



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.2/44/5  
22 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session  
SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 82 (f) and 85

### DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION; ENVIRONMENT

### PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Letter dated 20 November 1989 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Netherlands, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference on Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change, which took place in Noordwijk, the Netherlands on 6 and 7 November 1989, and to request you to have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 82 (f) and 85.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK  
Ambassador and  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Noordwijk Declaration on Atmospheric Pollution and  
Climatic Change

(1) The composition of the earth's atmosphere is being seriously altered at an unprecedented rate due to human activity. Based on our current understanding, society is being threatened by man-made changes to the global climate.

(2) While there are still uncertainties regarding the magnitude, timing and regional effects of climate change due to human activity, there is a growing consensus in the scientific community that significant climate change and instability are most likely over the next century. Predictions available today indicate potentially severe economic and social dislocations for future generations. Assuming these predictions, delay in action may endanger the future of the planet as we know it.

(3) Fortunately, there is a growing awareness among the world population and their political leaders that action is needed. The basic principle of ecologically sustainable development has gained wide currency following the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. This principle should be fundamental to efforts to tackle the problem of climate change and atmospheric pollution. The protection of the ozone layer is being addressed by the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Further strengthening of control measures contained in the Protocol was called for at the London Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer in March 1989 and the first meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol at Helsinki in May 1989. A decision will be taken by the second meeting of the contracting parties to be held in London in 1990. The process aims at phasing out the production and consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) controlled under the Montreal Protocol by the year 2000 by the developed countries. They should also phase out other controlled substances which deplete the ozone layer as soon as feasible. Developing countries should also phase out these substances as soon as possible after their technology and resource needs are met.

(4) Global warming is being addressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was established by UNEP and WMO, and recognized by UN General Assembly Resolution 43/53 on Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind. The Hague Declaration of March 1989 put forward

/...

challenging ideas for international co-operation, and legal and institutional measures. The 15th session of the UNEP Governing Council and the XLI session of the WMO Executive Council in 1989 requested their executive heads to begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate; these negotiations should be initiated as soon as possible after the interim report of the IPCC is adopted. This interim report will be reviewed at the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990. The 1989 Economic Summit agreed that a framework convention on climate change setting out general principles was urgently required and that specific protocols containing concrete commitments could be fitted into the framework as scientific evidence requires and permits. The Economic Summit also strongly advocated common efforts to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The July 1988 declaration of the states, parties to the Warsaw Treaty, and the meeting of non-aligned countries in Belgrade in September 1989 also addressed the issue of climate change. The Tokyo Conference on Global Environment and Human Response Towards Sustainable Development was held in September 1989. The Langkawi Declaration on Environment issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments in October 1989 stated the need to take new action to address the serious deterioration in the environment, including climate change. Given this base it is now time for governments of all countries to commit themselves to the IPCC, to strengthen and to extend the process of addressing climate change.

(5) Measures to limit climate change will have other significant benefits such as reducing acidification, protecting the ozone layer, preserving biodiversity and other natural resources, preventing mean sea-level change and promoting 'sustainable development.

(6) The Conference recognizes the principle of the sovereign right of States to manage their natural resources independently. The Conference also reaffirms that global environmental problems have to be approached through international co-operation. Solving the external debt problem of developing countries, and establishing fair economic and commercial relationships between industrialized and developing countries would assist developing countries in creating appropriate conditions to protect the environment.

(7) Climate change is a common concern of mankind. All countries should now, according to their capabilities and the means at their disposal, initiate actions and develop and maintain effective and operational strategies to control, limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. As a first step, they should take those actions which are beneficial in their own right. Industrialized countries, in view of their contribution to the increase of greenhouse gas concentrations, and in view of their capabilities, have specific responsibilities of different kinds: i) they should set an example by initiating domestic action, ii) they should support, financially and otherwise, the action by countries to which the protection of the atmosphere and adjustment to climate change would prove to be an excessive burden and iii) they should reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, also taking into account the need of the developing countries to

have sustainable development. Developing countries establishing industrial facilities for the first time have a unique opportunity to include up-to-date technologies for controlling the emissions of greenhouse gases.

(8) For the long term safeguarding of our planet and maintaining its ecological balance, joint effort and action should aim at limiting or reducing emissions and increasing sinks for greenhouse gases to a level consistent with the natural capacity of the planet. Such a level should be reached within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and permit economic activity to develop in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. Stabilizing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases is an imperative goal. The IPCC will need to report on the best scientific knowledge as to the options for containing climate change within tolerable limits. Some currently available estimates indicate that this could require a reduction of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 per cent. These estimates should be the subject of further examination by the IPCC.

(9) While striving to preserve the global environment, it is important to work at the same time to ensure stable development of the world economy, in line with the concept of "sustainable development". Effort and action should include: i) the phasing-out of CFCs controlled by the Montreal Protocol, which are responsible for about one fifth of projected global warming, by national action and international co-operation in the context of the Montreal Protocol. This includes financial assistance and transfer of technology and information. In this connection, it is important that the substitutes for CFCs also should not contribute significantly to the global warming problem, ii) action especially by industrialized countries to limit or reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions, iii) action to reduce deforestation, prevent soil erosion and desertification; increase afforestation, and sound forest management in the temperate as well as the tropical zones, iv) action to limit or reduce the emissions of all greenhouse gases other than CO<sub>2</sub> and their precursors and to increase the sinks for such substances and v) intensified efforts for technological breakthroughs, for example with regards to renewable energy and removal and re-utilization of CO<sub>2</sub>.

(10) The conference recommends that appropriate fora, including the IPCC, consider the necessity and efficiency of the introduction of the concept of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalence. This would provide a single parameter to describe the radiative effects of the various greenhouse gases, including CFCs. Such a concept, after taking into account other environmental considerations, creates a basis for negotiations in response measures for different greenhouse gases in the most cost-effective manner. The Conference further recommends the development of common definitions and the harmonization of methods to calculate CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

(11) All countries should increase co-operation in developing new, environmentally sound technologies, to improve existing technologies and increasingly to use these technologies in order

to limit climate change or adapt to it. Maximum use should be made of existing international organizations, institutions and mechanisms, governmental and non-governmental, for technology co-operation with and transfer to interested countries, especially developing countries. Factors that impede effective transfer of appropriate technologies should be identified and measures implemented to overcome these impediments.

(12) Progress in reducing atmospheric pollution depends not only on technical and economic issues but also on attitudinal and conceptual changes. All countries, especially industrialized countries, should recognize the need to make their socio-economic activities and life-styles environmentally sound. Improved dissemination of information and better training of personnel is needed, both at the national and international level. Public awareness programmes, including school curricula, should include the issue of climate change and its connection with the way individuals use energy and other natural resources. Wider public awareness can be supported by increased scientific evidence arising from systematic research and monitoring activities. The Conference calls upon the non-governmental organizations to participate, in co-operation with international, regional and national authorities, in the efforts that are needed to respond to the problems of global warming, more specifically in the field of education and awareness building.

(13) Many countries, especially developing countries will require assistance in identifying the causes of anthropogenic climate change, in establishing its extent and effect and also in responding to it. They will need help in acquiring, using, developing and maintaining technologies that are appropriate to their industrial, energy, transport, forestry and agricultural infrastructure. Industrialized countries will take steps to facilitate the transfer to developing countries of technologies to limit the global climate change through financial assistance and other mechanisms to overcome the incremental costs of acquiring and using these technologies. Furthermore, the capabilities of these countries should be increased so that they can develop appropriate technologies themselves. In this context the concept of assured access to appropriate technologies in relation to proprietary rights needs to be explored.

Given this stage of development of the issue of climate change, the Conference more specifically:

#### CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>)

- (14) Urges all countries to take steps individually and collectively, to promote better energy conservation and efficiency and the use of environmentally sound energy sources, practices and technologies with no or minimum environmentally damaging characteristics. These policies should be reflected in short and long term energy policies and be pursued by all relevant sectors, including industry and transport, taking into account the need of developing countries for an adaptation period in order to enable them to meet their technological and other developmental needs. One direct means of allowing markets to incorporate the risk of climate change could be to ensure that the prices of all

fuels reflect their full social, long run marginal and environmental costs and benefits.

- (15) Agrees that it is timely to investigate quantitative emission targets to limit or reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and encourages the IPCC, in their interim report due in 1990, to include an analysis of target options.
- (16) Recognizes the need to stabilize, while ensuring stable development of the world economy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and emissions of other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. Industrialized nations agree that such stabilization should be achieved by them as soon as possible, at levels to be considered by the IPCC and the Second World Climate Conference of November 1990. In the view of many industrialized nations such stabilization of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should be achieved as a first step at the latest by the year 2000.  
Urges all industrialized countries to support the process of IPCC through the investigation of the feasibility of achieving targets to limit or reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions including e.g. a 20 per cent reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels by the year 2005 as recommended by the scientific World Conference on the Changing Atmosphere in Toronto 1988.  
Urges all industrialized countries to intensify their efforts in this respect, while ensuring sustainable development and taking into account the specific circumstances of individual countries.
- (17) Agrees that industrialized countries with, as yet, relatively low energy requirements, which can reasonably be expected to grow in step with their development, may have targets that accommodate that development.
- (18) Calls on the IPCC to present the analysis and conclusions referred to above to the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990.
- (19) Agrees that developing countries endeavour to meet future targets for CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and sinks, with due regard to their development requirements and within the limits of their financial and technical capabilities. International co-operation, whenever available, would be a contributing factor for greater action. New processes or industries to be introduced should, as far as possible, incorporate technologies which are more energy-efficient and produce less pollution than present technologies.
- (20) Agrees that developing countries will need to be assisted financially and technically, including assistance with training, i.e. by strengthening relevant mechanisms to ensure that they will be in a position to manage, develop, and conserve their forest resources in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. This will also contribute to combatting erosion and desertification. Recognition by the market of the total value of forests, including non-wood values, is a precondition for developing countries' being able to successfully use such financial and technical

/...

assistance for sustainable forest management.

- (21) Agrees to pursue a global balance between deforestation on the one hand and sound forest management and afforestation on the other. A world net forest growth of 12 million hectares a year in the beginning of next century should be considered as a provisional aim. Requests the IPCC to consider the feasibility of achieving this aim. To this end; the world deforestation rate should be slowed inter alia through the suppression of acid rain and other pollutants and of fires and through the reduction of pressures on biota. Sound forest management practices should be encouraged and at the same time vigorous forestry programmes should be developed in both temperate and tropical zones; biological diversity should be maintained; strategies addressing climate change issues through forest management and afforestation should be integrated with strategies addressing the sustainability of other forest based values resulting in full multiple-use plans where appropriate, but with due consideration of the people living in or dependent on forest land. Welcomes the work of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the International Timber Trade Organisation in pursuit of these goals.

#### CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFCs)

- (22) Welcomes the commitment of the industrialized countries to amend the Montreal Protocol and to phase out the production and consumption of controlled chlorofluorocarbons by the year 2000, and of other controlled ozone depleting substances as soon as feasible. Urges all countries to become Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and to the Montreal Protocol. To facilitate this broad participation suitable amendments of the Montreal Protocol should be considered urgently by the Parties to the Protocol. Urges industrialized countries to use financial and other means to assist developing countries in phasing out their production and consumption of controlled substances as soon as possible, by providing them with sufficient means to enable them to meet their target date. The development of alternative technologies and products in developing countries should be promoted.

#### OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES

- (23) Recommends that the development and implementation of specific means of limiting the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases other than CO<sub>2</sub> and CFCs should be energetically pursued, taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries.

#### MINISTERIAL MEETING

- (24) Recognizes the need to convene a Ministerial Conference to review the interim report of the IPCC. The conference endorses the plan of the organization by WMO, UN<sup>o</sup>, UNESCO and ICSU of such a meeting, as part of the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990.

/...

## FUNDING

- (25) *Recommends* that existing institutions for development and financial assistance including the Multilateral Development Banks, Bilateral Assistance Programmes, the relevant United Nations organisations and specialized agencies, and scientific and technological organisations should give greater attention to climate change issues within their environmental and other relevant programmes by providing expanded funding including concessional funding. In addition, regional and subregional co-operation should be reinforced and funded so as to address and implement the required action at that level.
- (26) *Recommends* that additional resources should, over time, be mobilized to help developing countries take the necessary measures to address climate change and that are compatible with their development requirements. Further *recommends* that the scope of resources needed must be assessed. Such assessments should include inter alia country studies and the capabilities of existing institutions and mechanisms to meet the financing needs identified, similar to the approaches developed under the Montreal Protocol. Further consideration should be given to the need for funding facilities including a clearinghouse mechanism and a possible new international fund and their relationship to existing funding mechanisms, both multilateral and bilateral. Such funding should be related to the implementation of a future climate convention and associated protocols. In the meantime the donor community is urged to provide assistance to developing countries to support actions addressing climate change.
- (27) *Recommends* that, initially, international funding be directed towards
  - (i) funding of a CFC phase-out in developing countries in the context of the Montreal Protocol;
  - (ii) promoting efficient use of energy, including appropriate end use technologies, increasing the use of non-fossil fuels and switching to energy sources with lower greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of renewable energy sources;
  - (iii) increased financial support for forest protection and forest management improvement, for example through the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other relevant international organizations;
  - (iv) assisting developing countries in planning how to address problems posed by climate change;
  - (v) supporting developing countries to enable their participation in the IPCC process and the other international meetings on this subject;
  - (vi) conducting research and monitoring;
  - (vii) arranging for technology transfer to and technology development in developing countries;
  - (viii) promoting public awareness, education and institutional and manpower development.

/...



The use of financial resources could subsequently be extended inter alia to major energy sources with little or no environmentally damaging characteristics and for steps to reduce other global man-made emissions of greenhouse gases.

#### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- (28) Urges all countries and relevant organizations to increase their climate change research and monitoring activities and to provide for adequate data bases on emissions. Also urges states to co-operate in, and provide increasing support for, international co-ordination of these activities building on international programmes such as the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme, and on the present roles of the UNEP, WMO, ICSU, IEA, UNESCO, IOC, IGBP and other competent international organizations and bodies. The enhancement and strengthening of operational aspects of their work should be examined.  
Recommends that more research should be carried out by 1992 into the sources and sinks of the greenhouse gases other than CO<sub>2</sub> and CFCs, like methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), including further research on the effect of the ocean on the concentration of radiatively active gases in the atmosphere.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION

- (29)
  1. Urges all countries to join and intensify the ongoing work within UNEP and WMO through the IPCC with respect to the compilation of elements for a framework convention on climate change so that negotiations upon it can start as soon as possible after the adoption of the interim report of the IPCC.
  2. Recommends that such convention will be framed in such a way as to gain the adherence of the largest possible number and most suitably balanced spread of countries.
  3. Agrees that to this end the framework convention and associated protocols should commit the parties inter alia to:
    - enhancement of research and systematic observation of climate, aimed at detecting and monitoring climate variations and change;
    - action to deal with greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of global warming;
    - address the particular financial needs of the developing countries in the access to and transfer of technology; and
    - strengthen sustainable forest management.
  4. Agrees further that in developing the framework convention on climate change special attention should be given to ensuring that provision is made for appropriate decision making procedures and powers.
  5. Urges all involved or to be involved in the negotiations to do their utmost to conclude these negotiations to ensure adoption of the convention as early as 1991 if possible and no later than at

the Conference of the United Nations on Environment and Development in 1992.

6. Considers that in the preparation of the framework convention and protocols the relevant aspects of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer should be taken into account, as well as innovative approaches as may be required by the complex character of the problem.
- (30) Recommends that this declaration and the supporting papers be conveyed to the IPCC at the conclusion of this Conference for further consideration and action.

-----