

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH AND INDEPENDENT NGOS – CoP 10, Buenos Aires
Argentina, December 2004

Mr. Chairman,

The Research and Independent NGOs group would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the plenary of the Tenth Conference of the Parties. First of all, we would like to note the significance of the Kyoto Protocol coming into force. There are a number of elements that make this a truly noteworthy event – first and foremost, this achievement demonstrates the commitment of the overwhelming majority of the world's countries to a multilateral approach to addressing Climate Change. It also means that an international economic value is now being assigned to GHG emissions. Assigning a value to these emissions, and having them play a role in the international trading market, means that carbon management should become a significant element in future public and private investment decisions.

Secondly, effective implementation of the Protocol will be able to demonstrate that meeting GHG reduction requirements are compatible with, and in some cases, can help advance development priorities. Finally, the Kyoto Protocol in force should work to help set in motion the diplomatic process for more formal discussions on strengthening the effort to effectively address the threat of climate change.

In that respect, we note and congratulate Parties for their decision to hold high level seminars over the next year, looking at how we might be able to build an effective post-2012 regime. We would like to note that many, if not the majority, of the RINGO membership is very much occupied with this issue in their research and meetings. Where appropriate, we would very much like to share our research and findings to the high level process and look forward to providing a basis for Parties to commence negotiations in the future.

We also note the increasing prominence that impacts and adaptation are playing in these negotiations – once again, Mr. Chairman, we note the extensive research being pursued in this area in a number of our member organizations. We are also very much of the view that addressing climate change sustainably can only work if we integrate, or 'mainstream' climate change considerations in the development priorities of all countries and also in the decision making process of business sector and multilateral financial entities. We need to open dialogues with the 'mainstream' policy makers of this world – effectively demonstrating how investments should take climate change considerations into account. And that is what many of us are seeking to do.

In closing Mr. Chairman, we are at your service in supporting your efforts to move the climate change process forward in the most effective manner possible. As we mentioned at our intervention at CoP 8 in New Delhi, our groups are distinguished and united by a common commitment to forging constructive responses to climate change. Among our groups, perspectives and views on specific matters vary. Accordingly, we believe that our contribution as a constituency is to help identify and clarify issues as well as to develop and analyze options for addressing them, not to advocate specific views or approaches. Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to address Parties today, and we look forward to continuing collaboration over the future.