

THE HAGUE, 11.MARCH 1989

PRIME MINISTER
GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

MAJESTIES,
EXCELLENCIES,

ABOUT 50 000 YEARS AGO, MANKIND, STARTING TO USE SIMPLE TOOLS, TOOK UP ITS STRUGGLE WITH NATURE. 200 YEARS AGO, AT THE TIME OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, MANKIND SEEMINGLY GAINED THE UPPER HAND IN THAT STRUGGLE. ONLY RECENTLY HAVE WE BECOME AWARE THAT THERE ARE THRESHOLDS THAT CANNOT BE CROSSED WITHOUT SEVERE DANGERS TO THE SURVIVAL OF THIS PLANET.

IN THE NEXT CENTURY THE HUMAN POPULATION WILL REACH 10 BILLION. HOW CAN WE PROVIDE, AS WE MUST, THE INCREASING AMOUNTS OF ENERGY NEEDED TO SUSTAIN THIS DOUBLED WORLD POPULATION? HOW CAN WE PROVIDE FOOD SHELTER AND DIGNIFIED LIFE CONDITIONS, WHEN 1 BILLION PEOPLE TODAY ARE LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY?

CLIMATE IS A VITAL ISSUE. LIFE ON EARTH DEPENDS ON IT. TODAY, LIFE IS THREATENED BY SEVERE ATTACKS ON THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. AGRICULTURE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND INDUSTRIAL PATTERNS WILL ALSO BE AT STAKE.

THE POINT OF THIS SUMMIT IS SIMPLE: SCIENCE HAS SHOWN US THE SCOPE OF DANGERS TO THE ATMOSPHERE. PEOPLE ARE AWARE, AND THEY ARE WORRIED. THEY EXPECT THAT WE DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL WILL. THEY EXPECT ACTION.

WE MUST ALL SUPPORT THE NEW PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND WE MUST STRETCH OUR AMBITIONS FURTHER! DECISIVE

MEASURES WILL AFFECT US ALL. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO LIVE IN DIGNITY IN A SOUND AND VIABLE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

THIS REQUIRES A NEW APPROACH. WE HAVE SET IT OUT CLEARLY IN OUR DECLARATION:

WHAT WE CALL FOR IS UNPRECEDENTED; WE MAKE A FORCEFUL CALL FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. AND WE CALL FOR GREATER SOLIDARITY AMONG NATIONS AND BETWEEN GENERATIONS

THE PRINCIPLES WE HAVE ENDORSED ARE IN FACT RADICAL. BUT ANY APPROACH THAT IS LESS AMBITIOUS WILL NOT SERVE US.

OUR DECLARATION STATES THE NEED FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY. THIS AUTHORITY MUST HAVE POWER. AND ON OCCASION, IT COULD BE EXERCISED EVEN IF UNANIMITY CANNOT BE REACHED.

WE MUST HAVE A SOLID SCIENTIFIC BASE FOR OUR POLICIES. WE NEED MORE OPENNESS ABOUT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE, AND BETTER ACCESS TO THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDED.

WE MUST DEFINE STANDARDS AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE.

WE MUST HAVE EFFECTIVE REGULATORY AND SUPPORTIVE MEASURES. AND WE MUST UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

ANY INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION MUST BE BASED ON SOLIDARITY - SOLIDARITY WITH PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS - RATHER THAN THE TYRANNY OF THE IMMEDIATE.

SHARING THE BURDEN IS ESSENTIAL. THAT IS WHY WE CALL

FOR FAIR AND EQUITABLE ASSISTANCE TO COMPENSATE THE COUNTRIES WHICH WILL HAVE TO TAKE ON SPECIAL BURDENS IN VIEW OF THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

FAIRNESS, BUT ALSO OUR SELF-INTEREST, REQUIRES THAT WE ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN REALIZING THEIR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMON GOALS.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE RESOLVED TO IMPLEMENT THESE PRINCIPLES AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL FOUNDATION FOR THEM.

TODAY WE ARE STARTING A NEW ERA IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WE WILL COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE NECESSARY NEGOTIATIONS.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLES FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY WILL BE FOUGHT IN THE COMING DECADES. WE MUST BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE. OUR START TODAY OFFERS GREAT HOPE. WITH YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND COMMITMENT, - WE WILL SUCCEED.