

28 MAR- 7 APR 1995
BERLIN, GERMANY

COP01

COP PRESIDENT: MS. ANGELA MERKEL,
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE
CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY.



Summit Kickoff:

The 1st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) opened in Berlin on March 28. The first COP was opened on March 28, 1995 by Executive-Secretary of the Interim Secretariat, Michael Zammit Cutajar, who noted the need for Parties to shoulder the responsibility of the Convention's effective implementation. He said that INC-11 had recommended the election of the Head of the delegation of Germany, Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Dr. Angela Merkel, as President of COP1.

Dr. Merkel said that the spirit of Rio would once again be needed in Berlin. Although climate protection is one of the greatest political challenges, it is imperative to act in accordance with the precautionary principle. She said that COP1 must decide if the commitments of the industrialized countries were 'adequate' to achieve the Convention's objectives, noting that the obligations to date were not adequate.



The summit aimed at establishing a fundamental basis to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed by 153 nations at the Earth Summit in June 1992. The 10-day Climate Summit discussed substantive issues, such as the Adequacy of Commitments, Joint Implementation (JI) and the Financial Mechanism.

Summit Conclusions and Recommendations:

- An agreement on a number of important decisions, including establishing a pilot phase for the implementation of joint projects as well as locating the permanent secretariat in Bonn was reached. Decisions related to the secretariat's budget, financial procedures, and the establishment of subsidiary bodies were made.
- The Parties agreed on "jointly implemented activities" and the first joint measures in international climate action. However, this raised concerns in developing countries about its potential implications and impacts; many viewed the Joint Implementation as a way for some parties to avoid domestic action to fulfill existing obligations under the agreement.
- No consensus was reached on the rules of procedure, and this issue, including a decision on voting rules, was deferred until the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- The United States of America rejected the legally binding timelines, but it joined the other parties in agreeing to negotiations to advance commitments on reducing greenhouse gases.
- India submitted a proposal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% of industrialized countries by 2005. The Indian stance was based on a realistic interest in the need for industrialized countries to start reducing emissions to provide the space for developing countries to increase their emissions, but it did not receive sufficient support.
- The industrialised countries (ICS) are mandated by UNFCCC to reduce their CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. However, the national reports, filed to date by ICS to the Interim Secretariat (IS) on Climate Change, revealed that they are actually increasing their emissions by an average of 16 percent annually.
- Parties agreed that mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were insufficient and agreed to an outcome document known as the "Berlin Mandate", which allows parties to make specific commitments.
- Nearly 130 participating nations agreed to work towards a protocol by 1997, which would set legally binding targets in due course.