

Statement by Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development on behalf
of the
Research and Independent NGOs (RINGOs)
to
Seminar of Governmental Experts
May 17, 2005

Mr. Chairmen,

The Research and Independent NGOs group would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Seminar of Governmental Experts. We commend the Parties for undertaking this valuable seminar and, in particular, applaud those Parties that have taken this opportunity to begin a dialogue on ways to strengthen and advance the international climate change effort beyond 2012.

The RINGO group is comprised of 33 organizations in 22 countries engaged in research and analysis on the full range of climate-related issues. Ours is a diverse group. Our membership organizations draw on different strengths and hold a range of views. Accordingly, we do not seek as a group to offer specific recommendations or advice to the Parties. We are united, however, in the belief that climate change is one of the most profound challenges of our time, and in our support for efforts toward a more robust international response – one that complements and supports sustainable development, and that strengthens action both on mitigation and on adaptation.

Many of our member organizations are actively engaged in work to better define this challenge, and to develop approaches that may help meet it. This work includes expert analysis of a range of issues and options, as well as initiatives to facilitate informal dialogue among governments and stakeholders. We are grateful to Parties represented here that have supported or participated in this work, and to the Experts who in their presentations acknowledged the contributions of the research community to the emerging thinking on future approaches. We are fully committed to continuing this work, and we look forward to opportunities to contribute more directly to this process as it moves forward, in whatever manner the Parties deem most appropriate.

We look forward also to the upcoming Montreal conference, and are hopeful that Parties may find agreement there on steps to initiate more formal consideration of the options for strengthening the international climate framework. Again, we stand ready to contribute to this vital effort in any way we can.

Thank you, Mr. Chairmen.

For more information on the RINGO constituency please visit our website:
<http://www.ringos.net/>