



**Statement of Dr Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,
at the opening of the Twenty Second Session of the IPCC**

New Delhi, India, 9 - 11 November 2004

Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests,
Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of IPCC,
Dr. Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary-General,
Dr. Renate Christ, IPCC Secretary,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you at the opening of the twenty-second session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change here in New Delhi, India. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Shri A. Raja, Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests and through you, to the Government of India for giving us a unique opportunity to convene this session in your country. Let me further convey my thanks to Dr. Pachauri for his wise leadership of the Panel, which is now ranked among the most reliable source of information on climate change science.

UNEP is proud to be one of the parent organizations for the IPCC. The IPCC process is the perfect example of interaction between science and policy. Any climate change policy is based on communication between scientists and policy makers. We are glad to reiterate in this context that IPCC represents the main authority and science base in this issue. This underscores the fundamental importance of the Panel, which is ever more significant in the light of interlinkages that its findings assist to establish between the climate change issues and the matters pertinent to the UNCCD, UNCBD, Montreal Protocol, etc. UNEP is dedicated to continue its support to this extremely valuable work.

Time that has passed since the last Plenary meeting was marked with several major accomplishments of the IPCC, which were widely acknowledged and appraised by the world climate community.

Last year IPCC completed two Methodology reports, namely "Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry" and "Definitions and Methodological Options to Inventory Emissions from Direct Human-Induced Degradation of Forests and Devegetation of Other Vegetation Types". The reports turned out notable achievements of the Panel in providing guidance on land use, land use change and forestry issues of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It gave me great satisfaction together with the Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization to appraise highly the work of IPCC on the reports.

We can also esteem highly the progress that was made by IPCC in finalizing two Special reports, which will be discussed at the present meeting. The "Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons" will be a major step forward in summarizing relevant findings regarding the relation of ozone layer depletion and global warming as well as in covering relevant considerations in choosing among options to replace ozone-depleting substances. The "Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage will contribute substantially to characteristics of CO₂ emission sources, capture systems, storage options, including geological storage, ocean storage and re-use options as well as to outlining implications for emission inventories and accounting.

Undoubtedly, the major endeavor and challenge that is in the focus of the IPCC attention at present and that will remain such in the coming three to four years, is the Fourth Assessment Report. We can remind with satisfaction the excellent work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the Third Assessment Report that remains to be the most authoritative sources of reliable and credible information on climate change issues and which provides the necessary scientific, technical and socio-economic information for the national governments to take decisions and actions on climate change.

This success leaves a firm conviction that the next report will further enhance the knowledge of climate science and stimulate relevant activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. IPCC has made a good start with preparation of this significant publication. I am pleased to note that as a result of several scoping meetings and consultations with national governments and international organizations IPCC produced the solid outline of the report, agreed on the list of authors and summarized information on cross-cutting themes. It deserves particular praise that the quality of nominations to the authors list from developing countries and countries with economies in transition has been very high and a larger number of authors have been selected from those countries than was the case for the Third Assessment Report. In addition, there has been a considerable increase in the relative number of women selected as authors.

For our part, UNEP, as a parent organization, will further support the IPCC's substantive work by conducting relevant studies

and research within the framework of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, the Millennium Assessment, the Global Environmental Outlook or GEO process, the Global Biodiversity Assessment and other programmes. UNEP will also continue contributing to the IPCC Trust Fund with a view to enhancing the involvement of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in planning and writing IPCC reports. We wish to express our gratitude in this regard to other countries and international organisations, which made contributions to the Trust Fund.

We consider that the impact of the IPCC assessments could only enhance if its findings are being widely disseminated among various target groups, including the scientific community, businessmen, youth, mass media, civil society at large. Recognizing the necessity of UNEP's broader involvement in fulfilling those tasks, the 22nd Governing Council of UNEP passed a decision that requested the Executive Director to continue disseminating the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change widely, complementing the efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the implementation of article 6 on education, training and public awareness.

UNEP has a long record of working closely with IPCC and UNFCCC on climate outreach. Back in the late 1990's UNEP conducted a needs assessment of UNFCCC Article 6 priorities and organized national workshops on IPCC findings in 10 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Early in 2000's UNEP's collaborating center GRID-Arendal produced well renowned Vital Climate Graphics and Vital Climate Graphics for Africa based on the IPCC Second Assessment Report. UNEP contributes on a constant basis to producing simplified reports of the IPCC Working Groups, translating IPCC reports in all UN languages, providing media coverage to IPCC and UNFCCC meetings and conferences, etc

This year UNEP has started an ambitious climate change outreach project that includes, inter alia, production of a new version of Vital Climate Graphics based on the IPCC Third Assessment Report and compilation of Vital Climate Graphics for Latin America that would incorporate IPCC findings and relevant information from National Communications. The Fourth Assessment Report, when finalized, will be a source of inspiration for UNEP to produce new graphical and information materials and promote wide dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge on climate change.

This meeting is being convened in a very remarkable time. Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol signifies that it may enter into force early next year. That is a cause for celebration for all of us and especially for IPCC, which was always the most important source for scientific, technical and socio-economic information for the Convention and the Protocol.

Russian's action to ratify the Protocol will breathe new life into the international climate negotiations, which resume in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December. These must now ensure that developed nations meet their initial emission reduction targets while ensuring sufficient funds are made available to developing countries to allow them to reduce their vulnerability to global warming.

Ratification will also invigorate the introduction of and research into cleaner fuels, more efficient energy generation and renewable energies such as wind, solar and wave power. Over the past year of so we have been assembling all the necessary building blocks to ensure that the Protocol becomes operational as soon as possible.

Russia's ratification and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol will inevitably raise expectations of the international community of the steps to be taken further and of the global climate agenda beyond the first commitment period. I am sure that IPCC, as it has always been in the past, will be at the forefront of joint efforts to resolve these issues.

I wish you a fruitful work at this Session.

Thank you.