually shunned."

Nitin Desai told his audience of senior corporate executives that business people should not be regarded as "creatures from another planet". There should be standards of good corporate behaviour against which "your peers in the corporate world will look at you - buyers, people with whom you make contracts."

He said the UN wanted to "ratchet up" the process started at the Rio Earth Summit, where business was present only as a small minority, and secure major business participation.

ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattau noted that the World Summit was set to end on 11 September next year, on the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on New York and Washington. That made it all the more important that this should be "a summit that makes a difference."

She said that at Rio, business had been on the defensive. "This time, we must show that we are out in front. We want to make sure that a strong and cohesive business message is heard."

Bjorn Stigson, President of WBCSD, said that during the last decade, corporations have contributed in many ways to sustainable development. Through their initiatives, they had created value to shareholders while reducing waste and emissions.

Mr Stigson added; "It is becoming clear that major issues - like the poverty gap, climate change or declining ecosystems - will not be adequately addressed until the proper framework conditions are in place." In Johannesburg, BASD should amplify the message that a global and integrated approach to achieving sustainable development is needed."

For further information on BASD or the Strategy Meeting, contact:
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October 11, 2001

NEWS FROM THE WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE
News from the Worldwatch Institute

October 9, 2001

“A New Marshall Plan? Advancing Human Security and Controlling Terrorism”
By Dick Bell & Michael Renner
Worldwatch Institute

What do you think of this advice from a senior U.S. military officer and statesman about how the people of the United States should deal with a part of the world torn by war, poverty, disease, and hunger:

"...it is of vast importance that our people reach some general understanding of what the complications really are, rather than react from a passion or a prejudice or an emotion of the moment....It is virtually impossible at this distance merely by reading, or listening, or even seeing photographs or motion pictures, to grasp at all the real significance of the situation. And yet the whole world of the future hangs on a proper judgment."

The speaker was General George C. Marshall, outlining the Marshall Plan in an address at Harvard University on June 5, 1947. Surveying the wrecked economies of Europe, Marshall noted the "possibilities of disturbances arising as a result of the desperation of the people concerned." He said that there could be "no political stability and no assured peace" without economic security, and that U.S. policy was "directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos."

As President Bush and his advisors review the results of the initial bombing campaign, they might also consider the relevance of Marshall's strategy to the moral and political problems America now confronts. Of course we should find the people responsible for the deaths of September 11 and bring them to justice, and work with other nations to root out other terrorist networks. But we must do so in a way that does not result in the deaths of even more innocent people, deaths that would only deepen the cycle of anger and rage that led to September 11.

What is largely missing from the administration's rhetoric is recognition of the scale of the underlying problems that have to be addressed, regardless of how successful we may be in the

short run in tracking down the perpetrators of the September 11th terrorist assaults. As Marshall's words so plainly suggest, finding the terrorists should be part of a much more ambitious campaign, one in which the rich countries approach the appalling inequities of the world with the same boldness and determination that the United States brought to bear in Europe under the Marshall Plan.

We don't really need to spend another dime on "intelligence" to recognize the conditions that leave whole countries in a state of despair and misery. Some 1.2 billion people worldwide struggle to survive on \$1 day or less. 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.9 billion have inadequate access to sanitation. About 150 million children are malnourished, and more than 10 million children under 5 will die in 2001 alone. At least 150 million people are unemployed and 900 million are "underemployed"-contending with inadequate incomes despite long hours of backbreaking work.

Globalization has raised expectations, even as modern communications make the rising inequality between a rich, powerful, and imposing West and the rest of the world visible to all. Poverty and deprivation do not automatically translate into hatred. But people whose hopes have worn thin, whose aspirations have been thwarted, and whose discontent is rising, are far more likely to succumb to the siren song of extremism. This is particularly true for the swelling ranks of young people whose prospects for the future are bleak. Some 34 percent of the developing world's population is under 15 years of age.

The United States and the other industrial nations should launch a global "Marshall Plan" to provide everyone on earth with a decent standard of living. We can already hear the cries of people claiming that such a global plan would "cost too much." But let's look at the numbers. The cost of our initial response has soared into the tens of billions of dollars, on top of an already large proposed defense budget of \$342.7 billion.

For the sake of comparison, let's assume that the United States will spend an additional \$100 billion on military actions in the next 12 months. What could we buy if we matched this \$100 billion military expenditure dollar-for-dollar with spending on programs to alleviate human suffering?

A 1998 report by the United Nations Development Programme estimated the annual cost to achieve universal access to a number of basic social services in all developing countries: \$9 billion would provide water and sanitation for all; \$12 billion would cover reproductive health for all women; \$13 billion would give every person on Earth basic health and nutrition; and \$6 billion would provide basic education for all.

These sums are substantial, but they are still only a fraction of the tens of billions of dollars we are already spending. And these social and health expenditures pale in comparison with what is being spent on the military by all nations-some \$780 billion each year.

There is a sad irony in watching the Bush Administration's strenuous efforts to build an international coalition. There is no such muscular effort underway, in the United States, or in any of the other rich nations, to build a coalition to eradicate hunger, to immunize all children, to

provide clean water, to eradicate infectious disease, to provide adequate jobs, to combat illiteracy, or to build decent housing.

The cost of failing to advance human security and to eliminate the fertile ground upon which terrorism thrives is already escalating. Since September 11, we know that sophisticated weapons offer little protection against those who are out to seek vengeance, at any cost, for real and perceived wrongs. Unless our priorities change, the threat is certain to keep rising in coming years.

By choosing to mobilize adequate resources to address human suffering around the world, President Bush has a unique opportunity to seize the terrible moment of September 11 and earn a truly exalted place in human history. But first, we must all understand that in the end, weapons alone cannot buy us a lasting peace in a world of extreme inequality, injustice, and deprivation for billions of our fellow human beings.

-end-

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“S.Africa says mammoth 2002 summit to go ahead”
By Nicholas Kotch

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 11 (Reuters) - South Africa is ``steaming ahead" with preparations to host a gargantuan world summit on the environment next year despite the fallout since last month's attacks on the United States, organisers said on Thursday.

But the scheduled end of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on September 11 may be altered because that is the first anniversary of the suicide attacks on New York and Washington which killed more than 5,500 people.

Planners are gearing up to host U.S. President George Bush and 192 other leaders at what is nicknamed the "Earth Summit" in Johannesburg, along with 6,000 official delegates and 3,000 foreign journalists.

Up to 65,000 foreign and local participants are expected at a separate civic society summit of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to be staged simultaneously north of South Africa's economic capital.

"We have no indication whatsoever that anything will change. Preparations are steaming ahead," Moss Mashishi, chief executive of the world summit's organizing company, told reporters.

"We may have to look at the tail end of the summit to see whether we want to end on the 11th or just before the 11th."

He was answering questions about whether the political and security climate in the wake of last month's attacks, and subsequent U.S.-led reprisals against Afghanistan, would not force the cancellation of the U.N. summit, starting September 2.

World travel by governments, business and tourists has shrunk radically since the attacks and led to cancellation of countless conferences and holidays.

SEEN AS ANTIDOTE TO AFRO-PESSIMISM

The world summit, arranged as a follow-up 10 years after the environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro, will be the biggest conference ever staged in South Africa.

President Thabo Mbeki's government wants the gathering to help dispel "Afro-pessimism," showing the world that the African continent is a place for business with Johannesburg at its hub.

The agenda will be even wider than Rio's with debate and decision expected about how to forge and finance a new world order to protect the environment.

Mashishi said it was too early to say whether assurances by governments that they will be represented at the highest level will come true. But he said his team was closely observing trends after the attacks and warnings of a possible recession.

He said security and counter-terrorism for the summit and its allied events was already a priority for all South African security agencies.

"They will put in place the most comprehensive security blanket," he said. He added that Johannesburg's notorious reputation for violent crime was over-blown and, so far, was not a problem for his marketing team.

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10 October 2001

“Transcript: U.S. Official on Upcoming Climate Conference in Marrakech”
(Says Cabinet-level review of climate change is continuing) (2730)

A U.S. official -- while reiterating that the United States does not believe that the Kyoto Protocol is the right answer to the challenge of climate change -- said U.S. representatives would work constructively with environmental ministers at the upcoming conference on climate change to be held October 29-November 9 in Marrakech, Morocco.

U.S. Senior Climate Negotiator Harlan Watson, in remarks delivered October 2 at a conference sponsored by The Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, repeated the Bush administration's contention that the Kyoto Protocol is flawed, and that the United States does not intend to ratify the agreement.

"At the same time, we do not intend to block those who wish to proceed -- the decision of whether or not to ratify the protocol is a decision that each country will have to make on its own," Watson said.

Ministers from the world's governments are scheduled to meet at the seventh conference of parties on climate change in Marrakech to finalize the procedures and institutions needed to make the 1997 Kyoto Protocol fully operational. The diplomats reached a broad political agreement on the rules for implementing the legally-binding global treaty in Bonn last July.

The protocol calls for industrialized countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming -- mainly carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels -- by an average of 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

Watson said President Bush's Cabinet has for months been reviewing the existing U.S. climate change policy and making recommendations for new ways -- both domestic and international -- to address this complex issue. He added that the president has announced steps that are already being taken to address climate change, including a \$25 million science initiative that calls on other developed countries to provide matching funds to help build climate observation systems in developing countries.

Watson also cited an initiative that calls for increased climate change cooperation in the Western Hemisphere. This initiative calls for assisting developing countries to acquire the tools and expertise needed to measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions, promoting the export of climate-friendly, clean energy technologies, and promoting sustainable forest conservation and land use in the developing world.

Following is the transcript of Watson's remarks:

(begin transcript)

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Dr. Harlan L. Watson
Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative
U.S. Department of State

Remarks to The Royal Institute of International Affairs Conference on
"DELIVERING KYOTO: CAN EUROPE DO IT? Political, Industrial and Environmental
Dimensions"
Chatham House London, United Kingdom
October 2, 2001

I would like to open my remarks by sharing with you the gratitude of the United States for the outpouring of support, sympathy, and solidarity from countries around the world in response to the tragic events in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania on September 11. We have been simply amazed by the response of the global community. We recognize that citizens of 80 countries lost their lives that day, and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of all the victims.

Although the current focus of the world is on the global campaign against terrorism, addressing the global concern of climate change has received a great deal of attention around the world and certainly in the United States. President Bush is committed to addressing the issue in a manner that protects our environment, consumers, and economy. As a result, he directed his Cabinet to review our climate change policy and to make recommendations for new ways -- domestic and international -- to address this complex issue. That Cabinet-level review is still in progress, and President Bush has made several interim announcements, which I will talk about more in a few minutes.

The United States ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in October 1992 -- we were the first industrialized nation to do so. We continue to fulfill our obligations under the Convention, and to participate in negotiations on matters related to it. President Bush has made clear that the U.S. will continue to work constructively under the Convention -- we did so at the resumed Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6) in Bonn last July, and we intend to continue doing so at COP-7 in Marrakech, which begins later this month.

We know that the United States is the world's leading emitter of manmade greenhouse gases, we recognize our responsibility to reduce our emissions, and we are working to address them. At the same time, climate change is a global problem that will require a global, long-term solution. Already, the net emissions from developing countries now exceed those of developed countries, so it is even more critical that all nations address this challenge.

Unless developing countries take measures to address their steeply rising emissions levels, all the efforts of the developed countries to mitigate their emissions will have done nothing to accomplish the Convention's goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. While no one expects developing countries to assume the same level of measures as developed countries, it is important for each country to do what it can in accordance with its responsibilities and capabilities.

The United States does not believe that the Kyoto Protocol is the right answer to the challenge of climate change. The Protocol is flawed -- its targets are arbitrary and in many cases unrealistic, it does not include developing countries, and its costs would harm the U.S. economy. The United States has made it very clear that it does not intend to ratify the Protocol. At the same time, we do not intend to block those who wish to proceed -- the decision of whether or not to ratify the Protocol is a decision that each country will have to make on its own. We do not believe that ratification of the Protocol would be in the interests of the United States, but as we made clear by our engagement at COP-6 in Bonn, we will not impede others if they choose differently. Other countries must do what they think is right.

As I noted earlier, President Bush's Cabinet has been meeting for months to review the existing U.S. climate change policy and to make recommendations for how to proceed from here -- both domestically and internationally. However, President Bush has already provided information on the process and announced some first steps that we will take.

On June 11, in a speech in the Rose Garden at the White House, President Bush provided an interim report on the review's progress. He summarized the kinds of briefings the Cabinet had received on the science of climate change, and highlighted some areas where more scientific work needs to be done to reduce the uncertainties of how and how much the climate could change in the future, and what that means for us.

President Bush also announced three initiatives:

-- Advancing the Science of Climate Change through the U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI) to set priorities for additional investments in climate change research and to fully fund priority research areas that are underfunded or need to be accelerated. This initiative includes up to \$25 million and calls on other developed countries to provide matching funds to help build climate observation systems in developing countries.

-- Advancing Technology to Address Climate Change through the National Climate Change Technology Initiative (NCCTI) to improve climate change research and development, enhance basic research, strengthen applied research through public-private partnerships, develop improved technologies for measuring and monitoring gross and new greenhouse gas emissions, and support demonstration projects for cutting-edge technologies.

-- Promoting Cooperation in the Western Hemisphere and Beyond to build partnerships within the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world and identify areas for enhanced cooperation.

I want to highlight the third initiative, Cooperation in the Western Hemisphere and Beyond, which is the one most focused on international partnerships -- although the other two have international elements as well.

We know that even with the best science and the most innovative technology, neither the United States nor any other country can solve this problem alone. That is why President Bush has directed the Secretary of State, working closely with other U.S. Government agencies, to consult

with nations in the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world to identify areas for enhanced cooperation.

In the President's Plan, this cooperation has five components:

- Building on the June 7, 2001 CONCAUSA declaration with seven Central America countries, which calls for "intensified cooperative efforts to address on climate change."
- Strengthening and expanding scientific research within the Western Hemisphere to explore opportunities for collaboration through existing partnerships with research institutes, such as the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and others, to better understand regional impacts of climate change.
- Revitalizing U.S. efforts to assist developing countries to acquire the tools and expertise needed to measure and monitor emissions, and to identify and act on emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
- Promoting the export of climate-friendly, clean energy technologies, building on the President's National Energy Policy.
- Promoting sustainable forest conservation and land use in the developing world.

On July 13, President Bush described further progress made in the review process, and announced the first set of actions the Cabinet had taken to advance progress of the three initiatives.

First, with respect to the CCRI, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is to invest more than \$120 million over the next three years in four areas:

Carbon Cycle (more than \$50 million) -- Recognizing the key role carbon dioxide plays as a greenhouse gas in the atmosphere and as a key constituent in human, plant, and animal life in the biosphere, NASA is selecting 80 new projects to conduct remote sensing-oriented research on how carbon cycles through the Earth's system and influences climate change.

-- Water and Energy Cycle (\$20 million). To improve understanding of the global cycle of water and energy, particularly the roles that clouds and water vapor play in climate change.

-- Chemistry-Climate Connection (\$22 million). To help determine whether aerosols have a net warming or cooling effect, and whether climate change will hamper the recovery of the ozone layer.

-- Computational Modeling (\$10 million). To improve the computer simulation of a broad range of physical and biological climate systems, taking advantage of ever-increasing computational capabilities of new computer models and hardware.

In addition, on July 19 the United States and Italy agreed to undertake joint research on climate change in several critical areas, including atmospheric studies related to climate, low carbon technologies, global and regional climate modeling, and carbon cycle research.

Second, with respect to the NCCTI, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has committed \$25 million to a number of projects to develop enhanced carbon sequestration technologies, and plans to leverage approximately \$50 million in contributions from the private sector and foreign governments. Two initial projects under this effort include:

-- The Nature Conservancy Project. DOE will work in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and companies such as General Motors Corp. and American Electric Power to study how carbon dioxide can be stored more effectively by changing land use practices and investing in forestry projects. The project will use newly developed aerial and satellite-based technology to study forestry projects in Brazil and Belize to determine their carbon sequestration potential, and will also test new software models to predict how soil and vegetation store carbon at sites in the United States and abroad.

-- International Team of Energy Companies. DOE will work in collaboration with nine energy companies from six nations to develop breakthrough technologies to reduce the cost of capturing carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion and safely storing it underground. The nine companies are: BP-Amoco (UK), Shell (The Netherlands), Chevron (U.S.), Texaco (U.S.), Pan Canadian (Canada), Suncor Energy (Canada), ENI (Italy), Statoil Forskningscenter (Norway), and Norsk Hydro ASA (Norway).

The initial stages of cooperation in the Western Hemisphere include:

-- Debt-for-Forest Swap with El Salvador -- The government of El Salvador will generate over \$14 million in funds to conserve tropical forests, leveraging each dollar in debt relief for nearly two dollars in tropical forest conservation in El Salvador. Among the forested areas to be protected is El Salvador's cloud forest, which is globally outstanding in terms of its biological diversity. The U.S. government is working to execute additional debt-for-forest swaps this year with other eligible countries in the Western Hemisphere and globally.

-- Climate Change Cooperation Among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico -- On June 29, 2001, the environment ministers of each of the three countries initiated a dialogue on global environmental concerns. The three ministers pledged "to explore further opportunities for market-based approaches for carbon sequestration, energy efficiency, and renewable energy in North America."

-- Scientific Cooperation Among the U.S., Mexico and South America -- The U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Science Foundation are bringing together more than 100 scientists from the U.S., Mexico, and South America to conduct experiments based out of Hualtulco, Mexico for the Eastern Pacific Investigation of Climate Change experiment. This work will produce a better understanding of the interaction of stratus clouds, precipitation, and cool ocean surface temperatures by studying stratus cloud decks located off the west coast of South America, a region of cool sea surface

temperatures located along the equator in the eastern Pacific Ocean and a region of intense precipitation located in the eastern Pacific north of the equator.

These initial actions are just the beginning of the cooperation that will take place under the three initiatives. As the elements of these initiatives are worked out in more detail, we anticipate there will be further announcements. At the same time, the United States has a strong history of collaboration with developing countries.

U.S. assistance to developing countries spans the full range of its Convention obligations -- from assisting in the development of National Communications, to facilitating the transfer of technology, to assisting developing countries' adaptation to the impacts of climate change, to capacity building across a wide range of themes, including greenhouse gas inventories and economic analyses, adaptation, energy, agriculture, and forests.

U.S. assistance also goes beyond its Convention obligations and includes information exchanges, with data being shared from early warning systems, weather satellites, and other observing systems; and economic diversification support, including support of emerging markets and trade-related capacity building.

This assistance takes many forms and is channeled through many organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The USAID has spent some \$1.4 billion since 1993 on climate-related mitigation activities. USAID is currently completing a five-year climate change initiative in more than 50 developing countries with economies in transition to promote sustainable development that minimizes greenhouse gas emissions growth and reduces vulnerability to climate change.

DOE activities include: (1) Clean Cities International (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and India), which works with coalitions of local stakeholders to develop strategies and initiatives to integrate alternative fuel vehicles into their transportation sector; (2) the International Motor Challenge Program (South Africa, China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela), a voluntary program that develops and disseminates information, tools and best practices to help local manufacturers make more informed choices about energy-efficient motors to reduce energy costs and increase productivity while mitigating emissions; and (3) collaborations of DOE and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory with the governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile to facilitate greater use of renewable energy.

In addition, the U.S. provides as much as one third of the financial support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and is the largest single contributor to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

We believe that our approach must be flexible, and must be based on global participation. President Bush has pledged to be creative -- we are committed to protecting our environment and improving our economy, to acting at home and in collaboration with the world, and we look

forward to continued work with our friends and allies as we address the challenge of climate change.

(end transcript)

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October 15, 2001

UNEP NEWS RELEASE

“Threats To Ozone Layer Persist As Governments
Seek Tighter Controls”

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, 15 October 2001 -- Recognizing the need to eliminate any remaining weaknesses in the international regime for protecting the earth's ozone layer, Governments will meet here from 16 to 19 October in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer.

"Despite the enormous cuts in ozone-depleting chemicals achieved under the Montreal Protocol, the stratospheric ozone layer remains in poor health as a result of past emissions", said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), under whose auspices the 1987 Protocol was adopted.

"To minimize the damage to humans and the environment caused by increased ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation reaching the surface, we need to tackle simultaneously all the remaining sources of these chemicals", he said.

While smaller than last year's record thinning, the current spring ozone "hole" over Antarctica measures 24 million square miles -- almost the combined size of the Russian Federation and Brazil. Earlier this year, during the Northern Hemisphere spring, the ozone layer over the Canadian Arctic declined by 20% for a short time, while over northern Siberia the decline exceeded 30% in early March. Declines of 10 to 12% were measured over large areas of densely settled Europe, and declines of 6-10% were recorded over North America.

The Colombo meeting will consider accelerating the ozone layer's revival by:

* Helping governments to comply with the agreed phase-out schedules. With the consumption of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances in developed countries now almost completely phased out, attention is turning to the developing countries. The ozone layer cannot recover unless these countries -- which account for 83% of the remaining global CFC consumption -- make an early transition to ozone-friendly chemicals. They are currently committed to a 1999 freeze in their production and consumption of CFCs; in 2002 they will also be required to freeze halons and methyl bromide.

In Colombo, delegates will review the first round of data and reports from developing countries on their compliance with the CFC freeze. These reports show that the vast majority of

developing countries are meeting their commitments. For countries having difficulties implementing the CFC freeze, a special meeting will be convened on 17 October for discussions with their Ministers.

Fortunately, developing countries can rely on the treaty's Multilateral Fund for support in meeting the Montreal Protocol's targets. Delegates will prepare the terms of reference for a study that will help Governments determine the level at which the Multilateral Fund should be replenished for the 2003-2005 funding period. The Fund has disbursed more than \$1.2 billion since 1991 for phase-out projects in some 120 developing countries.

* Discouraging the development and marketing of new ozone-depleting substances. The Montreal Protocol covers 96 specific chemicals, many of which have been added through amendments in recent years. But the global chemicals industry develops thousands of new chemicals every year, some of which then enter the market. The risk is that some of these new substances could prove dangerous to the ozone layer.

Concerns have been raised about such recently introduced chemicals as Hexachlorobutadiene (used as a solvent and produced as a by-product of chlorinated chemical production), n-Propyl Bromide (being aggressively marketed as a solvent, a feedstock and as a carrier and intermediate for pharmaceutical and other industries), 6-bromo-2-methoxyl-naphthalene (used in the manufacture of methyl bromide, which is controlled by the Protocol), and Halon-1202 (used in fire fighting).

Delegates will discuss a long-term strategy for ensuring that new chemicals are tested for their ozone-depleting potential before they enter the market.

* Clamping down on illegal trade in CFCs and other substances. Millions of CFC- dependent refrigerators, automobile air conditioners and other equipment are still in service around the world. Criminals clearly have a strong incentive to smuggle CFCs and other banned substances across borders. Governments are seeking to minimize illegal trade through better monitoring and through arrests and severe penalties. Efforts are also underway to restrict the export and import of used products and equipment that are dependent on CFCs and other ozone- depleting substances as a way of cutting demand for these substances.

Since developing countries are now also subject to phase-out schedules, they too are increasingly exposed to illegal trade. Governments are discussing the need for stronger controls on imports and exports, more training of enforcement officers, improved regional customs cooperation, enhanced regional networking for sharing information and experiences, and greater awareness raising to help buyers avoid accepting illegal substances unknowingly. In Colombo, Governments will consider in what way to conduct a study of the best means of monitoring international trade and preventing illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances.

* Promoting alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals. The meeting will consider new applications for "essential-use exemptions" for 2002 and beyond; for example, a health exemption is normally granted for CFC metered-dose inhalers for asthmatics. Technological progress offers hope that the need for such exemptions can be reduced.

Related issues on the agenda include reducing emissions from ozone-depleting chemicals used as process agents (chemical catalysts), developing national management plans for reducing halons in critical uses (such as fire-fighting) and considering critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide to be implemented beginning 2005.

The issue raised previously by the European Community regarding the tightening of the Protocol's phase-out schedule for developing country consumption of HCFCs -- a leading substitute for CFCs -- will also be discussed at the meeting. The proposal by the European Community is based on the concern that, while much less destructive to the ozone layer than CFCs, HCFCs do contribute to ozone depletion, and alternatives are now available on the market.

* Accelerating ratifications of the Protocol's amendments. While the Montreal Protocol itself has a membership of 180 States plus the European Community, its subsequent Amendments have received fewer ratifications. For example, Governments had agreed to ratify the 1999 Beijing Amendment (which phases out Bromochloromethane and introduces new controls on HCFCs) in time for it to enter into force by January 2001, but the Amendment still does not have the 20 ratifications required. Until Governments ratify, they are not legally bound to phase out the chemicals agreed in the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing Amendments.

The 13th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will include a preparatory segment (16-17 October) and a high-level segment (18 - 19 October). Some 400 delegates from about 130 countries are expected to attend.

Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and its subsequent Amendments, Governments have agreed to phase out chemicals that destroy stratospheric ozone, which is essential for shielding humans, plants, and animals from the damaging effects of harmful ultraviolet light. Recent years have seen record thinning of the ozone layer, including an ever-larger ozone "hole" over Antarctica. Scientists predict that the ozone layer will start to recover in the near future and will fully recover some time in the mid-21st century -- but only if the Protocol continues to be vigorously enforced. However, they also believe that climate change (which is warming the earth's surface but cooling the stratosphere and thus accelerating the chemical processes that lead to ozone depletion) may contribute to delaying the recovery.

Note to journalists: For additional information before or after the meeting, please contact Michael Williams, UNEP Information Officer, Geneva, at +41-22-917-8242/9244/8196, +41-79-409-1528 (cell phone) or e-mail: michael.williams@unep.ch. During the meeting, please call the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall at +94-1-69-1130 or +94-1-69-6489 and ask for the UNEP Ozone Press Office. A press accreditation form, other information about the Montreal Protocol and documentation for the meeting are available at www.unep.org/ozone/

UNEP News Release 2001/104

Speech by Minister Valli Moosa
Johannesburg, Thursday, 11 October 2001

Honourable ministers; His Excellency, the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg; honourable MECs; the Chief Executive of the Johannesburg World Summit Company; distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to address you on this historic day as we celebrate, as South Africans, the hosting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), a 10-year follow-up to the Rio Earth Summit.

Government has established the Johannesburg World Summit Company (Jowesco) to fulfil a national mandate to host the biggest summit ever to take place on this continent and in the world. Based on an endorsement by the UN General Assembly, South Africa, on behalf of Africa, has a challenge to put up a life-changing summit.

We are here to celebrate this national milestone, a milestone that will take the aspirations of Africa in sustainable development to fruition. This summit will showcase our strengths as a country and, by so doing, influence the way the world views the SADC region and Africa as a whole. It is a challenge that we know we will be able to stand up to.

It has been noted in the planning sessions of the summit that poverty is the most critical threat to sustainable development. The gap between the poor and the rich is widening by the day.

This poses a great threat to all nations as the instability, conflict, disease and environmental degradation associated with poverty threaten the overall socio-economic fibre of our planet. This will be the focus point of the summit.

For developing countries, issues of energy, biodiversity, HIV/AIDS, waste, fresh water and desertification will be at the core of their agenda for the summit. Government sees the value of formulating common positions around these issues. The challenge, specifically for Johannesburg, is to create an enabling environment for these discussions to take place in a manner that will bring about change to the world. For ordinary people globally, this summit will be meaningless if it fails to come up with programmes aimed at addressing these issues and thereby create a difference in the way they live their daily lives.

An even bigger challenge to us will be to address these issues within the context created at Rio in 1992. It is clear that the developed world is still faced with a challenge to meet its financial commitments made at Rio -- for example, the commitment to achieve an official development assistance target of 0,7% of GNP has not been met due to sustained lack of political commitment.

We need to create a balance between reviewing progress from Rio while charting the way forward in a manner beneficial to our people. It is our collective challenge to ensure that our interventions at all plenary sessions are geared towards achieving this goal. We will need to ensure that we constantly remind the developed world that creating an enabling economic

environment is fundamental if we are to adequately address issues of sustainable development. This will have to be acknowledged by all in preparatory sessions prior to the summit.

The summit must be able to create principles for a constructive partnership between the developed and developing world that must recognise our common but differentiated responsibilities for working towards sustainable development. These principles must be transformed into tangible deliverables that will impact on the way we use our natural resources to address our current needs while also planning for a sustainable future for all.

The summit must also be used effectively as ground to lobby support for the New Africa Initiative.

The summit must be used as a vehicle to turn this initiative into workable programmes that are fully supported by the developed world. South Africa as a host country must take a lead in these developments. Our leadership will be determined by the extent to which this event boosts our economy.

The World Tourism Organisation has declared the year 2002 the International Year of Ecotourism. South Africa is gearing towards international cooperation in promoting ecotourism within the framework of sustainable development, hence our participation in the World Ecotourism Summit to be held in Quebec, Canada next year. This is the main event of the International Year of Ecotourism.

As a country we are faced with various ecotourism challenges, calling on us to eradicate unsustainable patterns of tourism development which over time have disempowered communities in many ways and destroyed ecosystems. The WSSD should put us on the world map as a leader in environmental management.

Already the team at Jowsco is coordinating tourism-related packages to coincide with the WSSD. Together with other government and private-sector tourism agencies, these proactive South Africans are putting together a pre-, during and post-summit tour programme for delegates and foreign visitors in 2002.

Ladies and gentlemen, all eyes will be on Johannesburg during the International Year of Ecotourism. This city should sample what this country, this region and the African continent have to offer. This showcase by Johannesburg should leave a legacy that answers to our ecotourism aspirations, and, therefore, the broader developmental dream of the African continent. These are the considerations that this government made in preparation for our submission to the United Nations. The WSSD should, therefore, be understood to be a significant catalyst for tourism generation in this country.

Issues of environment, poverty and development will form the critical base for discussion at the summit. The summit must be able to bring about hope to millions who suffer from water-borne diseases; it must bring hope to children who suffer as a result of under-development; and it must bring about hope to the millions of the homeless people in the world.

The challenge for us all will be to ensure that all South African citizens are informed and prepared for the WSSD.

If it cannot be recognised by a majority of people in this country, we all would have failed the cause of sustainable development in Africa and the world at large. South African citizens must be able to know the agenda of the summit; they need to know what it hopes to achieve; and, most of all, they need to be informed of the role they need to play in this process.

All sectors of our country have a role to play towards creating an environment that will assist in making the most successful summit the world has ever seen. As government we have ensured that we create the necessary policies to fast-track sustainable development in our country. A lot of groundwork has been achieved towards making South Africa a leader in environmental management. The progress made towards developing the National Strategy on Sustainable Development bears a lot of testimony to this. These can be seen in areas like waste management, air pollution, coastal management and conservation. A lot more still needs to be done.

The WSSD still challenges all leaders from all walks of life to arrive at a global deal to address the loss of the world's forests and associated biodiversity. As a continent, a lot of our economic development lies in these. We therefore need to link issues of forests as a natural progression towards the broader sustainable development agenda. We shall continue to actively participate in events like the forthcoming trade rounds next month in Qatar, and forge links between trade debates and the sustainable development agenda, through and through. Similarly, we shall endorse and promote all efforts to achieve a deal on global access to energy for sustainable development.

All the activities and issues I've mentioned are critical in making sure that we host a successful summit. But most importantly for us is to realise that we are going to be assessed also on the amount of input and participation we make, so that the WSSD does not become yet another talk shop. This summit must leave a legacy. Government is committed, the City of Johannesburg as the host city is committed -- we need to share this commitment as a country, and I believe that each day should bear testimony of a commitment by every head in this country.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the road to the summit is not going to be an easy one. There are a lot of challenges ahead of us. I am confident, though, that South Africa, through the lead ministries, provincial and local government, business, the NGO sector and Jowsco will host the most unforgettable summit the world has ever seen. We will pull all our resources together and galvanise support from all quarters. We will lobby hard for an agenda of the developing world. We will strive for fair and liberating principles aimed at eradicating poverty towards a better life for all.

We will not have done justice if we leave our people behind as we march towards this summit. Partnerships with all sectors of our society, including the media, are crucial at this point.

Let us work together in making this a summit that will mark the true beginning of an African century. Together we can eradicate poverty and create a sustainable world for us all. In 2002 Johannesburg will become the centre of focus, but what is a city, or a country, without its

people? With this event today we want to say to the country and the world we are ready to take on the challenges of Johannesburg 2002.

I thank you.

Issued by the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

October 17, 2001

UNEP NEWS RELEASE

“Latin America And The Caribbean, On The Road Towards The 2002 World Summit On Sustainable Development”

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Mexico City, October 16, 2001

United Nations Environment Programme

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

From 18 to 24 October 2001, a series of meetings will take place in Rio de Janeiro in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development scheduled to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002.

“International Forum Rio + 10, Where we Are, Where We Are Going”

A series of events begin with the Rio + 10 International Forum, Where We Are, Where We Are Going, organized by the Brazilian Business Council and sponsored by the UN Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The inauguration will be on October 18, 2001 at 9:00 AM with the presence of the Vice President of Brazil, Marco Maciel, at the premises of the SESI/FIRJAN Theatre located at Graca Aranha, N° 1 Centro, Rio de Janeiro.

One of the objectives is the elaboration of a common position of Latin America's productive sector, keeping in mind the World Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg.

For more information contact María José Suely: C.E.: cebds@cebds.com

Meeting of the Main Groups of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Brazilian Forum of non governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives from NGO's from the subregions of the Southern Cone, Caribbean, Andes and Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America), and the Earth Council have convened, within the framework of the Regional Preparatory Process towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development, a Meeting of Networks of Main Groups of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Rio de Janeiro on 18-20 October 2001.

Support for the event has been provided by the United Nations Environment Programme through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations

Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Meeting will be held at RIOCENTRO Pavilhao de Congressos – 5 Av. Salvador Allende, 6555 Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro / RJ, BRASIL Tel.:(55-81)442-1330y442-1300 Fax:(55-21)442-1155 Sitio:www.rio.rj.gov.br/riocentro

Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Next Monday, October 22, 2001, at 9:00 AM, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will begin at the Rio Centro premises. Most of the Ministers of the Environment of the region as well as numerous guests from other agencies of the United Nations System and international organizations will attend the Meeting. This event has been organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil. UNEP is the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Klaus Toepfer, who is also an Under Secretary of the United Nations, will also be present at the event.

The Forum will address topics such as: the Actual State and the Management of the Plant Cover in Latin America and the Caribbean; Urban Disasters and Vulnerability: a Preliminary Focus to the Problem of Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the other hand, the Forum will revise the recommendations made at the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the Intersessional Committee of the Forum for their approval. At the same time, the First Regional Action Plan of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment will be evaluated. The Interagency Technical Committee, formed by UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and ECLAC, has prepared a report that contains an evaluation of the activities undertaken between 1998 and 2001. Based on these analyses, a proposal of the Regional Action Plan for 2002-2005 will be submitted for consideration of the Ministers of the Environment of the region.

The closing ceremony of the Forum of Ministers and the inauguration of the Regional Preparatory Conference towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be led by the President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso. This ceremony will take place at RIOCENTRO on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at 16:00 hours.

Deliberations of the Forum of Ministers will take place at RIOCENTRO Pavilhao de Congressos-5 Av. Salvador Allende, 6555 Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro / RJ, BRASIL Tel.: (55-81)442-1330y442-1300 Fax: (55-21)442 155 Website: www.rio.rj.gov.br/riocentro

Regional Preparatory Conference towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Regional Preparatory Conference towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held on 23-24 October 2001. Representatives from governments, the private sector, NGOs and civil society must reach a consensus regarding the Regional Declaration that will be taken to the World Summit on Sustainable Development next year (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2-11 September 2002).

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), have elaborated the document titled "The Sustainability of Development of Latin America and the Caribbean", based on national and subregional evaluations. The document is a synthesis of the evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration in the various meetings held in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The document will be available to the press in the morning of October 24, 2001 at UNEP/ROLAC's website: www.rolac.unep.mx

For more information, agendas of different meetings as well as press conferences please visit: www.rolac.unep.mx

October 18, 2001

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"IPCC chairman expects U.S. to revert to Kyoto Protocol"

TOKYO, Oct. 18 (Kyodo) By: Maya Kaneko The head of a U.N. expert panel on climate change said Thursday he expects the United States sooner or later to revert to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on curbing global warming due to industrial pressure.

Robert Watson, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), told a Tokyo business conference organized by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper, "I could envision that the U.S. will sooner or later be part of the international debate on climate because industries in the U.S. will demand it."

The IPCC chief said major U.S. companies such as International Business Machines Corp. and Lucent Technologies Inc. have already committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily.

While other countries lead action to fight global warming, Watson said, U.S. politicians will come to think "Why should we be outside the international regime?"

"Some people have argued that President (George W.) Bush now needs the rest of the world to combat terrorism and therefore the rest of the world needs President Bush to help combat greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

In March, Bush announced his country will withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, maintaining it will severely hurt the U.S. economy while exempting developing countries such as China and India from obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Watson pointed out that economic impact will be minimal if countries make use of domestic as well as international emissions trading mechanisms and that it would be advantageous for industries to develop technologies to curb global warming at an early stage.

"Japan brilliantly, in my opinion, seized the opportunity in 1973, at the time of the oil crisis, to sell...fuel-efficient cars to the rest of the world. It was the time they penetrated the market in America," he said.

"So I would say to American industries, 'Do you want German or Japanese industries to produce energy technology for the future, or do you want to be part of the revolution?'," said Watson, who also serves as chief scientist for the World Bank.

Watson stressed the need to raise the awareness of the U.S. public as well as politicians on the seriousness of global warming and to demonstrate economically that tackling the issue "will not be destructive to the U.S."

The scientist said developing countries cannot avoid obligations to cut their greenhouse gas emissions in the future and proposed that countries such as China and India strike a deal with industrialized nations on their future commitment, in return for financial and technological aid.

Watson said he expects those developing countries to agree in the next year or two to have obligations, although it will likely take another 10 to 15 years before they actually begin seriously committing themselves to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

A rulebook for the Kyoto Protocol is expected to be adopted and made into a legal document during U.N. climate talks scheduled to open in Marrakech, Morocco, later this month, paving the way for the pact's entry into force in 2002.

The protocol adopted in Japan's ancient capital requires industrialized countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2% from 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

The IPCC, based in Geneva, was established in 1988 by the U.N. Environmental Program and the World Meteorological Organization. Its aim is to assess scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relating to the risk of human-induced climate change.

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October 25, 2001

UNEP INFORMATION NOTE

“Tanzania Volume Of Coastal Resources Atlas And Database In Eastern Africa Launched”
Dar Es Salaam, 25 October 2001

Today, at the Karimjee Main Hall, Dar Es Salaam, the "Tanzania Atlas of Coastal and Marine Resources", an illustrated textbook on the coastal and marine environment in the United Republic of Tanzania, will be officially launched by the country's Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hon. Zakia Hamdani Meghiji. The occasion will be presided over by the Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr. De Lauwer. Belgium is the major donor to the project.

The Tanzanian coastal resources atlas and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database are major outputs of the "Eastern African coastal and marine environment resources database and atlas project", coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The outputs are the first of their kind in Tanzania within the framework of the Eastern African Action Plan, adopted by nine countries of the Eastern African region in 1985.

Besides this atlas textbook and the coastal GIS database, the project has offered the collaborating national institutions training of personnel in skills related to database management and GIS techniques to ensure project sustainability. In addition, the project has organized a series of workshops and seminars within the country to promote the use of the atlas and by explaining the benefits of GIS database in coastal management.

The textbook on the coastal environment contains information on the resources of the 800 km-long Tanzania coastline fronting the Indian Ocean from Kenya in the north at 4°38'S to Mozambique in the south at 10°30'S, including offshore islands of Zanzibar (i.e. Unguja and Pemba) and Mafia (to the south). Maps interspersed within the textbook are derived from the already operational coastal GIS database located at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) in Zanzibar.

The coastal GIS database provides data and information to planners and decision-makers from various administrative institutions and specialized agencies in Tanzania, including the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, the Department of Archives, Museum and Antiquities, and the National Environment Management Council. The coastal GIS database allows the project's counterpart institutions to produce different thematic maps to meet the demands of the users such as provision of base maps for conservation areas and critical habitats, development of emergency contingency plans in case of an accidental oil spill, and development of thematic maps for evaluating distribution, trends, assessment and monitoring of resources to help identify action priority areas and hotspots.

- 2-

The atlas textbook will be of immense benefit to a variety of users such as tourists, hoteliers, teachers, park managers, NGOs and environmental resource managers, local administrators, fishing cooperatives, and the general public. The atlas presents a profile of areas of intense use along the coastline that require careful management. The profile further provides scenarios and

consequences of specific decisions on resource use in the coastal environment. The atlas indicates gaps in knowledge and information base, and suggests priority areas for research and investigation. The atlas will also act in other ways as a guide to recreational opportunities and tourist attractions.

Tanzania is the second country after Kenya, where the atlas textbook and an accompanying set of coastal resource maps were launched in 1998. The Kenyan coastal resources GIS database became operational in 1995. The project is currently at its final stage of implementation in Comoros, Mozambique and Seychelles. UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment is coordinating the project at the regional level while the project is implemented at the national level by national institutions, which have respective government mandates in coastal area management.

The project in Tanzania is mainly funded through a voluntary contribution of the Government of Belgium to the Eastern African Trust Fund, UNEP and the Tanzanian Government through its national institutions collaborating in the project. The project has benefited from the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance of the Government of Belgium, which has generously provided expertise in the field of GIS database development.

The Institute of Marine Sciences, Zanzibar, is the lead collaborating agency for the project in Tanzania. It has received a high-end computer, a colour plotter and GIS software to facilitate smooth project implementation. All along, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA) based in Dar es Salaam provided the Institute with very credible contributions that saw the full realization of the project in Tanzania.

The project will distribute 2,000 copies of the Atlas to government ministries and departments, local authorities, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, libraries, sub-regional and national environmental authorities in Eastern Africa and the general public. Copies may be requested, free of charge, from the Institute of Marine Sciences or from UNEP.

For more information, please contact:

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Dr. Timothy Foresman, Director, UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment, P.O. Box 30522, Nairobi, Kenya, tel: +254-2-62-3231/2041, fax: +254-2-62-4315, e-mail: eafatlas@unep.org

UNEP Information Note 2001/36

October 26, 2001

BOSTON GLOBE

“A worldwide goal of clean energy”

By Paul R. Epstein, Globe Staff and Ross Gelbspan, Globe Staff, 10/24/2001

THE UNITED STATES been traumatized since Sept. 11 by the realization of just how vulnerable our society is. As shock yields to perspective, we face three simultaneous - and superficially unconnected- challenges.

We must reestablish security, revitalize an eroding global economy, and address an increasingly unstable environmental climate.

While their causes appear as disparate as their symptoms, they are all ultimately susceptible to a common solution, the first part of which involves a properly financed, global transition to clean energy sources.

A worldwide transition to clean energy would reduce the significance of oil. Oil dependency has altered power relations among nations, skewed incomes within nations and financed terrorism.

A renewable energy economy, with distributed home- and industry-based fuel cells, small hydro dams, windfarms and stand-alone solar systems, would make the nation's electricity grid a far less strategic target for future terror attacks.

A properly-funded, US-led global energy transition would also begin to redress the inequities that are splitting humanity into rich and poor. Runaway economic inequities are destabilizing the global political environment just as runaway carbon concentrations are destabilizing the global climate.

Many of our economic policies no longer work. The precipitous bursting of the consumer bubble, compounded by the new climate of fear, inhibits investments. We need a new set of policies to propel the global economy while preventing it from undermining the environment on which it depends.

Serious recessions, or depressions, may need more than tax cuts or interest rate reductions. Most economists conclude that a protracted war against terrorism will not significantly lift the economy. It is time for governments to take the lead by instituting aggressive public works programs as part of economic stimulus packages.

A global public works program to construct a clean energy infrastructure would create millions of jobs all over the world. It would raise living standards abroad without compromising ours. It would allow developing countries to grow without regard to atmospheric limits – and without the budgetary burden of imported oil.

Former World Bank executive director Morris Miller has pointed out that energy investments in poor countries create more wealth per dollar than investments in any other sector. Just as the Marshall Plan revitalized European economies after World War II, this type of plan today would turn impoverished countries into robust trading partners. It would represent a US policy that is expansive, inclusive and cooperative.

Around the planet, the deep oceans are warming, the tundra is thawing (jeopardizing Alaskan pipelines), glaciers are melting, infectious diseases are migrating and the timing of the seasons has changed. All that has resulted from one degree of warming. Earth is projected to warm from 4 to 10 degrees over this century, and weather patterns are expected to become more severe and uncertain if we do not act now.

To stabilize the climate, humanity must reduce carbon emissions by about 70 percent, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The researchers calculated that the world must derive half its energy from non-carbon sources by 2018 or the atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping carbon will quadruple early next century. That would clearly be catastrophic.

The answer to all these problems lies in a rapid switch away from oil and coal and to renewable energy. One set of three inter-active strategies include:

- Redirecting the \$200 billion industrial countries currently spend on subsidies for fossil fuels to renewable technologies to help the major oil companies transform themselves into renewable energy companies.

- Creating a fund of about \$300 billion a year to transfer renewable energy to the developing world. Switching dollars from the financial sector into production could be done in a number of ways. One method is through a tax on international currency transactions, which today total \$1.5 trillion per day. A tax of a quarter-penny per dollar on those transactions would yield \$300 billion a year for that transfer. Alternatively, a carbon tax in industrial countries of about \$50 per ton of carbon emissions would raise an equivalent amount.

- Requiring the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (including the United States to increase their fossil fuel efficiency by 5 percent a year until the goal of 70 percent is met.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said that, even as we confront the networks of terror, we must also address our long-term common problems of global poverty and global climate change. A transition to clean energy would dramatically expand the total wealth in the global economy, pacify our inflamed climate and enhance our long-term security. It would extend the baseline conditions for peace among people and peace between people and nature.

Dr. Paul R. Epstein is associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. Ross Gelbspan is author of "The Heat Is On: the climate-crisis, the cover-up, the prescription."

October 29, 2001

The world's governments are meeting in Morocco over the next two weeks to finalize the procedures and institutions needed to make the Kyoto Protocol fully operational. In connection with this meeting, the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, GRID-Arendal announces the availability of two new

information resources on climate change. Other products will be announced in the second week of the conference.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION GRAPHICS

<http://www.grida.no/db/maps/collection/climate6/index.htm>

The latest reports on the greenhouse gas emissions show that there has been a small reduction in the emissions from the Annex I countries since 1990. Unfortunately most of this reduction is due to economic collapse in some of these countries, not effective environmental policies. Emissions have already begun to increase again in the last few years, and they are projected to continue increasing for the foreseeable future, placing us well above the Kyoto targets by 2010. This series of graphs shows the greenhouse gas emissions reported by the parties to the Convention on Climate Change, including each country's actual emissions, its projected emissions to 2010, and its commitment under the Kyoto Protocol.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT

http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/

The IPCC is the world's foremost scientific body on the issue of climate change. Its Third Assessment Report presents the current state of our knowledge about climate change, in four volumes: The Scientific Basis; Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; Mitigation; and a Synthesis Report that addresses a broad range of key policy-relevant questions. The complete text of all four reports, along with all figures and data tables, is available online beginning today.

For more information on these products, please contact:

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Oxford Analytica Daily Brief(c)
Monday, October 29, 2001

Negotiating parties will seek in Marrakesh today to finalise the details of the political agreement reached in July in Bonn on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The meeting could mark the completion of a critical chapter of climate change negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL: Climate Change Talks

EVENT: Talks resume in Marrakesh today on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SIGNIFICANCE: Negotiating parties will seek to finalise the details of the political agreement reached in July in Bonn on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, originally adopted in December 1997. The meeting could mark the completion of a critical chapter of climate change negotiations.

ANALYSIS: The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 at the third conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see OADB, December 17, 1997, I), which emerged from the 1992 Earth Summit and entered into force in March 1994. The protocol binds the industrialised countries to reduce their emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases -- CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, HFCs, PFCs and SF₆ -- by approximately 5% below 1990 levels by the first 'commitment period' of 2008-12. These gases are widely believed to lead to climate change, which could have severe economic, social and environmental consequences.

Although adopted in 1997, the protocol could not be implemented until the rules for reducing emissions had been set, over which there emerged sharp differences between the main parties. In particular, the EU and the so-called Umbrella Group (including the United States, Japan and Australia) held opposing views on the extent to which countries could meet their targets by trading emissions 'credits' and by using the carbon-absorption properties of forests and agricultural land to gain credits (see OADB, March 28, 2001, IV). At the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) in The Hague in November 2000, ministers failed to resolve their differences and the meeting ended in acrimony. The future of the protocol itself looked in doubt after the United States, the largest greenhouse-gas emitter, announced its rejection of the treaty (see OADB, April 2, 2001, III).

Bonn agreement. Negotiations to implement the Kyoto Protocol resumed in July in Bonn as 'COP6 Part II' (see OADB, July 16, 2001, II). Given the reluctance of some countries, notably Japan and Australia, to participate in a global warming treaty without the United States, and given the objections of other countries to the kinds of radical changes to the protocol necessary to entice the United States back, prospects for an agreement in Bonn looked bleak. Nevertheless, the Bonn meeting resulted in an agreement acceptable to 178 nations that amounted to a political commitment to implement a modified version of the Kyoto Protocol. This agreement was largely due to the more flexible negotiating stance of the EU and its intensive diplomatic wooing of other key countries such as Japan and Russia.

The political breakthrough in Bonn centred on agreement on five contentious issues:

- Emissions permit trading. The EU abandoned its proposal to place a limit on permit trading.
- Nuclear power. Bonn negotiators agreed that industrialised countries "shall refrain" from using nuclear power (see OADB, August 15, 2001, IV) to claim emission reduction credits in 'joint implementation' and 'clean development mechanism' (CDM) projects.

- Sinks. Maximum levels were set capping credits that could be generated by forest management and agricultural practices.
- Compliance. The question of the legally binding nature of the enforcement consequences was deferred until after the Kyoto Protocol has entered into force. It is generally accepted that the international compliance system will be weak.
- Finance. The EU led an international political pledge to assemble 450 million dollars annually by 2005 for developing countries to help them meet the costs of emissions abatement and adaptation to climate change.

Interim developments. Since the Bonn agreement, political momentum has gathered behind the Kyoto Protocol. The EU, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and, crucially, Japan, have indicated their intention to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in the near future, possibly in time for its entry into force by the Earth Summit being held in Johannesburg in 2002, the ten-year anniversary of the original Earth Summit. Russia, the second-biggest greenhouse-gas emitter in 1990, has given mixed signals, but President Vladimir Putin has signalled his willingness to host a major climate-change conference in Moscow in 2003.

The EU has the most developed plans for implementing the Kyoto Protocol. On October 23, the European Commission adopted a package of measures on climate change. The package includes a plan for the EU's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. The other measures were a detailed plan for an EU-wide emissions-trading scheme to begin in 2005 -- the first international emissions-trading regime -- and a series of ten specific actions to reduce further greenhouse gas emissions.

The United States shows no signs of returning to the Kyoto process. The terrorist attacks on New York and Washington on September 11 have diverted policymakers' attention from climate change towards more immediate security matters. While the attacks have also led to a greater enthusiasm in the United States for multilateral cooperation, this is not expected to extend to the Kyoto treaty (see OADB, October 18, 2001, I). Nevertheless, given the United States' share of gas emissions, other industrialized countries will continue diplomatic efforts to persuade it to rejoin the process and seek to make the protocol as attractive as possible.

Marrakesh meeting. Despite the Bonn agreement, the Kyoto Protocol is still not fully ratifiable because parties were unable to complete the task of translating the political agreement into legal language. This was partly due to the fact that delegates ran out of time, leaving the work to be completed at the Seventh Conference of the Parties (COP7) in Marrakesh starting today. Nevertheless, the Marrakesh meeting will not be purely technical. Disagreement over any of three contentious issues could undermine the chances for a successful meeting:

- Rules for mechanisms. Many of the rules for emissions trading, joint implementation and the CDM have almost been agreed, but the details have yet to be finalised. As with the issue of compliance in Bonn, there could be last-minute disagreements over these details.

-- Sinks. In Bonn, Russia declared that it was unhappy with the figures it was granted for sinks, which were based not on official Russian submissions (since none were available) but on secondary scientific data. Russia is expected to demand an increase in the amount of sinks credits it can claim. The EU resists any reopening of the delicately balanced Bonn agreement, and the developing countries oppose any further increase in sinks allowances, since this would divert investment from CDM projects.

-- Compliance. The EU is likely to continue to insist that the consequences for non-compliance with the Kyoto Protocol are legally binding, a condition that the EU says is essential if international emissions trading is ever to become operational.

Prospects. The Marrakesh meeting is likely to witness more late-night negotiations of the kind that have become synonymous with the international climate negotiations. It is possible that enough political investment has been sunk in the process to dissuade countries from letting it collapse at this late stage. With Marrakesh marking almost four years of intensive negotiations over the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, it is possible that parties may decide not to hold another ministerial climate change conference in 2002, preferring instead to wait until the entry into force of the protocol for their next meeting.

CONCLUSION: The outcome of the Marrakesh talks will likely be a climate change treaty that is implementable but markedly less stringent than was originally hoped by many parties when they signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. However, with the likely continued absence of the United States from climate change talks, attention will focus on potential US climate change activities outside the Kyoto framework, such as measures to control CO₂ currently being considered by the US Congress. It is possible that bilateral agreements could facilitate some cooperation between the United States and other countries. Indeed, in the foreseeable future, parallel climate regimes are more likely than unified global concerted action.

November 5, 2001

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November 5, 2001, Monday Surveys ENV1

SECTION: BUSINESS & THE ENVIRONMENT 3; Pg. 3

HEADLINE: "Moving Kyoto on to a more practical plane: CLIMATE CHANGE" by Vanessa Houlder:

As the latest round of United Nations talks on global warming edges towards a conclusion later this week, there will be pressure on the negotiators to recapture the spirit of co-operation that emerged at their last meeting in Bonn, in July.

Against the odds, negotiators from 178 countries reached a political agreement on how to implement the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on the control of greenhouse gases.

This appeared to mark a turning point for the agreement, under which industrialised countries promised to cut their emissions by about 5 percent between 1990 and 2010. The deal rescued the

fragile protocol, which had been severely weakened by the failure of the previous climate summit in The Hague last November and its rejection by the US earlier this year.

To some extent, the success of the July meeting was a response to President George W. Bush's rejection of the protocol but it also reflected growing concern about the scale of the problem.

This was prompted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reflecting the views of most - but not all - of the world's climatologists, which predicted that temperatures could rise by between 1.4 and 5.8 Centigrade this century. This would be likely to increase the threat of floods, droughts, storms, coastal erosion, rising sea levels and cyclones, displacing tens of millions of people, it said.

The negotiators still have much to do, if they are to preserve last July's breakthrough. The goal of the Marrakech meeting is to turn last July's political agreement into a legal text, which will finalise the operational rules for the protocol. "Bonn's achievement is unmistakable," says the International Energy Agency. "It set a framework for implementing the protocol. But on every core question it left important technical details unsettled. And some of these 'technical' matters have real political significance."

Contentious issues that remain to be discussed include technology development and transfer and the legal status of the compliance agreement. The meeting is also due to start setting up new institutions, such as the executive board governing the "Clean Development Mechanism", which promotes the transfer of energy efficient technology to developing countries.

But the possibility that the talks could be unsettled by a proposal from the US outlining a rival scheme to address global warming has diminished.

In part, this is because the administration has concentrated its resources on dealing with the aftermath of September's terrorist attacks. In part, it is because the administration's review of its policy on climate change has primarily focused on domestic measures.

In spite of the US rejection of the protocol, it has said it will not block others from ratifying it.

If the Marrakech meeting is successful in finalising the Kyoto Protocol, it will pave the way for the protocol's ratification and entry into force. This will happen if it is ratified by at least 55 countries, including countries representing at least 55 per cent of the industrialised world's carbon emissions.

In practice, this condition means that it must be ratified by at least the EU, Russia and Japan, if it is to become legally binding. The compromises that were agreed at Bonn make ratification by these parties likely, although not certain.

One contentious issue concerns the legally-binding nature of the penalties that should be imposed on countries that fail to meet their Kyoto targets. The Bonn accord stipulated that for every ton of gas that a country emits over its targets, it will be required to reduce an additional 1.3 tons during the protocol's second commitment period, 2013-2017.

Another important aspect of the agreement concerned the funds and technology required to help developing countries limit emissions and adapt to climate change. The EU and several other developed countries pledged to contribute a total of Euros 450m per year by 2005 to help with these goals.

But perhaps the most controversial aspects of the Bonn accord concern the use of "sinks" and "flexible mechanisms". The deal included an agreement that developed countries can receive credit towards their Kyoto emission targets for carbon dioxide absorbed from the atmosphere by carbon sinks, such as forests and agricultural land.

It also stipulated that the use of the so-called "flexible mechanisms" would not be constrained by rigid limits. The flexible mechanisms, which are designed to harness market forces to improve the cost effectiveness of the treaty, comprise "emissions trading", which enables countries with binding emissions targets to buy and sell emissions reductions among themselves.

It also requires "joint implementation", under which industrialized countries may receive a credit for performing an emissions-cutting project in an economy in transition and the "Clean Development Mechanism", allowing industrialized countries to receive a credit for cutting emissions in developing countries.

Despite the lobbying efforts of many environmental campaigners, the Bonn agreement ensures that there will be no ceiling on the number of tons of emission credits that countries can buy using the flexible mechanisms.

The concessions that were made in the Bonn accord regarding "sinks" and "emissions trading" are controversial, since critics view them as loopholes in the treaty which undermine its central goal of weaning the industrialized world off fossil fuels. Some experts challenge this.

"The Bonn agreement does not represent a big weakening of the original protocol as often portrayed," says Michael Grubb, professor of climate policy at Imperial College, London. Most environmental campaigners have decided that their reservations on these issues should not jeopardise their support for the Bonn agreement.

There is cautious optimism that the Marrakech conference will help open up a new phase in the discussions about the Kyoto Protocol. With the new funding and rules in place, issues such as the potential re-engagement of the US, the second period for emissions cuts and the role of developing countries in constraining emissions may be discussed.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, the UN's senior official on climate change, says it is time for a broader perspective: "Marrakech should be the turning point that enables the Protocol to move into high gear."

November 6 2001

“Episcopalians push for renewable energy”

Posted: 9:14 PM (Manila Time) | November 03, 2001
 Inquirer News Service

SAGADA, Mt. Province --The Episcopal Church of the Philippines recently inaugurated three renewable energy programs in remote villages in Nueva Vizcaya and La Union. The 5-kilowatt Kapacnaan micro-hydro system in Sitio Oyao, Barangay Belance in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya, was designed to provide lighting for 20 households in the area. The system can fully charge 10 units of 12 to 24 volt wet cell batteries every eight hours.

In Sitio Nursery, also in Belance, the ECP has installed 24 units of solar panels. The system can run a 10-horsepower submersible pump, taking in 40 gallons per minute. It is now servicing 30 hectares of vegetable land in the area.

In Barangay Lon-oy in San Gabriel, La Union, the ECP has also inaugurated the Lon-oy micro-hydro community energy system that can generate 15 kw of power. The community is now using the system for small-scale industries like grain milling and blacksmithing. The ECP is also expected to finish four water supply projects this year in La Union, Benguet and Pangasinan.

The Teclad-Lucutan water supply project, also in San Gabriel, will provide year-round potable water for about 180 households in Teclad and Lucutan coming from a mountain spring 5 km away. Also in San Gabriel, a 150-meter deep well is being drilled to provide potable water for 78 households of Lipay Este village.

In Barangay Sayangan in Atok, Benguet, a mountain spring is being tapped to provide water for the Christ's Church and its nearby households.

The St. Thomas Umingan water supply project in Umingan, Pangasinan, will provide water for 60 households.

All these are in line with ECP's social concern and environmental awareness programs.

Frank Cimatu, Inquirer News Service, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

“Church calls for unity on climate change”

By SINGY HANYONA

© Earth Times News

Morocco--"I think God is weeping when he looks at the ecological damage that humanbeings have caused to the planet," said David Hallman, Coordinator of the World Council of Churches (WCC), during the ongoing climate talks in Marrakech.

Speaking to an ecumenical delegation comprising christians and muslims at Hotel Kenzi Farah, Hallman called for an active involvement of christian and other faiths in eco-justice. "What

humans are doing now through carbon emissions, is to destroy what God loves. It is different from the fight against apartheid in South Africa."

He said the 10 billion inhabitants that the world will bear by 2050, must be able to co-exist, as this is the wish of all religions and men of good will. "The issue of climate change is also a matter of international justice, which we need to protect," said Hallman, who is also Energy and Environment Officer for the United Church of Canada.

He said in the face of potent destructive forces unleashed by human activities and consumption, there must be inter-religious dialogue among religions to address issues of climate change. "We need to reflect on how Christians and Muslims can work together in tackling the threat of climate change and its consequences," he said.

Henry Madelin, a French Jesuit Priest and Editor of *Etudes*, argued that if all religions put God as an ultimate creator of nature, then there must never be controversy. "The crisis is that the notion of creation has been lost. We cannot leave religion alone, but include it in the social and environmental arena," he said.

Madelin said the ozone layer and its holes which warm up the earth in all continents do not prevent the believer from praying to God. "But he shall not pray tomorrow if his family is threatened by possible floods due to climate change," he said. He said since the standards of living are now being determined by technology, it is the duty of governments including the church to prepare young generations for a "green" future. "When it comes to issues like climate change, there must be no difference between race or religion. We are in an era where young people still want to drive cars and own fridges, despite the carbon emissions," said Madelin.

A new book has also been launched by Hallman during the climate talks, with the title: "Spiritual Values for Earth Community."

According to the book, the church's involvement in environmental issues stems from the belief that God created and loves man. The author says that the church sees climate change as a profoundly ethical issue, caused by the polluting emissions from rich industrialized countries. "These gases have accumulated in the atmosphere over the past 150 years, with the consequences being suffered by poor developing nations," the author says.

The book further says in its foreword: "We believe that that God intends that humans, should live in a wholesome relationship to the rest of creation."

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is a fellowship of about 350 Christian churches, with a combined membership of 400 million individuals. The WCC has participated in the inter-governmental negotiating sessions on climate change since 1989, under the auspices of the United Nations.

“UNEP Welcomes Entry into Force of Aarhus Convention”

NAIROBI, 6 November 2001--Executive Director Klaus Toepfer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has applauded the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Commission member Governments in bringing into force, on 30 October 2001, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters -- popularly known as the Aarhus Convention after the Danish city where it was adopted in 1998 by 39 countries and the European Community.

The Aarhus Convention is an environmental rights convention. It recognizes citizens' environmental rights to information, participation and justice, and aims to promote greater accountability and transparency in environmental matters.

The Convention has a three-pillar structure that, specifically, aims to:

- Allow members of the public greater access to environmental information held by public authorities, thereby increasing the transparency and accountability of government;
- Provide an opportunity for people to express their opinions and concerns on environmental matters and ensure that decision-makers take due account of these;
- Provide the public with access to review procedures when their rights to information and participation have been breached, and in some cases to challenge more general violations of environmental law.

These underlying principles are derived from Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan referred to the Aarhus Convention as "the most ambitious venture in environmental democracy undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations" and "a remarkable step forward in the development of international law". He further stated that "environmental rights are not a luxury reserved for rich countries" and called on the international community to "use next year's World Summit on Sustainable Development to strengthen our commitment to environmental rights - not only in Europe but throughout the world".

Echoing the Secretary-General's words, Mr. Toepfer highlighted the global significance of the Convention and reiterated UNEP's role as a global advocate of the public right-to-know principle expressed in decision 20/5 adopted at the twentieth session of UNEP's Governing Council in 1999. In a related decision, 20/4, the Governing Council requested UNEP to seek appropriate ways of building capacity in and enhancing access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters and to study various models of legislation, policies and guidelines.

As the global environmental authority, UNEP is well positioned to exercise its catalytic role in promoting the Aarhus Convention principles globally through the implementation of the

Governing Council decisions. The development of the global environmental information portal, UNEP.Net, is a practical response to enhance access to data and information on environmental matters.

UNEP and UNECE have joined forces and forged partnerships to implement the Convention through a number of initiatives including:

- Training courses in Central and Eastern Europe;
- The establishment of an Electronic Tools Task Force (one of five supporting the Convention);
- Raising awareness of the convention at international environmental meetings; and
- The dissemination of information materials highlighting the three fundamental principles of the Convention.

UNEP is also developing strategic partnerships with other stakeholders worldwide to ensure that the interlocking issues of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters are an integral part of our agenda.

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UNEP Information Note 2001/37

November 7, 2001

“EU proposes plan to reduce pollution, dependence on fossil fuels”
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 The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium (November 7, 2001 01:00 p.m. EST <http://www.nandotimes.com>)
 One-in-five automobiles in Europe could be running on alternative fuels rather than gasoline or diesel by 2020 under a plan to promote renewable energy put forward Wednesday that would help the European Union meet its commitments under the Kyoto protocol.

The European Commission aims to use regulations and tax breaks to promote the use of alternative fuels, notably biofuels made from agricultural products such as vegetable oils, sugar beat, corn or animal waste.

"The transport market is today almost entirely dependent upon oil-based fuels," said Loyola de Palacio, EU commissioner for energy and transport.

In a statement, the Commission said its plan would help the EU meet commitments to reduce emissions of so-called greenhouse gases under the Kyoto protocol on global warming. The EU is supposed to cut emissions by 8 percent by 2010 under the Kyoto agreement.

The plan will also reduce Europe's dependence on oil imports and help the continent's farmers, the Commission said.

"The production of bio-energy can offer new sources of farm income," said EU agriculture commissioner Franz Fischler. "It could become a concrete demonstration of a sustainable, multifunctional agriculture."

The proposals - which must be approved by the 15 EU member nations - would require governments to ensure biofuels represent 2 percent of all vehicle fuel sales by 2005, and 5.75 percent by 2010.

To achieve the 20 percent target by 2020, the EU plan would also promote the use of other alternative fuels, such as natural gas and so called fuel-cell vehicles which use the power generated when hydrogen and oxygen combine.

Fuel cells using pure hydrogen creates only water vapor as an exhaust gas, but several technological challenges remain before they can be mass-produced. They need a low-cost hydrogen source, potentially costly fueling stations and fuel tanks that are both compact and safe to handle the ultralight, flammable gas.

“Negotiators reach agreement on global warming treaty”

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By ARTHUR MAX , Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (November 7, 2001 10:05 a.m. EST <http://www.nandotimes.com>)
Negotiators have agreed that signatory nations will face mandatory consequences if they fail to meet targets set by a global warming treaty. After clearing that hurdle, the negotiators on Wednesday handed over the final phase of talks to their ministers to complete the landmark treaty.

Ten days of tough bargaining at the U.N. climate conference produced the breakthrough late Tuesday in the four-year effort to refine the Kyoto Protocol, the bedrock 1997 agreement by industrial countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

Countries like Japan and Canada had sought to avoid a punishment clause in the treaty.

Several other contentious issues remained for Cabinet ministers and other policy-makers, who were convening for the final three days of the two-week conference.

By Friday, the legal text of the rule book for implementing the Kyoto treaty should be finished and ready for governments and parliaments to consider for ratification. Delegates said the agreement - the first compulsory treaty on the environment - may become international law by mid-2002.

The European Union issued another call on Washington to reconsider its rejection of the treaty, which President Bush has described as unfair and too costly for American business.

"We still hope the United States will come back into the process," said Margot Wallstrom, the European environment commissioner, admitting that a reversal of U.S. policy was unlikely anytime soon.

She said the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington might prompt the Americans to be "more willing to enter into multilateral work," including on climate change.

The protocol requires industrial countries to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases - chiefly carbon dioxide from factories and vehicles - by an average 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

The United States emits nearly one-fourth of the world's human-generated carbon dioxide.

But the treaty also provides mechanisms for countries to partially achieve targets without reducing real emissions. They may buy or trade "carbon credits" in the international marketplace, or earn credits by financing projects that help developing countries avoid adding carbon emissions.

Scientists say the accumulation of carbon dioxide is causing temperatures to rise, glaciers to melt and rain patterns to shift in ways that will disrupt agriculture and the world economy over the next century.

Legal experts exchanged handshakes and hugs after adopting the text on compliance, which had threatened to undermine the political agreement negotiated in Bonn three months ago and which had put Japan's ratification of the protocol in doubt.

Without the backing of both Washington and Tokyo, the treaty would have virtually no chance of ratification. It must be endorsed by 55 countries, including those emitting 55 percent of greenhouse gases in 1990, the accord's benchmark year.

Under the compliance accord, countries that miss their targets must make up the loss in the next period by cutting emissions an extra 30 percent. They also must submit a plan on how they will meet their requirements, and will not be allowed to offset the reductions by trading or using other mechanisms.

In a major concession by Japan, the negotiators agreed to recommend to a future conference that the penalties be "legally binding."

UNEP NEWS RELEASE

“Climate Change: Billions Across the Tropics Face Hunger And Starvation as Big Drop in Crop Yields Forecast. Soaring Temperatures Force Coffee and Tea Farmers to Abandon Traditional Plantations”

MARRAKECH/NAIROBI/MANILA, 8 November 2001

Harvests of some of the world's most important food crops could fall by as much as a third in some crucial parts of the planet as a result of climate change, scientists are warning. The decline comes at a time when there is an urgent need to raise yields to feed a growing global population.

The scientists have found evidence that that rising temperatures, linked with emissions of greenhouse gases, can damage the ability of vital crops such as rice, maize and wheat, to flower and set seed.

New studies indicate that for every one degree C rise in areas such as the Tropics, yields could tumble by as much as 10 per cent. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the team of scientists that advise Governments, estimates that average, global, temperatures in the Tropics could climb by as much as three degrees C by 2100.

Meanwhile, a second scientific group has found that key cash crops such as coffee and tea in some of the major growing regions will also be vulnerable over the coming decades to global warming. They fear that desperate farmers will be forced into higher, cooler, mountainous areas intensifying pressure on sensitive forests and threatening wildlife and the quality and quantity of water supplies.

The findings on staple food crops have come from researchers at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in Manila, Philippines, which is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has worked with members of this Group on issues such as agro-forestry over recent years.

The findings on cash crops have come from GRID Arendal, a UNEP collaborative centre based in southern Norway, with internationally-renowned skills in mapping.

Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP, said: "Billions of people across the tropics depend on crops such as rice, maize and wheat, for their very survival. These new findings indicate that large numbers are facing acute hunger and malnutrition unless the world acts to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases."

Speaking at the latest round of climate change negotiations taking place in Marrakech, Morocco, he added: "A similar threat to cash crops is also emerging in areas such as East Africa. Poor farmers here face declining yields and incomes in the traditional coffee and tea growing areas pushing them into even more biting poverty. Just to survive, they will be forced to clear forests in higher, cooler, areas. This can only add to environmental damage which in turn can lead to increased poverty, hunger and ill-health."

"I would urge Governments and delegates at this week's 7th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to remember the billions of people living at or near the poverty line whose lives face ruin as a result of global warming. Delegates are here to agree on the operational rulebook for fighting climate change. This must not only be agreed and be effective, but brought into force as matter of urgency", said Mr. Toepfer.

Dr John Sheehy, a crop ecologist, is spearheading the work by IRRI. He said many food crops grown in the tropics are at or near their thermal limits making it difficult for them to withstand further rises in temperature.

The Tropics are between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and include large swathes of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"In rice, wheat and maize, grain yields are likely to decline by 10 per cent for every one degree C increase. This effect appears to occur when temperatures in the tropics climb over 30 degrees C during flowering. I would say we are at or close to this threshold where damage appears to occur. Heat damage has been seen in Cambodia and India. We are certainly seeing significant temperature rises with average night time temperatures at our own centre in the Philippines now 2.5 degrees higher than they were 50 years ago", said Dr. Sheehy.

He said preliminary studies indicated that other functions of the plant could also be damaged by high temperatures. But flowering is critical because it is a one-off event from which there is no possibility of recovery from failure. "One possible research solution is to find genes which will make flowering occur during the cool of the early morning", said Dr. Sheehy.

The scientists are poised to launch the Global Challenge Programme to more precisely chart the likely effects of climate change on a wide range of crops.

"Initial results indicate that yields in the Tropics might fall as much as 30 per cent over the next 50 years", said Dr. Sheehy. He said the fall was likely to be bigger than that caused simply by day-time temperature rises. The scientists, who have carried out preliminary field and laboratory trials, believe night-time temperatures may play a part in damaging a plant's ability to produce pollen and pollinate itself. (See notes to editors)

"There are still great uncertainties, the actual fall might be less or it might be more. But even a small decline could be potentially devastating", said Dr. Sheehy.

He said their forecasts did not include other potentially damaging developments as a result of global warming including a rise in agricultural pests, impacts on pollinating insects and declines in rain fall.

Under scenarios developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global warming could benefit agricultural production in some areas of the globe such as Canada and Siberia. But Dr. Sheehy said these gains are unlikely to offset the losses in the Tropics even if food surpluses in one region could be effectively distributed to those suffering shortages.

"The population of Asia is expected to increase by 44 per cent in the next 50 years and yields must at least match that growth rate if famine is to be avoided. Currently more than half the people in South-East Asia have a calorie intake inadequate for an active life, and 10 million children die annually from diseases related to malnutrition. So any decline in yields as a result of climate change will have alarming consequences", added the scientist whose team is urgently trying to develop new strains of key crops that are more heat tolerant.

"We need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases but we also need to invest in research and we need to do it now so we have the plants that can survive the harshness of the coming climate", said Dr. Sheehy.

The impacts on cash crops such as tea and coffee in traditional growing areas will also be stark, if the scientific forecasts of climate change prove sound.

Svein Tveitdal, Managing Director of GRID Arendal, said: "The findings cover Uganda and Kenya, but they have implications for the Caribbean, Latin America and Asia where coffee and tea are also economically important produce."

In Uganda the total area for growing Robusta coffee would be dramatically reduced with an average temperature rise of 2 degree C. "Only higher areas, the Ruwenzoris, southwestern Uganda and Mount Elgon, would remain as the rest would become too hot to grow coffee, according to our model", said Mr. Tveitdal.

A warming of 2 degrees C would not reduce the overall area suitable for tea in Kenya, but existing plantations around Mount Kenya and the Aberdares would now lie outside the tea-growing temperature range. "In these areas the tea belt would move upwards, where there are forests today, which indicates another potential future conflict", says the GRID Arendal study.

The impact on the economies of such countries could be serious. Agriculture earns Kenya an estimated \$675 million a year in exports. Of this, \$515 million comes from tea and coffee exports.

For Uganda, annual agricultural exports are worth around \$434 million with tea and coffee worth \$422 million.

Mr. Toepfer said such impacts could be even more devastating to livelihoods if the current decline in coffee and tea commodity prices continues over the coming decades.

The coffee maps are part of a new web-based series of Vital Climate Graphics produced by GRID Arendal and accessible via the "climate portal" linked with the UNEP.net site.

The graphics include easily understandable maps and charts covering the latest reports on greenhouse gas emissions. They clearly demonstrate that despite a small reduction in emissions from countries that are party to the Kyoto Protocol, emissions are on the rise again.

Other highlights, which can be downloaded from <http://climatechange.unep.net>, include an interactive map showing national achievements by countries towards meeting their Kyoto commitments and the latest assessments by the IPCC.

Note to Editors: Coffee graphics showing the impacts of temperature on plantations in Uganda can be found at <http://www.grida.no/climate/vital/36.htm>. Tea graphics for Kenya -- <http://www.grida.no/eis-ssa/contry/kenya1.htm>

The precise way in which rising day and nighttime temperatures damage flowering and the setting of seed awaits more detailed research. However, several effects are likely to be happening.

The number of pollen grains produced by the plant appears to decline and the pollen tubes or anthers appear to be also damaged. They need to extend to the area of the plant containing the female ova. Rising temperatures appear to reduce the distance to which the pollen tubes extend thus reducing the chances of fertilization. Another effect appears to be a reduction in the carbohydrate found in the seeds.

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UNEP News Release 2001/107

November 8, 2001

“Power of prayer brings clean energy to American churches”

By Environmental News Network

Thursday, November 08, 2001

A growing number of America's churches are keeping the lights on with wind and solar power, generated without pollution or global warming emissions. The switch to clean power is part of an interfaith movement that promotes stewardship of the Earth as an important mission for religious peoples.

Responding to climate change, the 1997 General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA passed a resolution calling on members to practice energy efficiency. The outreach began in earnest two years ago at Grace Church in the Episcopal Diocese of San Francisco with the launch of The Regeneration Project, a San Francisco-based public charity, a project of the Tides Center. With its support, Rev. Sally Bingham, priest at Grace Cathedral who chairs the Commission for the Environment of the Episcopal Diocese of California, and Steve MacAusland, cochair of the Committee on Faith and the Environment for the Diocese of Massachusetts, are developing the Episcopal Power and Light (EP&L) ministry.

Within a year, nearly 60 religious groups in California had switched to green power. To date, 27 churches in California have installed solar panels on their roofs as part of a program within the Sacramento Municipal Utility. Many have chosen to purchase renewable energy from Green Mountain Energy Company, which brokers wind- and solar-generated electricity.

Bingham and MacAusland have been working quietly in churches across the country to encourage the purchase of renewable energy, and EP&L has grown into a national interfaith organization.

Last November, the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts passed a resolution calling for the diocese to lead in the formation of the Massachusetts Interfaith Energy Conservation Group. In January, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut was the first customer in the state to buy renewable power from Green Mountain Energy. Rt. Rev. James Curry said at the time, "It is my great hope that our relationship with Green Mountain Energy will promote conversations about clean air and clean energy in the parishes and in the households of our church. And that our decision might encourage other faith communities to make clean energy a priority in their ministries."

Rev. Bingham will be in Knoxville, Tenn., this week to bring the renewable energy message to the movement's new chapter, Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light. She will preach a sermon titled "God's People and Earth's Future" and will meet with the area's public and religious leaders to discuss the role houses of worship can play in environmental stewardship.

Rev. Bingham's visit is the result of organizing work by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, a nonprofit coalition of 21 environmental and citizen organizations representing nearly 10,000 residents of the Southeastern states. The alliance has brought together a group of people from a wide range of religious backgrounds to work on renewable energy issues. They have formed Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light to expand Episcopal Power & Light's mission of stewardship into Tennessee.

One of EP&L's missions is to encourage the purchase of green power, often from programs such as Green Power Switch, a program of the federal power utility, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). In April, a year after its launch, the Tennessee Valley Authority's Green Power Switch program has attracted 3,260 residential customers and 150 businesses willing to pay a little more for power from the sun and the wind.

Rev. Bingham's visit to Knoxville is taking her into a community receptive to her stewardship message. Nearly half of all residential Green Power Switch users came from one distributor, the Knoxville Utilities Board, which has aggressively promoted the program in advertising, at community events, and even in schools.

Twelve of TVA's 158 municipal power distributors and electric cooperatives offered Green Power Switch to their customers in the first year. More than 40 are now waiting to do the same. "They are the only utility in the Southeast that has a program of this size and scale," said Stephen Smith, director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

The Regeneration Project and the faith-based alliances it has created believe that by using renewable energy they can help to limit global warming, which is linked to the burning of coal, oil, and gas for electricity.

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CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY PRESS RELEASE

"Concrete actions to preserve world's forest ecosystems should be accelerated"

Montreal, 8 November 2001 -- Experts from the 182 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are meeting in Montreal from 12 to 16 November to assess the threats facing the world's forests and to identify practical solutions.

"Despite their importance, forests across many parts of the globe and in particular in developing countries continue to be felled and cleared at an alarming rate. It is my sincere hope that humankind can tackle the root causes of this, which, in many countries, lie in poverty and the desperate circumstances that billions of people across the globe find themselves in," said Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

"Natural forests harbour the greatest variety of animal, microbial and plant species of any terrestrial ecosystem. They provide us with a vast array of goods and services. They are the cornerstone of sustainable development," said Hamdallah Zedan, the Convention's Executive Secretary. "Conserving and sustainably using these invaluable ecosystems is a major goal of the Convention's work programme. Research is still needed, but it is now time to accelerate concrete action to preserve the world's forests."

The role of the seventh meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is to provide expert advice to the ministers and diplomats attending the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which takes place in The Hague from 8 to 26 April next year.

Drawing on the work of an Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity set up by the Conference of the Parties in May 2000, the SBSTTA will consider the current status of forest biodiversity and major trends and threats. It will identify practical solutions that could be implemented locally, nationally, or globally. The SBSTTA will address in particular the need to widen the focus of the Convention's current forests work programme from research to practical action.

The Montreal meeting will also discuss three specific threats to forest biological diversity: climate change, human-induced uncontrolled forest fires, and the impact of unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest resources, including in particular bushmeat and living biological resources. Delegates will try to identify how to manage and reduce these threats.

Other biodiversity issues, such as the loss of pollinators in agricultural lands, plant conservation strategy, including possible time-bound quantifiable targets for meeting the objectives of the Convention with regard to plant conservation, incentive measures, impact assessment, will also be addressed by the meeting.

Note to journalists: The meeting will be held at the ICAO building in Montreal (999, University Street). For more information please contact Cristina Stricker, Information Officer, tel. during the conference only (12-16 November): +1-514-868-1581, permanent tel.: +1-514-287-7031, fax: +1-514-288-6588, e-mail: cristina.stricker@biodiv.org

Meeting documents and other information are available at www.biodiv.org and www.biodiv.org/meetings/sbstta-07.asp

PRESS BACKGROUNDER

“Forest biodiversity in danger”

Why are forests important?

Forests provide a wide range of goods and services, including timber, fuel-wood, food, medicine, soil and watershed protection, and climate stabilization. Preserving forests is therefore crucial for human well-being. Forests also play a vital role in culture and religion and inspire artists and thinkers around the world. At the same time, forests contain a major share of global biodiversity: at least half of the world's terrestrial species live in tropical primary forests.

How much forest is left?

From 50% some 8,000 years ago, forests now occupy about 27% of the Earth's ice-free surface. Primary forests comprise less than half the remaining forest, with the rest being secondary, degraded or plantation forests. The main causes of destruction are the housing and infrastructure development, desertification and land degradation, and hundreds of years of large-scale conversion to agriculture and rangelands.

According to data from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 3,869 million hectares of global forest remained in 2000. Forest area has declined by around 9.4 million hectares per year since 1990, an annual rate of 0.22 %. Most of the decline takes place in natural forests in the tropics. Preliminary estimates show that net deforestation rates have increased somewhat recently in tropical Africa, remained constant in Central America, and declined slightly in tropical Asia and South America. Although the establishment of plantation forests and reforestation activities in temperate and boreal forests and tropical areas is increasing, these plantations cannot fully compensate for deforestation of primary forest in terms of biological diversity.

Between 1980 and 1990, the annual rate of deforestation for developing countries is estimated at 15.5 million hectares per year. As a result, more than 200 million hectares of forest have been lost in the past 15 years. According to IUCN, this is equal to twice the size of South Africa, four times the territory of Spain, or seven times that of Malaysia.

What are the major threats?

Direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation include improper and wasteful forest management and logging practices, changing land-use patterns, over-exploitation, invasive alien species, and pollution. In the near future, climate change will also be added to this list.

Indirect, or underlying, causes include the lack of political power of local and indigenous communities, bad governance and the mistaken belief that forests and their resources are infinite. The constantly increasing global demand for wood, fuel, paper, and other forest products is also to blame. In the longer term, a lack of awareness about the multiple environmental and economic values of forests may loom as the largest threat.

What can be done?

An effective forest conservation strategy requires that an ecologically viable acreage of all forest ecosystem types be preserved through a network of protected areas. More forest restoration programmes need to be developed. At the same time, sustainable management practices need to be implemented on the basis of the ecosystem approach. These should include new forest-related national regulations, strategies and plans.

Decision-making on forest management should involve indigenous peoples and local communities in order to ensure that their legitimate needs are taken into consideration. This approach will also ensure that local expertise is tapped and that forest management becomes more effective and sustainable.

Education and public awareness also need to be strengthened, for example via campaigns promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns. In particular, people need to be informed about the wide range of forest services and products.

The role of the Convention

The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992. It is the first global agreement to cover all aspects of biological diversity -- genetic resources, species and ecosystems -- and the first to recognize that the conservation of biological diversity is "a common concern of humankind" and an integral part of efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Convention fosters scientific and technical cooperation and the equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources, and the widespread use of environmentally sound technologies.

The Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) advises the Conference of the Parties -- the Convention's top decision-making body. It also promotes international cooperation on biodiversity science, technical matters, and technology. It addresses a broad range of issues, including the natural and social sciences, data management, modern information technology, models, scientific assessments, the development of biodiversity indicators, and monitoring. In this way, the SBSTTA provides an agreed factual basis so that policymakers can take informed political decisions about the cross-cutting issues and thematic areas addressed under the Convention.

The Convention addresses forests directly through its work programme on forest biological diversity. This programme emphasizes the ecosystem approach, socio-economic considerations, conservation and sustainable use. It promotes scientific analyses of how human activities and forest practices influence biodiversity and how to minimize the resulting damages. The work programme is currently being strengthened and expanded.

The forest work programme is implemented together with partners such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Key definitions

Primary forests are forests that have never been directly disturbed by humans. Whatever their age, they have developed following a natural disturbance and according to natural processes. Forests that are used by indigenous and local communities with traditional lifestyles consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are included in this category.

Secondary forests have been directly disturbed by humans but have recovered, whether naturally or artificially. They do not necessarily provide the same level of products and services as a primary forest would in the same location.

Old growth forests can be primary or secondary forests. They have reached an age at which the structures and species normally associated with old primary forests of that type have accumulated sufficiently to create a forest ecosystem distinct from any younger age class.

Planted forests or forest plantations are forest stands established by planting or seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation. They are either of introduced species (all planted stands), or intensively managed stands of indigenous species.

Tropical forests are located near the equator. They have the greatest diversity of species (many still undiscovered) and are the most vulnerable land-based ecosystem in the world. They have only two seasons -- rainy and dry -- and receive about 12 hours of daylight year round.

Temperate forests are characteristic of North America, north-eastern Asia, and western and central Europe. They thrive in moderate climates with well-defined seasons and a growing season of 140 to 200 days during four to six frost-free months.

Boreal forests are the most wide-spread forest type of all. They inhabit the regions between 50 and 60 degrees north latitudes ? Eurasia, North America, Siberia, Scandinavia, Alaska, and Canada. Seasons are divided into short, moist, and moderately warm summers and long, cold, and dry winters. The growing season is some 130 days.

Where to find more information on forests

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November 9, 2001

“Climate Talks in Morocco Stalled”

By Arthur Max
Associated Press Writer
Friday, November 9, 2001; 8:26 AM

MARRAKECH, Morocco ?? Negotiators tried to overcome a deadlock over rules for cutting greenhouse gases Friday, the last day of the U.N. climate conference aimed at reaching a deal to curtail global warming.

Talks resumed Friday after a session the night before that went past midnight but failed to bridge the differences between a handful of industrial countries and the rest of the more than 160 nations attending the conference, delegates said.

Five issues remained to be resolved, according to delegates from both developing and developed countries.

With the two-week meeting scheduled to end Friday, the conference chairman warned that the time limit will not be extended into Saturday. Previous conferences have stretched well past midnight of the final day.

The conference objective is to write the rules for implementing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming, which calls on nearly 40 industrial countries to limit or reduce the emission of greenhouse gases-- primarily carbon dioxide from industry and cars-- blamed for raising the Earth's temperature.

The accord assigns each country a target and sets an average 5.2 percent emission reduction from 1990 levels, to be achieved by 2012.

Two special envoys, Valli Moosa of South Africa and Phillippe Roche of Switzerland, presented a compromise working paper supported by a large bloc of developing countries for negotiations that began late Thursday.

Most countries voiced reservations about the document but said they would accept it if it remained unchanged. But industrial countries, led by Japan, Canada, Australia and Russia, said they "cannot live with" five of the points, according to a Canadian delegate.

French Environment Minister Yves Cochet said another conference may have to be called early next year if the issues cannot be resolved Friday. The disputed points, he said, "call into question the matter of sovereignty."

The United States was not part of the negotiations. It renounced its signature on the protocol last March, calling the treaty unfair and economically unworkable.

Australia was heading into a national election Saturday, with the two main parties split over whether to back the climate change accord. The current government has said the treaty is worthless without U.S. participation.

The contentious points concern whether countries that fail to meet their targets will still be eligible to use "flexible mechanisms" designed to make it easier for them to achieve the required reductions. Those mechanisms include being able to buy credits from other countries that have more than met their own targets.

Russia was holding out for an increase in the maximum credit it can claim for carbon-consuming forest projects, asking for nearly double the allotment it was granted at the last conference in July, in Bonn.

"If this figure is not accepted, we will not support the document," said Russia's chief delegate, Alexandre Bedritsky.

Disputed issues included reporting and verifying carbon emissions and establishing inventories of forests and range land. Under the Kyoto provisions, countries can earn credits by expanding these "carbon sinks," but it was not clear how baselines would be set.

Scientists say global warming already is causing glaciers to melt and rain patterns to shift. Over the next century, temperatures could rise as much as 43 degrees, leading to more intense storms, droughts and a potentially disastrous rise in sea levels.

To take effect, the Kyoto agreement must be endorsed by 55 countries, including those emitting 55 percent of greenhouse gases in 1990. Without the United States, which is responsible for about one-fourth of the world's man-made carbon dioxide emissions, ratification needs the support of virtually every other industrial country.

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November 13, 2001

“Environment Minister Says Deal Has Saved World Summit”

Pretoria, Nov 13, 2001 (Business Day/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) – The much-heralded United Nations (UN) World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg next year, would now be in jeopardy if countries had failed to reach a global warming agreement at the weekend.

This was disclosed by Environmental Affairs Minister Valli Moosa yesterday.

Global warming the artificial warming of the earth's surface through the emission of greenhouse gases from the burning of industrial fuel has been the subject of negotiations for the past five years.

The issue is expected to feature prominently when the world's environmental community ascends on Johannesburg next year.

Bothering the SA government has been the fact that the issue has the potential to make or break the UN conference, where more than 40000 delegations from more than 130 countries are expected.

"We worked hard," said a relieved Moosa yesterday, a day after his return from a twoweek meeting in Morocco where government negotiators slugged it out in search of a "win-win solution".

Enough support was found among delegates for the 55% of nations emitting greenhouse gas to ratify the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

In a major setback for global warming in March the US pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, which requires culprit countries to deal effectively with global warming.

The US claimed the protocol would adversely affect the world's richest economy, which is responsible for 25% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Moosa said it was "terrible" that the US was not party to the agreement. However, he pointed out that it was not the first time the US had behaved in such a manner.

In terms of the weekend agreement, there will be consequences for nations that sign the protocol but do not comply, but the consequences will not be punitive.

A multilateral monitoring body is to be set up to ensure compliance and to keep an eye on early warning systems for those that may not comply.

Countries that comply will receive credits they can exchange with developing countries when doing business.

Developed countries could obtain credit for greening the environment by developing forests that can absorb emissions. This scheme is called "sinks".

In terms of another scheme referred to as "mechanisms", countries will be allowed to reduce gases such as carbon dioxide in economies other than theirs.

In terms of this scheme, countries or companies within those countries can invest in "clean" projects in developing countries. The developed countries can then claim credit in terms of those projects. Moosa said this would mean investments for the developing nations.

In terms of this scheme, countries or companies within those countries can invest in "clean" projects in developing countries. The developed countries can then claim credit in terms of those projects. Moosa said this would mean investments for the developing nations. --by Vuyo Mvoko

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November 19, 2001

UNEP NEWS RELEASE

“Urgent Action Needed to Protect Marine Environment”

First Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Global Programme of Action for Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, 26 to 30 November 2001, Montreal, Canada

NEW YORK, 20 November 2001 -- The negative effects of land-based activities on seas and coasts are growing both in scale and type, and are increasingly damaging the environment, scientists are warning.

In a report, produced as a contribution to a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) meeting of environment ministers in Montreal next week, the world's leading marine scientists call for "urgent action" to address the most serious problems associated with land-based activities.

With a warning that, "the economic costs of failing to take action to control land-based activities are enormous", they single out sewage, the physical alteration and destruction of habitat, excessive nutrient inputs and changes in sediment flows, as top priorities for action.

The scientists' say that the root causes of the marine environmental damage are poverty, poorly managed social and economic development, and unsustainable consumption patterns.

The report, "Protecting the Oceans from Land-based Activities" was jointly produced by GESAMP, the United Nations sponsored Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. It was initiated by UNEP as an input to the first intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The meeting, which will bring together senior representatives from over 100 Governments (including ministers), various international organizations, global and regional non-governmental groups, and the private sector, runs from 26-30 November in Montreal.

"The oceans cover 71 per cent of our planet's surface, regulate its climate, and provide its ultimate waste disposal system. And, yet, our species continues to treat them as our common sewer", said Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director.

"Marine and coastal ecosystems are of vital importance to human well-being. Their value has been estimated at around US\$13 trillion. This is equal to one half of annual global GNP", Mr. Toepfer continued. "Yet, we continue to treat coasts and oceans as if they were not an important economic resource for developing and developed countries alike", he said.

In Washington D.C. in November 1995, 108 Governments and the European Commission committed themselves to protect and preserve the coastal and marine environment by adopting the Global Programme of Action. The GPA calls on countries to develop programmes of action to protect human health and the environment. More specifically, it calls for action to prevent, reduce and control land-based activities that contribute to the degradation of the marine environment, such as sewage, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, radioactive substances, oils/hydro-carbons, litter, nutrients, sediment and habitat destruction.

Six years after the Washington conference the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA will assess the progress made by these countries, as well as launching new initiatives and action on these complex issues.

This UNEP meeting will be co-hosted by Environment Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. There will be an official opening at 10 a.m. on Monday, 26 November 2001. A high-level "ministerial" segment is scheduled for 29 and 30 November.

"Almost all, some 80 per cent, of the environmental problems of the oceans start on land", said Mr. Toepfer. "It is here that most of the pollution originates, whether from factories and sewage works at the coast, from fertilizers or pesticides washed into rivers and down to the sea, or from chemicals emitted from car exhausts and industry and carried by the winds far out to the oceans."

The GPA has singled out sewage as a "priority pollutant" for action. Many studies show that diseases and infections among bathers rise steadily in step with the amount of sewage in the water. They demonstrate also that bathers are at risk even in lightly contaminated waters that meet the pollution standards laid down by the European Union and the US Environmental Protection Agency. A recent World Health Organization (WHO) study (referenced in the GESAMP report below) has estimated that one in every 20 bathers in "acceptable waters" will become ill after venturing just once into the sea.

"Sewage ruins large areas for fisheries, recreation and tourism, causing major economic loss", said Mr. Toepfer. "It also poses considerable risk to the health of bathers and consumers of marine foodstuffs. Outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and hepatitis are frequently traced to pathogen-contaminated seafood and bathing waters", he said.

According to the GESAMP report, eating sewage-contaminated shellfish raw causes some 2.5 million cases of infectious hepatitis each year. That results in 25,000 fatalities and the same number of long-term disabilities due to liver damage, all of which amounts to the loss of 3.2 million productive work years, or an economic impact of some \$10 billion annually.

In Montreal, Ministers and other senior government officials will review an action plan on sewage. Known as the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, it might serve as a model for other key pollutants. They will also get a progress report on the GPA and decide on a work programme for the years ahead. The outcomes of the Montreal meeting will also feed into important upcoming events such as the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn (3-7 December) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in September 2002.

For more information about the Montreal meeting, see <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr>

For press background information, see <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/media.htm>

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December 11, 2001

UNEP PRESS ADVISORY

“UNEP opens Post-Conflict Assessment Unit”

Geneva, 11 December 2001 - Building on the success of its recent environmental assessments in the Balkans region, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Nations Environment Programme is launching today its new Post-Conflict Assessment Unit.

The new Unit will have a similar but broader mandate than that of the UNEP Balkans Unit, which it replaces, and will be available to conduct assessments in any of the world's many post-conflict zones. Its 11-member team will be based with other UNEP offices at the International Environment House in Châtelaine (Geneva).

UNEP's assessments of the consequences of the Balkans crisis were based on field missions by expert teams to affected sites followed by laboratory analyses. The resulting reports identified heavily polluted "hot spots", offered the first-ever analysis of depleted uranium (DU) in a real conflict situation, determined the environmental impacts of refugee influxes, and proposed solutions for environmental clean-up.

"Following the positive reactions from the Balkans countries and the international community at large to our work on the Kosovo conflict, I have today the honour of inaugurating the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit," said UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer. "This Unit will extend

the work pioneered in the Balkans to embrace other areas of the world where the natural and human environment has been damaged as a consequence of conflict."

Areas of immediate concern could include Afghanistan, which has experienced over 20 years of conflict. Despite the success of the recent UN-brokered talks, the country remains burdened by land mines, the effects of drought and the environmental degradation of fresh-water, sanitation systems, forests and soil quality.

"UNEP stands ready to carry its part of the UN's responsibility for Afghanistan by assisting in the country's rehabilitation and reconstruction," said Mr. Töpfer. "We are ready to be active in the post-conflict situation at the earliest possible moment following the first phase of urgent humanitarian assistance."

UNEP believes that a healthy environment is a prerequisite for sound and sustainable development. People cannot secure real and sustainable economic development if they are confronted by contaminated water, polluted land and declining natural resources.

Post-conflict environmental assessments are a vital tool for making independent and reliable investigations of environmental impacts and for providing clear recommendations on the necessary remediation. Keeping environmental priorities on the agenda throughout the post-conflict reconstruction is equally important. UNEP's approach to post-conflict assessments has included the vital step of working with donors to secure funds for clean-up activities.

Environmental activities following a conflict must meet urgent environmental and health needs. They must also support longer-term goals for managing natural resources, address environmental management practices and promote regional environmental cooperation.

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