Delegates held regional group consultations in the morning. In the afternoon, the COP plenary considered: reports from the subsidiary bodies; possible decisions under Article 4.2(f); and statements from intergovernmental organizations. Contact groups met in the evening and over the weekend.

**COP PLENARY**

COP-4 President Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina) offered condolences to the Caribbean and Latin American countries recently devastated by hurricane Mitch. She noted that over the past year floods, fires, droughts and hurricanes have profoundly affected countries around the world and suggested that “Mother Nature” was reminding delegates that urgent action was needed. EL SALVADOR, for the CENTRAL AMERICAN GROUP, said these events should remind all participants of their vulnerability to disasters and should prompt action.

Delegates observed a moment of silence for the recent tragedies at the request of INDONESIA. He also proposed that the Secretariat draft a statement of sympathy for the affected countries. The President reported that Antigua and Barbuda ratified the Kyoto Protocol on 3 November.

**REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

SBSTA Chair Kok Kee Chow reported that SBSTA had completed initial consideration of all its sub-items. On development and transfer of technology, he said a contact group had met once and would meet again. Deliberations on research and systematic observation have progressed rapidly. On the proposal from Brazil, he said draft conclusions would be forthcoming on Monday. On land use change and forestry, he reported that the contact group Co-Chairs were drafting a decision. Consultations are ongoing on the impact of single project assessments on Parties, provided to fulfil their commitments under the Convention over economic and political considerations. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION requested the subsidiary body chairs to elaborate on the difficulties they have encountered and how these can be overcome. SBSTA Chair Chow said the issues were still under discussion in the designated contact groups.

The Chair of AG13, Patrick Széll, presented the draft decision on the Multilateral Consultative Process (FCCC/CP/1998/L.3). He reported that Parties had accepted the thrust of the proposal. The Chair adopted the decision and said she would hold intersessional meetings to tackle outstanding issues.

The CBD Secretariat highlighted the linkages between the desertification, biodiversity and climate change conventions and the common concern of sustainable development underlying their agenda. He spoke of CBDB decisions that emphasized cooperation between the relevant Secretariats, in particular regarding management of information from Parties, provided to fulfil their commitments under the Conventions. The Secretariat said it was ready to act on areas of common and shared interest.

President Alsogaray introduced Item 7C, which were statements from international government organizations. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), spoke of the Argentine interest and commitment to CCD. He suggested that the CCD and the FCCC were related because of their institutional arrangements and their commitment to the principles of sustainable development. He indicated that there should be a convergence of the Rio secretariats to work together for common goals.
proposed technology transfer mechanism, drawing upon the US and G-77/China. The G-77/China presented the principles of the work programme, with a much-shortened version prepared by the Co-Chairs that included the Honduran “interim phase” proposal.

The contact group met on Saturday to continue discussion on the work programme. The Chair acknowledged differences in views among the Parties, but said they were not incompatible. He suggested expeditious creation of the CDM, calling for an “interim phase” to develop guidelines and rules. The US stressed the importance of developing a timeline for discussion. Several Parties expressed concern about the length of the draft work programme.

The joint contact group on mechanisms, chaired by Luiz Gylvan Meira Filho (Brazil) and Yvo de Boer (Netherlands) met on Friday to discuss a work programme prepared by the Co-Chairs. The G-77/China stressed the need for a clear section devoted to the nature and scope of the mechanisms to facilitate comparison. He added that the mechanisms should not exacerbate the economic disadvantage of certain countries, and called for the CDM to be discussed on a priority basis. HONDURAS, supported by several Latin American countries, suggested expeditious creation of the CDM, calling for an “interim phase approach” to develop guidelines and rules. The US stressed parallel progress on all mechanisms. The EU preferred a general, rather than a detailed, debate. NEW ZEALAND stressed the importance of developing a timeline for discussion. Several Parties expressed concern about the length of the draft work programme.

The contact group on national communications from Annex I Parties, chaired by Mohamed Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) and Alexander Metelinkov (Russian Federation), met over the weekend and formulated a draft decision. It proposed that the third national communications from Annex I Parties be due in 2001 and that subsequent national communications be due every 3 to 5 years. The decision included a statement on the need for further efforts by Parties to improve completeness, consistency and comparability of data and information, as well as participating, through the SBI, in evaluating and refining the review process. It proposed that the Secretariat complete a feasibility study on the potential usefulness of data comparison and report on information contained in annual national inventory submissions.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY
CONTACT GROUPS: Contact groups will meet in morning and afternoon sessions.
SBSTA: SBSTA will meet in Plenary I at 3:00 pm.