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## CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

**Approved by delegates attending the 8th World Clean Air Congress at The Hague, September 1989**

**The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations** - a non-governmental, non-political organisation, consisting of professional or voluntary associations worldwide concerned with the maintenance of clean air, assembling at the 8th World Clean Air Congress at The Hague, The Netherlands, on 15 September 1989, respectfully submits to the United Nations, and to all governments of the world, for earnest consideration, the following science-based declaration:

**The International Union:**

**Noting** the problems of the deterioration of the globe's biosphere, possibly leading to a perturbation of the radiation balance;

**Noting** the various projections made for future energy demands and population growth and their likely effects, in particular:

- the increased emission of carbon dioxide, due to fossil fuel combustion;
- the man-induced perturbation of the exchange of carbon dioxide between the atmosphere and the biosphere;
- the production and use of CFCs and of halons;
- the increased emission of methane and nitrous oxide as a consequence of food production;

leading to the accumulation in the troposphere of carbon dioxide, CFCs, halons, nitrous oxide, methane and carbon monoxide, as a result of the considerable residence time in the atmosphere of many of these substances;

and

**Concerned** at the potentially serious implications of the accumulation of these substances including: -

the depletion of the ozone shield in the stratosphere due to CFC/halon-induced

catalytic reactions, leading to an increase of ultraviolet solar radiation at the earth's surface; and

- the possible further increase of the ozone concentration in the free troposphere; - the possible atmospheric warming (the greenhouse effect) resulting from increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide, ozone, CFCs, halons, methane and nitrous oxide in the troposphere;

**Emphasising** that the current projections of atmospheric warming due to a doubling of carbon dioxide (including other greenhouse gases) which may occur in the next century if development is not restrained, may be in the range of 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius according to the best available climate models, are, nevertheless, based on imperfect characterisations of many important physical processes in the global models, so that also the results are subject to a high degree of uncertainty;

**Recognising** the need for a political precautionary approach now, to prevent the serious disruption which a significant climate change might have; in particular encouraging policies which would benefit both society and the environment, irrespective of climatic considerations, including:

- prohibition of the production and use of CFCs, especially the compounds CF-11, CF-12, CF-113 and CF-114, and of halons in the shortest possible time;

- safe disposal programmes for CFCs;

- development and promotion of programmes for the conservation of fossil fuels, including measures to maximise the efficiency of their use;

- the halting of further deforestation and encouragement of appropriate afforestation programmes through other technical, financial and educational assistance to developing countries;

- programmes to develop energy sources which do not create greenhouse gases;

- prudent use of global resources;

**Acknowledging** the political recognition of these environmental problems as evidenced by the many international agreements on measures to combat air pollution

**Calls** on all governments, as a matter of utmost urgency, to cooperate in investigative programmes. In particular, attention is asked for:

- Identification of the causes, effects and trends of climatic change, both natural and man-induced;
- Quantification of global and regional budgets of important atmospheric gases, their cycles and interactions;
- Identification and quantification of feed-back mechanisms;
- Improvement of global models to better anticipate the consequences of global warming in order to develop effective intervention strategies;
- Development of energy efficiency measures and energy conservation programmes;
- Development of non-fossil fuel energy sources;
- Development of carbon dioxide and methane emission control technology.