

## **COMMON POSITION OF SAARC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

On the eve of the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, being held in Buenos Aires, the Ministers of Environment of SAARC countries meeting in Colombo from October 30 to November 1, 1998 agree on the following:

Urge Annex I Parties to expedite signing the Kyoto Protocol for its ratification and coming into force.

Further urge Annex I Parties to take urgent and effective steps domestically to implement the commitments undertaken by them to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.

Emphasize that a fundamental pre-requisite for designing emissions trading, as provided in the Kyoto Protocol, is the determination of equitable emission entitlements of the Parties. The entitlements cannot be derived from past emissions which are inequitable. The design of the various mechanisms in the Protocol entails prior examination

of the various fundamental issues, followed by methodological questions before the operational issues can be taken up to ensure that inequities do not get further extended and that any precept having the potential of depriving the non-Annex I Parties of their right to develop is not allowed.

Recognize the urgent need for the Parties to the Convention to review the negligible progress made in the transfer of new and additional financial resources as well as environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms to the developing countries with a view to ensuring demonstrable progress early.

Express concern that any attempt by some Annex I Parties to link their ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the introduction of new commitments for non-Annex I Parties will only delay the Protocol coming into force. Such an attempt is totally unwarranted within the framework of the Climate Change Convention.