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**Committee on Trade and Environment**

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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The attached paper<sup>1</sup> is being circulated to the Members of the Committee on Trade and Environment as background to the presentation made by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the CTE Meeting held on 29-30 June 1999.

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**Comité du commerce et de l'environnement**

**COMMUNICATION DU SECRÉTARIAT DE LA CONVENTION-CADRE  
DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES**

Le document joint en annexe<sup>1</sup> est distribué aux membres du Comité du commerce et de l'environnement comme document de référence pour l'exposé présenté par le Secrétariat de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques à la réunion tenue par le Comité les 29 et 30 juin 1999.

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**Comité de Comercio y Medio Ambiente**

**COMUNICACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DEL FORO  
INTERGUBERNAMENTAL SOBRE LOS BOSQUES**

El documento adjunto<sup>1</sup> se distribuye a los miembros del Comité de Comercio y Medio Ambiente como información general sobre la exposición hecha por la Secretaría de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático en la reunión del Comité de Comercio y Medio Ambiente celebrada los días 29 y 30 de junio de 1999.

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<sup>1</sup>English only/En anglais seulement/En inglés solamente.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. The ultimate objective of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change is to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention is an important step in meeting the objective of the Convention. The Kyoto Protocol commits industrialized countries to elaborate domestic policies and measures to achieve their legally-binding targets for reduction of greenhouse gases. The Protocol also recognizes economic instruments, including emission credits and emission trading - new market mechanisms - as a means to achieve emission limitation. The Protocol will build a comprehensive compliance system to ensure the confidence and credibility of the Kyoto Protocol.

2. Article 3.5 of the Convention states that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of discrimination on international trade. The Kyoto Protocol reaffirms this principle. No trade measures are included in these agreements; implications for the trade regime may arise from the national implementation of measures to meet commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

3. Parties are in the process of developing principles, modalities, rules and guidelines for the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. The issue of the interaction between WTO rules and the Protocol's mechanisms has been raised in a technical workshop, but has not been the subject of the policy oriented work of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention.

4. Ways to facilitate cooperation to enhance the individual and combined effectiveness of policies and measures are being considered. The measures include promotion of energy efficiency, sustainable forest management, new and renewable forms of energy, progressive reduction or phasing out of market imperfections as well as measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including in the transport and waste management sectors. Views of Parties on "best practices" will be available later in the year.

5. A joint working group has been established to develop a comprehensive compliance system under the Kyoto Protocol. The discussions in this group have so far been on substantive rules, procedures for addressing compliance and the consequences of non-compliance. The group has also considered that the objectives of a compliance system, consistent with the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol, could be to facilitate compliance, prevent non-compliance or disputes from arising and promote compliance through cooperative means.

6. Details of the above on-going work are expected to emerge only during the course of this year, and more specifically in the year 2000.

7. As a point of information, the UNFCCC has received 179 instruments of ratification or accession.

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