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**Statement to COP Plenary by Climate Action Network on Agenda item 8  
(Exchange of Views on UNFCCC activities Relevant to Other Intergovernmental  
Meetings) Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2004**

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Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for this opportunity to address the session:

Some people have called this the Adaptation COP, and CAN welcomes an increased focus on adaptation issues, as the impacts of dangerous climate change are already being felt. I would like to recall two statements from the opening plenary which we strongly support

- 1) we are already experiencing dangerous climate change, as defined
- 2) that along with adaptation to unavoidable climate damages, an aggressive mitigation regime is required to avoid those damages to which it will be impossible to adapt

Synergies and cooperation between UN bodies absolutely essential to building an adequate Adaptation regime...supported by an aggressive regime designed to keep emissions below 2 deg C above pre-industrial levels.

In that light, it is puzzling, to say the least, why some developed country Parties, so vehemently opposed the inclusion of this agenda item.

- 1) UNGA request to participate in Barbados review - The global community, especially the countries represented in this room, have a moral obligation to assist in whatever way possible these most vulnerable countries who are feeling the potentially fatal impacts of a problem which is not of their own making.
- 2) Likewise with the World Conference on Disaster Reduction was also the subject of a request from the UNGA. Any Adaptation regime has to have this work at its heart, as it is in the exposure to increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that has seen the skyrocketing of costs and affected people over the past two decades.

Some Parties have insisted on focusing on climate variability instead of climate change...from a scientific point of view, they are two very different things.

For these two items, time for preparation is short, and if a report is the best we can do, then so be it, but we would encourage Parties to consider what they could do to assist these processes during the course of this COP, at the very least sending a strong political signal of support.

3) However, as regards the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, there is ample time for preparation for substantive input into the only multilateral forum where energy is discussed. As I'm sure the Parties will agree, the future of our energy system is at the heart of the climate debate.

We strongly support the statement from Tuvalu that Energy for Sustainable Development should be on the agenda of the next COP

[One can hardly imagine a more relevant forum for cooperation, where the Parties can have constructive input and help fulfill their commitments under Article 2 of the Convention...](#)

- 3) One large developed country Party noted in their opening intervention that we spent many days in Marrakech discussing WSSD, without much result. CAN would like to remind the

Parties as to WHY it was that there was no substantive input to the WSSD...and why there was no agreement in the end on concrete measures to increase the uptake of RE/EE and the reduction of perverse subsidies

CAN urges the Parties to accept their responsibilities to move this process forward and not be held hostage by one or two powerful parties...As was mentioned in opening plenary, this is not the UN security council.

CAN is convinced that the United States, which played so large a role in defining the character of the Kyoto Protocol, will rejoin eventually.

We have faith, in the words of Winston Churchill, that, "at the end of the day the United States will do the right thing...once it has exhausted all other possibilities."

Thank you very much.