

Thematic Debate
**“Addressing Climate Change:
The United Nations and the World at Work”**

Programme as of 7.2.08

Monday, February 11th (Trusteeship Council Chamber)

9.30 Opening Session

Statement by Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly
Statement by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Address by Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York

10.15 -13.00 Panel “Rising to the Challenge: Partnerships on Climate Change”

Moderator: Timothy Wirth, UN Foundation

Chen Ying, China Enterprise Confederation
Fiona Harvey, Financial Times
Letizia Moratti, Mayor of Milan
Hans-Gert Poettering, President of the European Parliament
Youba Sokona, Sahara and Sahel Observatory
Martin Khor, Third World Network

13.15-14.45 Lunch (Delegates Dining Room, 4th floor, upon invitation)

Keynote address by Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of Virgin Group

15.00-17.30 Panel “Responding to a Multifaceted Challenge : The UN at Work”

Moderator: Ricardo Lagos, Secretary-General’s Climate Change Envoy

Sha Zukang, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Achim Steiner, United Nations Environment Programme
Kemal Dervis, United Nations Development Programme
Josette Sheeran, World Food Programme
Monique Barbut, Global Environment Facility

17.30 Closing Remarks Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary UNFCCC

7.00 Dinner hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for Ministers

Special Guests

Jacques Diouf, Food and Agriculture Organisation

Pamela Flaherty, Citigroup Foundation

Jerome C. Glenn, The Millennium Project, Washington

Abdoulie Janneh, Economic Commission for Africa and Coordinator of Regional Commissions, United Nations

Michel Jarraud, World Meteorological Organisation

Mats Karlsson, High-level Committee on Programmes, Chief Executives Board for Coordination, United Nations

Emilio Lèbre La Rovere, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Mohan Munasinghe, Munasinghe Institute for Development

Robert Orr, Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations

Umberto Vattani, President of the Italian Trade Commission

Vincent Pérez, Alternergy, Singapore

Meenakshi Raman, Friends of the Earth International

Kandeh Yumkella, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

Xia Yingqi, Science Park Beijing

Tuesday, 12 February (General Assembly Hall)

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Plenary meeting

3.00 – 6.00 p.m. Plenary meeting

Concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly



General Assembly

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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 62/8 of 19 November 2007, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, by 25 January 2008, a comprehensive report providing an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in relation to climate change.
2. Unequivocal and authoritative scientific evidence, recent climate events and the resulting increased public attention have elevated climate change high up in the political agenda, facing the international community with a global challenge, which demands an international response. Attention is now focused on the necessity for the multilateral system to mount such a response. An inclusive and coherent approach to climate change would enable the United Nations system to provide support for the negotiations on an international agreement on an effective post-2012 climate change framework, and provide a multisectoral mechanism through which to deliver on future agreements, as well as improve implementation of existing mandates.
3. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (AR4) concludes that our climate system is warming as a result of human activities. Rising greenhouse gas emissions not only threaten our environment, but undermine development and have dramatic and negative consequences for our economic and social well-being, with the most negative effects being felt by the poor. Without a stable climate and without adequate knowledge of future climate change trends, we may not achieve the Millennium Development Goals.



4. The 24 September 2007 high-level event on climate change convened by the Secretary-General enabled a high-level dialogue and resulted in a strong message from global leaders on their commitment to addressing climate change. The United Nations system was reaffirmed as the appropriate multilateral framework through which the necessary future climate change regime can be established.

5. The United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹ from 3 to 15 December 2007, was a major turning point in efforts to address climate change. The resulting Bali Road Map and Action Plan provide the framework for the achievement of a comprehensive global agreement by the end of 2009. The international community now needs to engage in the processes launched in order to reach an agreement by the stipulated date, so as to enable its entering into force by the end of 2012, when the current commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² expire. All Parties, both developed and developing countries, will need to do their part, on the basis of their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in order to achieve this. The Bali process has to develop the basis for action needed after 2012 to effectively adapt to inevitable climate change impacts and to mitigate its causes. A prerequisite for this is putting in place the financial and technology tools that provide the essential catalysts for addressing climate change at the global scale.

6. The Secretary-General has made it a personal priority to work with Member States to ensure that the United Nations maximizes its ability to support this global effort, which is just the kind of global challenge that the United Nations is best suited to address. To deliver on this potential, the United Nations must evaluate its capabilities and understand its potential role and value added. The United Nations needs to be more than merely the sum of its parts. To provide a solid platform and deliver a sound framework, concrete and meaningful cooperation across the United Nations system should be enhanced. The challenge is to develop and implement effectively integrated economic, trade, social and environmental policies on mitigating and adapting to climate change. Deliberations on United Nations system-wide coherence have led to a process of rethinking that could potentially strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to “Deliver as one” in respect of this critical challenge, particularly in supporting the efforts of Member States at the country level.

7. As a first step in achieving this level of coordinated action, the United Nations system has participated in developing an overview of its current activities in response to climate change. As a next step, the United Nations system through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination will also undertake the development of an effective framework for greater coherence and coordination of the work of the system, especially in view of additional mandates and tasks expected to result from the negotiations for a post-2012 framework.

8. The first regular session of 2007 (20 April) of the Chief Executives Board, meeting under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, recognized that many of the challenges the United Nations system currently faces can be met only if the system brings to bear its collective capacities in a coherent and mutually supportive

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

manner to deliver as one. On behalf of the Chief Executives Board, the Secretary-General requested the Chair of its High-level Committee on Programmes, supported by the Chief Executives Board secretariat, to undertake an assessment of the current role of the United Nations system in addressing climate change. On the basis of this, it would then be possible to provide preliminary recommendations on how the United Nations system acting together can position itself to play a central role in supporting international efforts to address the negative implications of climate change.

9. This report aims to provide a preliminary overview of the current climate change activities of the United Nations and an indication of the way forward. It contains the results, as of now, of extensive consultations within the Chief Executives Board and its High-level Committee on Programmes. Annex I to the report provides an overview of current United Nations system activities on climate change organized by key areas. Annex II contains a more forward-looking paper entitled “Coordinated United Nations system action on climate change”. Annex II, in particular, is the outcome of extensive consultations among all relevant United Nations system entities on a common approach. It exemplifies the system’s commitment to strengthening and coordinating its work under the four main areas under intergovernmental discussion, namely, adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing, in support of the efforts of Member States to implement existing and future agreements.

10. The United Nations system activities covered by this report are undertaken within the framework of the mandates provided to the United Nations system entities by Member States through the relevant intergovernmental organs. The list of activities, although not exhaustive, is comprehensive enough to demonstrate the level of commitment of, as well as the breadth of activities carried out by, the system. Redoubled efforts are required by all stakeholders — Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and individuals around the world — in order to address effectively the challenge of climate change. Partnerships are a key element of mobilizing the necessary resources and the political and economic will to do so. The United Nations system must work with all concerned to bring about the desired results for the common good of humanity.

11. The United Nations system will continue this unprecedented effort to bring to bear the collective strength of all its entities as an integral part of the international community’s response to climate change. Further work is being undertaken to develop a coordination structure with key clusters of activity and specific lead agencies. This effort, a “work in progress” requiring sustained attention, will evolve in light of international deliberations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other intergovernmental bodies.

Annex I

Overview of current United Nations system activities on climate change

I. Introduction

The present annex aims to provide an overview of the United Nations system's current climate change activities. It has been compiled on the basis of written submissions from members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and subsequent consultations in the framework of the Chief Executives Board High-level Committee on Programmes. This does not constitute an attempt to provide an exhaustive inventory of all relevant United Nations activities, or to evaluate their effectiveness. Moreover, as the overview does not account for the financial resources allocated to each activity, it therefore does not attempt to assess the scale of individual and collective activities. Finally, it does not take account of the specialized role of multilateral environmental agreements.

II. Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning: foundations of United Nations work on climate change

A key activity in this area entails the preparation of Special and Assessment Reports and Technical Papers by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (a joint United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) body), which involve authoritative analysis of scientific and technical data and information generated by WMO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other organizations and provision of relevant policy options. WMO has a mandate to provide world leadership in expertise and international coordination in weather, climate, hydrology, and water resources and related environmental issues and is the United Nations system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate process and the resulting distribution of water resources. UNEP has a mandate to keep the world environment situation under review and provides policy advice and early warning on emerging environmental threats and challenges.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has established the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Scientific information, including that produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is presented to the Subsidiary Body and discussed through expert groups, workshops and other meetings. There is active cooperation between the Intergovernmental Panel and the Framework Convention, to ensure that the material produced by the Intergovernmental Panel is policy-relevant.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is the recognized United Nations mechanism for global cooperation in the study of the oceans, a key climate driver. Through the Joint IOC-WMO Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), it coordinates and manages the implementation of an operational ocean observing system in support of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Climate Observing System

(GCOS), and reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

UNESCO provides the secretariat for the World Water Assessment Programme and leads the production team of over 20 United Nations entities of UN-Water that contribute in an inter-agency collaboration to the *World Water Development Report*, the United Nations system's reference document, that tracks the water-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals. The third edition of the *Report*, endorsed unanimously by UN-Water and scheduled for publication in 2009, will focus on "Climate change and water".

A very broad range of other activities are under way including: the World Climate Research Programme jointly sponsored by WMO, IOC of UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU); Global Environment Outlook providing early warning and assessment of emerging threats (UNEP), and rigorous and unbiased reviews of the state of knowledge on climate processes and impacts (UNESCO); the Global Terrestrial Observing System, the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases programme (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)); research on the health impacts of climate change (World Health Organization (WHO)); operational research on the impact of climate change on children and support for the local actions of children to improve and monitor community-based environmental processes (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)); vulnerability analysis and monitoring of food (World Food Programme (WFP)); provision of climate and seasonal forecasting in Africa to enable better decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors (for example, farming and water management) in the region (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)); and support to poor rural communities in building their resilience to climate fluctuations also through emergency and contingency plans (including early warning systems and emergency plans) (International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)).

III. Supporting global, regional and national action on climate change

Brokering negotiations and facilitating collective action

At the international level, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change^a plays the main role in facilitating negotiated solutions to climate change issues. The Convention secretariat provides logistic and substantive support to the meetings of the Convention and ensures coordination with other processes. Other international environmental, trade and other bodies are also involved in brokering agreements in their respective subject areas.

At the national level, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other in-country United Nations bodies play a key role in facilitating collective action for managing climate change and sustainable development by supporting national Governments and engaging other national stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, universities, research institutions and the private sector).

^a United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Integrated policy and activity planning: climate change and sustainable development

Cutting across adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing, the integration of climate, including science and technical advancements, into national development plans is a key tool for facilitating country-led responses to climate change and ensuring complementarity and coherence among environment, development, economic, social, trade and security policies. Existing mechanisms for improved system-wide cooperation include: UN-Energy, UN-Water, UN-OCEANS, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG).

UNDP is working on its key objective and mandate in this area, to lower the risk that climate presents to development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Likewise, the World Bank is engaged in supporting pro-poor growth strategies, which take account of climate impacts and risk. ECA within the framework of the African Union Commission-ECA-African Development Bank has played a central role in the preparation of the “Climate for Development in Africa Programme” (ClimDev-Africa), which aims to guide the effective integration of climate information and services into development planning as well as into policies and strategies aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP and UNEP are working in collaboration through various programmes including the Climate Change and Development: Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability programme, the Partnership on Climate Change and Poverty, and the Poverty and Environment Centre and are collaborating in implementing the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building^b to assist countries in integrating climate into national development strategies. United Nations Country Teams integrate climate into United Nations cooperation frameworks and country programmes and facilitate adaptation projects at the country level.

The efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are directed at supporting capacity-building for development of greenhouse gas mitigation projects in the industrial sector and direct participation of representatives of industry and its institutions in the activities related to the intergovernmental process on climate change, such as the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and associated side events. UNIDO pays particular attention to industrial energy efficiency and the removal of barriers to the development of energy efficiency projects that reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and promote greater competitiveness and productivity of industry. UNIDO also advocates the importance of industry as a key sector for adaptation activities and the need for inclusion of adaptation policies and strategies in industrial development policies at the national level. Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process, UNIDO contributes to the global dialogue on climate technology transfer by cooperating with key bodies engaged in this process, such as the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) and the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI).

^b UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

IFAD is strengthening its advocacy for ensuring that there is convergence between the Millennium Development Goals and climate change-related mitigation and adaptation activities. It is also developing policies, strategies and procedures aimed at mainstreaming climate change into its programmes/projects. Moreover, IFAD will adopt a climate-proofing approach to land management for operations in its global environment facility (GEF)/strategic investment programme for Sustainable Land Management in sub-Saharan Africa (SIP) portfolio (the Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, the Niger and Swaziland) in order to pursue an integrated approach to the management of productive rural land, including carbon storage, and adaptation to climate change. IFAD hosts the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,^c and is working with this institution in addressing the linkages between land degradation and climate change.

The World Tourism Organization is studying the interrelationship between climate change and tourism with a view to developing a holistic approach to tourism while tackling climate change and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Capacity-building

All too often, political will exists at the national level but the capacity to act is lacking, hindering national efforts. The United Nations system is playing a critical role in addressing this capacity gap.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Parties regularly address capacity-building, and have identified national capacity-building priorities that are consolidated in a capacity-building framework for climate change to guide the work of Parties, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations. The Convention secretariat has actively participated in activities that directly impact upon successful fulfilment of obligations by developing-country Parties. In particular, the secretariat has supported countries through training and technical support in assessing their vulnerability to climate change, and in producing national climate change plans including adaptation action plans. It also cooperates with other United Nations organizations in their work on capacity-building for the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa through the Nairobi Framework, and is working with agencies in planning and delivering capacity-building for adaptation, in reduction of emissions from deforestation and in other areas.

The World Bank's overarching goal in this regard is to enhance national capacities to cope with climate change. UNEP and UNDP capacity-building activities, which are increasingly planned and conducted jointly, extend to the areas of integrated environmental assessment, early warning and data management, and adaptation planning.

Capacity-building for managing climate change is also needed within the United Nations system. UNDP has carried out staff training sessions on climate change mitigation, carbon finance and adaptation for three audiences in all regions: (a) country office environment staff, (b) country office senior management and (c) regional technical experts, reaching more than 400 staff members by the end of

^c United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

2007. UNDP is assisting the United Nations Country Teams and UNDP country offices in screening the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP programmes for climate change risks to ensure the effective use of official development assistance (ODA). Training courses are being designed for UNDP staff to help them carry out these screenings and to respond effectively to climate risks on an ongoing basis.

UNESCO co-chairs the capacity-building activities of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) with the goal of increasing member State capacity to participate in and profit from global remote sensing and in situ observing systems. WMO, UNESCO, the World Bank, ECA, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are all involved in building the scientific and technical capacity in the provision and use of climate information, including in development planning and decision-making. For example, the WMO Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) deliver to users sector-specific comprehensive information on present and future climate variations. The WMO Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) provide an effective mechanism for capacity-building at the regional level, particularly in developing countries.

UNIDO undertakes capacity-building activities for climate change project formulation, economic and financial appraisal and support for the transfer of know-how and technical knowledge for greater industrial energy efficiency, with particular focus on optimization of industrial energy systems. The work of IFAD contributes to building the capacity of farmer/people organizations in rural areas to enhance their access to opportunities and reduce their vulnerability.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has developed training material, including by using e-learning courses on the rules of the Clean Development Mechanism, with the aim of increasing the number of Clean Development Mechanism project developers from developing countries and attracting new Clean Development Mechanism investment towards energy-related and other development projects. The World Trade Organization is engaged in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building with respect to negotiations on the liberalization of environmental goods and services and on various aspects of mutual supportiveness of trade and environment. United Nations entities such as UNEP and UNCTAD are regularly invited to contribute to World Trade Organization technical assistance activities.

Reporting

Reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change includes national communications, national greenhouse gas inventories, and national adaptation programmes of action, among other forums. The Convention secretariat has actively participated in the development of methodological guidelines by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and has assisted Parties in transforming these guidelines into Convention reporting guidelines. It also coordinates the process of reporting and review of all information reported by Parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.^d Based on guidance provided by the two

^d FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

instruments, it has established review procedures to ensure that such information is complete, transparent, accurate, consistent and comparable. It organizes expert reviews relying on internationally renowned experts. The secretariat also administers the most comprehensive greenhouse gas database.

UNEP and UNDP, as implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, and WMO play a lead role in supporting the development of these reports/communications from Parties. UNDP has now supported about 200 initial and second national communications, including those of China, India and Brazil. The second phase of the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) is a six-year initiative, jointly managed by UNDP and UNEP, to provide technical assistance to non-Annex I parties for the preparation of their national communications.

IV. Key sectors of United Nations activity under adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing

A. Adaptation

Integrated planning and assessment

The core United Nations contribution to adaptation currently lies in the development of integrated national development plans, including climate screening of national strategies, country-level vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and climate screening (the Global Environment Facility (GEF) portfolio).

UNDP has developed 20 adaptation initiatives (involving 46 countries, including countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Arab States) worth US\$ 160 million, about two thirds of which is co-financing and one third is GEF funding. Additional projects, totalling US\$ 50 million, have been prepared for additional resources that may become available. In response to country priorities, the UNDP adaptation projects target the following thematic areas: agriculture and food security, water resources and quality, coastal zone development, public health, and climate-related disaster management. In addition, the MDG Achievement Fund supported by the Government of Spain finances collaborative United Nations activities focused on the integration of climate change risks and adaptation into national development and selected subnational programmes, and United Nations programming.

UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and IFAD report sector-specific integrated planning activities. The UNESCO Small Island Developing States Programme and its Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme promote local-level observations and understanding of climate change which provide the basis for community-based adaptation measures for vulnerable populations in remote areas such as small islands, high altitudes, wet tropics and the circumpolar North. UNESCO also provides support to States parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972^e in implementing preventative and corrective measures to combat climate

^e United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

change impacts on natural and cultural world heritage, including raising awareness and sharing of knowledge and experience, developing pilot projects, and developing policy on climate change impacts on world heritage.

The Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change was launched at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2006 in order to assist countries in improving their understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability and in increasing their ability to make informed decisions on how to adapt successfully. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat coordinates the programme and has established cooperation with almost 100 United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations. Projects are being undertaken in this framework by UNDP and UNEP to strengthen the adaptive capacities of developing countries. The World Bank is facilitating pilot projects that incorporate adaptation into standard development projects as well as developing tools with which to screen projects for climate risks. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is engaged in the development of the Asia-Pacific regional platform on adaptation to climate change, which in part aims at mainstreaming climate change adaptation in national development planning.

WMO contributes to the Nairobi Work Programme in the thematic areas of impacts and vulnerability and adaptation planning, measures and actions. WMO has a leading role in five of nine work areas: methods and tools, data and observation, climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, climate-related risk, and extreme events and research. WFP is exploring the feasibility of using financial instruments to manage risks to livelihoods resulting from drought. For instance, WFP and the World Bank are collaborating on a weather-based insurance pilot project to provide monetary compensation to Ethiopian farmers and protect them against the risk of drought.

National Adaptation Programmes of Action

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has launched the process of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), which focuses on the identification of priority activities that respond to the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least developed countries. In work related to the National Adaptation Programmes of Action, the Convention secretariat has developed and maintains a database on local coping strategies, and a compendium of methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change.

A partnership of UNEP and UNDP focuses on mainstreaming climate change concerns into national development strategies through a three-pronged approach of: (a) assisting countries in assessing their vulnerabilities and incorporating adaptation concerns into national policies and investment plans; (b) assisting United Nations country teams in integrating climate risk into formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; and (c) conducting pilot projects in key affected sectors together with relevant United Nations agencies. A first major initiative of this approach, Climate Change and Development: Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability (CC-DARE), focusing on sub-Saharan Africa, was launched at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Bali. UNDP is supporting 30 countries in carrying out National Adaptation Programmes of Action, for which

10 follow-up projects are under development to date. Implementing National Adaptation Programme of Action projects is a national priority, and collaboration among United Nations agencies and regional development banks is also being pursued through these projects. UNDP is at various stages of collaboration with UNEP, FAO, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank on projects in five countries.

Energy

A core function of the United Nations is mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the energy development agenda, including through national energy development plans. The World Bank, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP and IAEA all have programmes of work in this area. UN-Energy is the inter-agency mechanism established to promote system-wide collaboration in the area of energy with a coherent and consistent approach, since there is no single entity in the United Nations system that has primary responsibility for energy.

Water

United Nations bodies (UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, IAEA) play principally a normative function in the areas of integrating climate into water management programmes and practices. FAO and IFAD work on links between agriculture and water management under climate stress. WMO is developing the methodologies to recognize global climate change models and to study the impacts of climate variability and change on the scale of regional and large river basin water resources. WFP, FAO and UNDP are involved in the implementation of water-related adaptation activities including rainwater harvesting and storage.

The UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) strategy recognizes the need to protect and manage the water environment, and also recognizes that no agency has the resources to tackle this issue alone. The strategy stipulates that all UNICEF WASH programmes should include specific support for community management of local water resources, including rainwater harvesting (for use by households and schools), and groundwater recharge, micro-watershed management and operational research. Where appropriate, these efforts will be supplemented with the increased promotion of solar and wind energy systems. The strategy notes that UNICEF will work closely with partners to ensure that national policies support effective water-quality monitoring and, where necessary, improvement programmes, and that it will use its position as one of the leading agencies in the WASH sector to bring the needs of the sector to the table in water resources management.

UNESCO addresses assessment, development and research in respect of adaptation strategies related to both freshwater and ocean and coastal regions through its lead role in the World Water Assessment Programme and production of the *World Water Development Report*, as mentioned above. Adaptation strategies focus on management of shared transboundary surface- and groundwater systems and coastal strategies for small island developing States.

Agriculture, food and fisheries

IFAD supports local communities in rural areas in adapting to climate change through investments in areas such as: agronomic management; crop management; alternative enterprises and income diversification; and post-harvest systems. IFAD

also supports the adoption of conservation agriculture and research on climate change, agriculture and food security. FAO operates predominantly at the normative level, including through: monitoring (impacts of climate on marine resources, pests, disease and food security), and development of methods and modelling to improve on-farm decision-making, that is to say, livestock and crop choices. WFP undertakes a range of field-based operational activities that impact directly on the resilience and sustainability of food and agriculture prior to, during and following hazardous events, including vulnerability analysis and mapping, needs assessment, food security monitoring (in partnership with FAO) and a range of community-based hunger safety net initiatives. Other activities include the use of vegetation to reduce vulnerability, and land rehabilitation.

IAEA through partnership with FAO is involved in normative activities, policy advice, capacity-building, research and development and operational technical support to (a) reduce vulnerability of agriculture to drought, soil erosion and water scarcity and (b) assess the potential impacts of soil and water conservation measures on food security, land degradation and greenhouse emissions from soils. FAO is involved in the implementation and monitoring of particularly vulnerable production systems, such as pastoral systems in drylands. The WMO Agricultural Meteorology programme is addressing the issues of adaptation to climate change in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors. Most national meteorological and hydrological services are providing climate-related inputs to decision-making in agricultural communities. In collaboration with the Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is promoting pilot projects for sustainable agriculture in refugee camps located in areas in Chad, Ethiopia, Namibia, the Sudan and Zimbabwe that are facing desertification.

Health

WHO undertakes a range of climate-related activities, aimed at promoting sustainable development while safeguarding health and promoting long-term health benefits, including reducing environmental health risks associated to climate change. WHO is engaging with other agencies to ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation measures promote health benefits. WMO and WHO issued a range of joint guidelines on, for example, climate change and health (with UNEP), air quality in megacities, the UV index, and vegetation fires, and are in the process of developing guidance on the development of warning systems for heat waves and health, and early warning of epidemics of weather- and climate-sensitive diseases in Africa.

UNDP has collaborated with WHO on a \$6 million (\$22 million including co-financing) public health focused adaptation project involving seven countries for funding by the Global Environment Facility. UNICEF supports WHO and UNEP in the area of children's environmental health. The agencies are working on the development of a joint plan of action to address climate change and health impacts on children.

Human settlements

United Nations system activity in this sector is primarily driven by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UNESCO and focuses on

improving the level of understanding of the impact of climate on human settlements. The UNESCO Social and Human Sciences programme has recently begun working to develop knowledge, research and capacity on urban policy, giving consideration to the environmental impact of uncontrolled urbanization of rural and coastal territories due to climate change-related migration and consumption. This programme, in also addressing the issue of climatic refugees, is developing tools to assess the impact of climate change on migration flows and addressing the relevance of migration policies.

UNHCR is planning to look into the issue of environmentally induced displacement from a human rights/protection perspective. Furthermore, UNHCR has initiated preliminary research on the existing literature containing projections of climate change-related population movements in order to ascertain how the climate change issue is being portrayed. Particular attention is given to ensuring that the potential environmental impact is kept at a minimum through site survey and planning, and construction of shelters and other facilities. A number of UNHCR field offices are taking action to tackle the implications of climate change through waste reduction in camps, recycling and composting, and construction of environmentally friendly shelters.

Industry

Industrial activities primarily fall under “Technology” (see below). However, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is actively involved in supporting adaptation through social protection, proactive labour markets and social dialogue as well as undertaking assessments of the impact of climate change on small and medium-sized enterprises. UNIDO promotes greater efforts to address adaptation in industry, especially in respect of its access to key inputs of production, impacts on natural resources and physical assets, industrial location and increased danger of industrial incidents.

Disaster risk reduction

A range of bodies are active in this sector, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, WMO, WFP, the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, ITU, FAO and UNESCO, with programmes in disaster, risk and crisis prevention and recovery: IFAD in strengthening the coping strategies of poor rural populations through assistance and rehabilitation programmes and through its work on indigenous people; and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its work on links between crime (illegal trafficking in forestry products) and climate change.

Climate change has spurred increased collaboration within UNDP between the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the Environment and Energy Group. Both the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the Environment and Energy Group are assisting countries in managing climate-related risks. The two groups are building a more integrated, comprehensive programme for managing climate change-related disaster risks towards three outcomes: integrating climate change risks into United Nations country programming; integrating climate change risks into national development priorities; and piloting risk management interventions. The specific objective of this cooperation is to develop and demonstrate an integrated UNDP approach to climate risk management. Country-

level demonstration activities are being prioritized with a view to achieving climate risk reduction at broader regional and global levels.

The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, and implemented as a United Nations programme under the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, aims at providing access to and developing the capacity of all countries to use the various types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle.

B. Mitigation

Integrated policy and programme planning

Mitigating climate change requires a multifaceted approach, spanning all areas of policy- and decision-making. Comprehensive national development strategies are a key tool for mitigating climate change, as is the screening of development programmes for climate impacts. Action on mitigation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol requires robust scientific and technical information to determine cost-effective action as well as the impacts of different options. The Convention secretariat has supported discussions on mitigation under the different bodies under the Convention. This includes the consideration of mitigation material by the International Panel on Climate Change under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and work on mitigation potential under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG), established to develop commitments for the period after 2012. In response to requests by Parties, and often in cooperation with other United Nations entities or intergovernmental organizations, the Convention secretariat has produced several targeted technical papers, organized expert meetings and workshops and continuously liaises with scientific and research organizations on this matter to keep Parties up to date.

Work is already under way by UNEP, UNDP, IFAD, WMO, UNIDO, ESCAP, ITU and IAEA in assisting countries in integrating climate mitigation priorities into national policies and programmes including through the provision of technical capacity-building, use of environmental assessment procedures, promoting “green growth” approaches and climate proofing development. Other organizations reporting activities in this area include IFAD, ILO and UNESCO. The World Bank has developed “climate screening toolkits” to enable projects to be screened for potential climate impacts.

Energy

The World Bank has a vast energy portfolio, as does UNDP. Both portfolios are largely aimed at improving access to energy and promoting pro-poor growth strategies, while mitigating the risk of climate change. UNDP/GEF supports countries in transforming markets in order that they may attract and drive direct investment towards lower-carbon technologies and practices, while focusing on win-win solutions that simultaneously reduce climate change risks and contribute to human development, such as those based on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable land-use practices. Through GEF, the World Bank, UNDP, and

UNEP have mobilized over \$2 billion and leveraged an additional \$10 billion in co-financing since 1991 to support climate change projects in developing countries. The objective of these projects is to develop and transform the markets for energy and mobility in developing countries so that they can grow in a sustainable and less carbon-intensive manner. A key contribution of the World Bank to the energy agenda is the Clean Energy Investment Framework, which aims to improve access to energy, promote energy efficiency and renewables and assist in adaptation and vulnerability assessments.

A key emerging issue is bioenergy. UNEP, FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and UNIDO report activities including assessments on the opportunities and constraints with respect to bioenergy and identifying approaches that raise the market value of bioenergy. The joint work of UNEP, FAO and UNIDO brings together the comparative knowledge capacities of each as regards assessment and integrated analysis tools, sustainable resources from forests and agriculture, and advanced bioenergy fuels, respectively. FAO is undertaking key work in biodigestion of animal waste, and offering synergies between bioenergy production and water and soil pollution prevention. UNEP is conducting a study exploring opportunities and challenges of increased biofuels production as well as related sustainability criteria and certification systems, and the impacts of incentives or subsidies for biofuels. The UNCTAD Biofuels Initiative, launched in 2005, serves as a hub for analysis and discussion in respect of several aspects of the biofuels option, including specific country assessments, effects on food security, trade and investment opportunities, climate change benefits, biofuels certification, and second-generation biofuels technology. Additionally, UNCTAD has explored other mitigation routes in its work on commodity trade via its sustainable commodity initiative. Along the same lines, UNCTAD foresees significant mitigation gains through the potential liberalization of environmental goods and services.

WMO assists, through tailored climate information, in enhancing exploitation of sustainable natural energy sources such as wind and solar energy, biomass and hydraulics. UNIDO is engaged in the promotion of industrial energy efficiency. The work of IAEA is focused on improving understanding of alternative energy strategies including nuclear energy. The work of ITU encompasses energy reduction measures for new technologies.

UNICEF is supporting renewable energy solutions for schools and health centres in many countries as well as promoting renewable energy solutions for household use designed to reduce the health impacts of indoor air pollution on children. Since sufficient firewood is one of the main concerns in camps for refugee/internally displaced persons, UNHCR encourages its beneficiaries to use alternative fuels and fuel-efficient stoves, in order to reduce firewood consumption and related deforestation. Tests have been made using peat moss, rice husks, biogas and solar energy as supplementary energy sources for cooking. More efficient cooking systems are also being encouraged, entailing in particular shared cooking areas and cooking techniques.

Forestry

FAO provides technical support on afforestation and deforestation programmes. UNEP is supporting the development of equitable mechanisms to realize the co-benefits of reducing emissions from deforestation, conserving

biodiversity and ensuring environmental sustainability. The Global Environment Facility, of which the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP are implementing agencies, has recently added a strategic programme on managing land use, land-use change and forestry as a means to protect carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Discussions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation play an important role within the United Nations Framework on Climate Change in light of the significant contributions these emissions make to global greenhouse gas concentrations. As part of the support to negotiations on this topic, the Convention secretariat has produced several technical papers and is currently developing a web platform for channelling relevant scientific technical and policy-related information.

The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves implements research using the buffer and transition zones of the reserves for innovative combinations of afforestation/reforestation, avoided deforestation, rural energy and infrastructure development and urban planning in order to enhance integrated solutions to reducing biodiversity loss, mitigating climate change and enhancing socio-economic development. In cooperation with UNEP, UNICEF is supporting tree planting campaigns in many countries. WFP is also involved in tree planting as part of reforestation activities. To minimize the scale of deforestation caused by refugees and other displaced persons around the world, UNHCR has supported reforestation projects in a number of countries for a long time. UNHCR is currently supporting a major environmental programme aimed at planting and caring for more than 9 million trees. In addition, UNHCR is carrying out similar reforestation projects in returnee areas.

Transport

The World Bank and UNDP, through the GEF Trust Fund, have provided investment and capacity-building support, respectively, as a means of facilitating sustainable urban transport. UNEP has also provided technical assistance, mainly for bus rapid transit systems. The cumulative GEF portfolio on sustainable transport is currently valued at \$170 million, with \$2.4 billion in co-financing.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are undertaking mitigation measures in their respective transport sectors (aviation and maritime). Energy intensity has improved in the aviation sector by 70 per cent over the past 40 years with an additional 25 per cent improvement expected by 2020. With regard to maritime transport, the IMO Assembly adopted resolution A.963(23) on 5 December 2003, which contains the Organization's policies and practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships, all of which have since been incorporated in an action plan. The workplan aims at improving the greenhouse gas indexing scheme, considering methodology for CO₂ emission baselines and considering technical, operational and market-based methods for dealing with greenhouse gas emissions. The workplan is progressing in accordance with an agreed timetable and will culminate in 2009, enabling IMO member States to agree on the action to be taken within the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) reports activities aimed at providing technical and policy advice on urban planning,

including transport systems. WFP, through its local purchase policy, reduces emissions from long-haul transport. In addition, WFP is an active member of the Fleet Forum and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles which share the common goals of minimizing the carbon footprints of humanitarian organizations. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is preparing an action plan aimed at postal operators for organizing training in efficient driving, reconfiguring transport routes and adoption of a vehicle replacement policy on the basis of ecological considerations. Such action will be undertaken in cooperation with UNEP. The World Tourism Organization is supporting the adaptation of the tourism sector and infrastructure to climate impacts.

Carbon capture and storage

Carbon capture and storage offer a climate mitigation tool, which is being supported by a number of United Nations bodies. Activities include: biosequestration and conservation (UNESCO); providing advice and technical information on carbon sequestration, conservation and substitution (FAO); and licensing sub-seabed sequestration (IMO). With regard to the issue of sub-seabed sequestration, amendments to include CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formation in annex I to the 1996 London Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter^f were adopted in November 2006 and entered into force on 10 February 2007. As sub-seabed geological sequestration of CO₂ would now be subject to licensing, parties also agreed to the development of Specific Guidelines for the Assessment of Carbon Dioxide Streams for Disposal into Sub-seabed Geological Formations, which were adopted in November 2007.

Trade and markets

The World Trade Organization, UNEP and UNCTAD are working individually and collectively to explore the trade/climate change nexus. Current areas of focus include design of trade rules, development of a manual to help countries assess the impacts (including trade) on climate change (UNEP), and investigation of emerging trade and climate investment opportunities in developing countries (UNCTAD).

C. Technology

A number of instruments have been established under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change to foster technology cooperation and enhance the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The Convention has established an Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), which provides advice to Parties to facilitate and advance the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies. The Convention secretariat supports the activities of the Expert Group and, in conjunction with this Group, it has developed several guidelines and guidebooks on the matter. A part of this material has been focused on financing aspects and another on providing support to technology project developers.

UNDP work on technical assistance for climate mitigation has evolved from supporting technology demonstration projects to promoting market development for

^f United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

climate-friendly technologies. It is supporting Technology Needs Assessments in 80 non-Annex I countries of particular relevance to mitigation activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. GEF offers support to the removal of barriers to the dissemination of technology, whereas the World Bank is currently focused on fostering new technologies in partnership with the donor community. UNEP is assessing renewable energy resource potentials as an end to good policymaking and investment decisions.

UNIDO is facilitating the development and dissemination of clean industrial technologies, including end-of-pipe pollution, replacement of greenhouse gas emitting technologies and, through its joint UNIDO-UNEP Cleaner Production Programme, bridging the gap between industrial production and environmental concerns. WMO, WHO, IFAD, FAO and IAEA report sector-specific technology activities in the provision of technology packages, guidance on effective technologies and promoting cooperation. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications is implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and has included climate change as one of the topics in its technical programme of regular activities, which focuses on integrated space technology applications for natural resources management and environmental monitoring. The programme frequently addresses issues related to climate change, such as the use of space technology and its applications for addressing mitigation and adaptation strategies. The World Tourism Organization disseminates and transfers the latest technologies applicable to tourism transport and establishments to developing countries.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is undertaking a programme on Patent-Based Technology Analysis (Patent Landscapes): Alternative Energy Technologies, which assists analysts in forecasting the direction of technology change, helps predict success or failure of new technologies, and helps identify potential areas for research and development. Studies are being commissioned to develop a patent-based technology analysis in energy technologies, such as oil, gas, coal and nuclear energy, alternative energy technologies, renewables, covering solar, wind, hydro, biomass, tidal, wave and geothermal energy, hydrogen fuel cells, carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency and energy conservation.

D. Financing

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has established a financial mechanism to assist developing-country Parties in the implementation of their commitments. The Convention secretariat supports the provision of guidance by Parties to the financial mechanism. In 2007, the secretariat undertook a major project to assess the financial and investment flows needed for an appropriate response to climate change. This study involved work of more than 30 renowned international experts on adaptation and mitigation, and involved collaboration with several United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations (including the World Bank, UNDP and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)) and multinational, regional and national banks and financial corporations.

The Global Environment Facility serves as the operating entity of the financial mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has focused its attention on supporting win-win mitigation activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Between 1992 and 2007, the Facility allocated in excess of \$3.3 billion to climate projects and further co-financed in excess of \$14 billion. The targeted amount of funding from the fourth replenishment is \$990 million for the period from 2006 to 2010. The Facility is obliged to finance the preparation of national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from non-Annex I parties.

UNDP has been active on the climate change scene since the early 1980s and most actively since the early 1990s when it became a founding member of the Global Environment Facility and one of the principal implementing agencies. In the past 15 years, UNDP has mobilized approximately \$3 billion to fund over 400 large-scale and 1,000 small-scale energy- and climate-related projects, mainly through the Global Environment Facility, and has leveraged co-financing of four times that amount. Close to \$94 million has been allocated to inter-agency initiatives to strengthen the adaptation capacity of developing countries, as part of the first batch of projects approved under the UNDP MDG Achievement Fund supported by the Government of Spain. Further, as a Global Environment Facility implementing agency, UNDP expects to mobilize an average of \$300 million per year for climate mitigation activities between 2008 and 2011.

The UNDP four-year strategy includes capacity development activities for countries aimed at identifying and implementing the right policy instruments which can, in turn, increase the flows of direct investment to climate-friendly technologies and to climate-resilient investment practices. It also includes a goal to foster the transition of developing countries towards lower-carbon development paths. Its key strategy for delivering on this goal is leveraging Global Environment Facility and official development assistance (ODA) financing to remove barriers to direct investment in clean energy technologies and, subsequently, leveraging the carbon market so as to increase the profitability of investment in such technologies. Additionally, a main component of its adaptation strategy is helping countries gain access to new funding sources in order to identify, pilot and share innovative coping strategies.

IFAD, being an executing agency of the Global Environment Facility, plans to assist developing countries in accessing Facility grants for adaptation. The Fund is already working on the implementation of agriculture-related adaptation projects in least developed countries identified in their National Adaptation Programmes of Action, to be financed under the LDC Fund (operated by the Global Environment Facility). In the light of the experience of IFAD on land degradation, the inclusion of land use, land-use change and forestry within the Global Environment Facility climate change focal area widens the organization's comparative advantage in the field of climate change.

A key activity of the World Bank is the Clean Energy Investment Framework aimed at increasing energy access in sub-Saharan Africa; supporting transition to a low-carbon economy; and supporting adaptation to climate change. The Bank continues to provide significant levels of financing for energy and climate programmes (for example, \$668 million in lending for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects) and is engaged in:

- Providing experience in methodological, technical and investment work to clarify how market mechanisms can benefit its clients; developing national policies to identify potential investment for possible future international cooperation; evaluating options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sectoral planning; and upstream work in investment planning to identify options for mitigating the negative local, regional and global environmental impacts of energy development.
- Catalysing investment in greenhouse gas mitigation when this is financially and environmentally beneficial.
- Coordinating with regional development banks on a range of initiatives such as the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative; and biofuels development.
- Carbon finance: \$2 billion currently under the World Bank.
- New Global Partnership Carbon Fund for post-2012 continuity.
- Avoided Deforestation Facility.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is focusing its work in the area of climate change on the macroeconomic, fiscal, and financial market implications. An appendix in the *World Economic Outlook* — the flagship publication of the Fund — will provide an overview of these issues, and an analysis in greater depth, which will also explore the consequent policy implications. This is planned for inclusion in the *Outlook* of spring 2008. A separate paper on the fiscal implications of climate change is being prepared for discussion by the IMF Executive Board. The Fund is also taking a strong interest in issues associated with biofuels.

Clean Development Mechanism

The Clean Development Mechanism, established under the Kyoto Protocol to enhance sustainable development in developing countries and to assist industrialized countries in meeting their emission reduction commitments, is one instrument for supporting low-carbon investments in developing countries and is growing in application. In this regard, a number of United Nations activities have been reported in support of the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism. These include:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat: Provision of process management and substantive support to the CDM Executive Board in its activities relating to the designation of operational entities, approval of methodologies, registration of projects, and issuance of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), among others. The secretariat is also acting as a catalyst and facilitator for the Nairobi Framework, which has the objective of helping developing countries to improve their participation in the Clean Development Mechanism. Finally, the Convention secretariat has developed the “CDM Bazaar”, in collaboration with UNEP (Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development), to facilitate exchange of information among buyers, sellers and service providers engaged in the Clean Development Mechanism.
- IAEA: Building capacity in the field of energy-environment planning and modelling mitigation of climate change (including the Kyoto mechanisms).

- UNEP: Developing institutional and human capacities, as well as the enabling business and regulatory frameworks required to formulate and implement Clean Development Mechanism projects.
- UNEP/UNDP: Joint workplan on the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa aimed at technical assistance, capacity-building and project development. The UNDP-UNEP Partnership on Climate Change aims to have in place by 2008 an integrated, donor-supported multi-region Clean Development Mechanism capacity development programme, whose focus will be on identifying the needs of each country in the context of three stages: (a) establishing efficient host-country procedures for Clean Development Mechanism review and approval; (b) canvassing carbon finance opportunities for key sectors and industries from a sustainable development perspective and removing policy barriers; (c) offering project management services to industrial project developers in order to start operation of the market for carbon projects with high development impact, and exiting when the market is developed.
- UNCTAD: Providing training material on rules of the Clean Development Mechanism.
- UNIDO: Capacity-building for development of Clean Development Mechanism projects and assessment of industrial project opportunities; and promotion of access to investment in energy-efficient technologies.
- ILO: Introduction of social criteria and consultation for Clean Development Mechanism transfers.
- ECA: Studying the inclusion of Clean Development Mechanism issues (for example, renewables/energy efficiency) for inclusion in ClimDev-Africa with the aim of assisting African countries in attracting greater foreign direct investment (FDI).
- ESCAP: Development of Clean Development Mechanism guidelines for local government.

Carbon market

United Nations activities in relation to the carbon market currently include:

- Global Environment Facility: Removal of barriers to enable smooth operation of markets for technology, provision of risk guarantees to assist carbon finance projects in moving ahead, filing of carbon credits.
- UNEP and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: Development of an online Clean Development Mechanism Bazaar.
- UNDP: Supporting environmental commodity markets aimed at increasing developing-country access to the carbon market. To date, UNDP has implemented Clean Development Mechanism/Joint Implementation capacity development activities in more than 20 countries and has also recently established the MDG Carbon Facility, which aims to scale up development benefits, particularly in those countries that have yet to gain from the Clean Development Mechanism. According to a recent report from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Clean Development Mechanism could leverage between \$15 billion and \$100 billion per year in

additional resources to promote sustainable development in developing countries by 2030.

- UNCTAD: Assistance in formulation of national Clean Development Mechanism Investor's Guides to enable developing-country companies to take advantage of and participate in emerging carbon markets.

Private sector partnerships

The partnership of UNEP with the financial sector under the Finance Initiative, which involves over 160 private entities, aims to increase this sector's awareness of climate change challenges, and catalyse its proactive engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. UNDP, the United Nations Global Compact and other United Nations entities and initiatives also aim at further involving the private sector.

E. Cross-cutting sectors

Education

UNESCO, as the lead United Nations agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, has an overarching goal of increasing public awareness of, education on, and universal access to information and knowledge designed to promote social actions for mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its impacts. The UNESCO environmental ethics programme carries out education and public awareness activities on the ethical dimensions of environmental change in order to develop and implement legitimate and effective policies. It includes activities to determine how to assess the needs and rights of future generations, and how to determine what is worth protecting, and at what cost or with what consequences.

UNICEF is developing Environmental Education Resource Packs for Child-friendly Schools in cooperation with UNEP. They are designed to support promotion of renewable energy and sustainable energy solutions to schools and communities while integrating a community-activism, youth empowerment component to the programme. This will be part of the child-friendly school package and will be uniquely geared to the needs of each country, and implemented within national education and environment frameworks and guidelines.

Advocacy and awareness-raising

The Secretary-General has made it a top priority of his tenure to raise awareness at the highest level of the potential impacts of climate change and the necessity for taking urgent action. While political buy-in is fundamental to making strides towards tackling climate change, individual action undertaken by more informed citizens is fundamental as well.

As part of its activities to support implementation of article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention secretariat has organized several workshops to assess needs, identify priorities, share experiences and exchange information on public awareness. It has also developed an information network clearing house (CC:iNet). Finally, the Convention secretariat is developing a strategy to mobilize United Nations agencies to provide technical and/or financial

support and to promote partnerships with other organizations. UNEP has joined this effort as an active partner in support of the New Delhi work programme; discussions on possible cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO and UNICEF are under way.

UNESCO works with national and community broadcasters on enhancing media capacities and access to information about climate change. UNEP, WMO, WHO, ITU, FAO and IAEA also report activities in this sector. For example, UNEP conducts a broad range of outreach and awareness-raising activities including awareness campaigns in developing countries, and outreach to youth and journalists, through working with local authorities.

The UNDP *Human Development Report 2007-2008*[§] explores linkages between climate change and human development. Building on the 2007 *Report*, UNDP country offices are planning national human development reports, some of which will focus on climate change impacts on economic and human development and national energy planning.

Formal and non-formal environmental education and awareness-raising projects are also incorporated in many UNHCR programmes. UNHCR is supporting national and camp-specific training programmes on sound environmental management in a number of countries for Government counterparts, implementing partners, displaced people and UNHCR staff. The World Tourism Organization is involved in research and dissemination of knowledge on the interrelationship between climate change and the tourism sector.

[§] Basingstoke, United Kingdom, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Annex II

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination: coordinated United Nations system action on climate change

I. Introduction

Increasing evidence of climate change and its related economic, social and environmental implications, and its potentially irreversible nature, confronts the international community with one of its most complex and serious challenges. Climate change will impact all, but most severely the poor and vulnerable. The response to climate change has therefore to be rooted in sustainable development and equity, recognizing the vulnerability and resilience of poor people, the need for economic growth and poverty alleviation, and a comprehensive approach to sustainable development with its economic, social and environmental pillars.

Under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination has initiated a process of aligning its strengths so as to achieve a coordinated approach to climate change. The objective is to support the process for an international agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,^a as well as to support in a coordinated way the efforts of Member States at national, regional and global levels in tackling the multifaceted challenge presented by climate change. The United Nations system must bring to bear, in a way perhaps never achieved before, the collective strengths of all its entities as an integral part of the international community's response to that challenge.

The high-level event on climate change, convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September 2007 to galvanize political consensus, saw the unequivocal commitment of world leaders to concerted action. They agreed that the United Nations provides the appropriate multilateral framework for action and that the only forum in which international action can be agreed is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are having significant and negative impacts on climate change, emphasized the dangers of rising global mean temperatures, and provided an assessment of the means and costs of combating climate change. Action to mitigate and adapt to climate change must begin immediately.

The present document prepared by the Chief Executives Board, represents a first stage in defining key areas of action and an effective coordination structure for the United Nations system. It highlights its critical role in the areas of science, assessment, monitoring and early warning as a basis for informed action. It articulates its contribution in supporting global, regional and national action within the four key areas of ongoing negotiation within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. The document also addresses key sectors for United Nations system action. It finally outlines the United Nations system's process of establishing climate-neutrality in its own work.

^a United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

The document is still a “work in progress”, which will evolve in light of international deliberations, particularly in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, but also in other intergovernmental bodies. Further discussions within the Chief Executives Board will determine a coordination structure with key clusters of activity and specific lead agencies. An illustrative matrix, providing an indicative list of areas of potential United Nations system support to the implementation of climate change negotiation results, is attached. This too will evolve to take account of emerging issues that require inter-institutional cooperation.

II. Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning: foundations of the work of the United Nations on climate change

The response to climate change must be based on comprehensive analysis and assessment of reliable scientific data, and must be continuously informed by monitoring of data, trends and new insights. Greater understanding of the scientific foundations of emerging issues and threats, and their social and economic impacts, will require increased investment of effort.

Creating, maintaining and refining the knowledge base on climate change have been a central role of key United Nations entities, which provide sound and unbiased scientific and technical information to enable evidence-based policymaking. In the area of climate change, this has been the path-breaking work in particular of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Global weather and climate prediction systems are a unique resource, which require continuous involvement by member States.

The capacity of countries to monitor climate change and utilize climate predictions is crucial in assessing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, as well as in developing early warning systems on extreme climate events and hazards. Increased investment in scientific research, to improve climate prediction, respond to emerging issues, narrow uncertainties and have more precise quantitative information at regional and local levels, is required. Early warning systems help identify the occurrence and reduce the impact of disasters.

In order to strengthen and operationalize the knowledge base on climate change, the United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Develop global and regional networks of scientific data and information providers, with a central platform, to strengthen capacities, improve synergies, and support collaboration
- Support the periodic assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of scientific, technical and socio-economic information, and its presentation to the international community
- Develop tools to assess climate change vulnerability and impact, including impacts of extreme events
- Strengthen national capacities to monitor, predict and evaluate climate impacts, and to better utilize information for response planning and disaster

risk reduction, including analysis of population dynamics and rapid urbanization

- Strengthen the links between science and policy by improving the accessibility of information, that is to say, improve the national relevance of information and hold consultations between scientists and policymakers
- Support the framework agreement to ensure that satellites and terrestrial radars can perform data gathering and monitoring with respect to climate.

III. Supporting global, regional and national action on climate change

The current intergovernmental negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change revolve around four key areas: adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance, where adaptation and mitigation are goals, and financing and technology are means, for achieving those goals. The Convention is governed by member States, and served by a Secretariat, which also channels inputs from the rest of the United Nations system in response to the intergovernmental negotiations.

To deliver on the growing expectations of the international community, the United Nations system must draw on its strengths: providing a neutral forum for brokering negotiations; establishing trust and galvanizing high-level political support; and securing participation, engagement and ownership of a broad constituency of stakeholders. Each United Nations entity has a role in reinforcing this collective effort, in supporting member States, and in building momentum for future agreement within the Convention.

At the national level, the United Nations system possesses analytical and operational capacities to support countries as they determine their national priorities, and their strategies and policies for mitigation and adaptation, as well as their sector policy options for integrated sustainable development. Coordination of the United Nations system at the national level will become all the more important to ensure effective and coherent support. Current efforts at strengthening the United Nations system's ability to deliver as one are therefore critical also in respect of facing the challenge of climate change.

A. Adaptation

Observable trends related to climate change are already indicating negative impacts on countries across the world. In particular, the least developed countries and the small island developing States are bearing the brunt of increased climate variability and unpredictable and severe weather events. While the political focus continues to be on achieving international agreement on mitigation measures, the adaptation agenda has become critical.

The importance of adaptation was emphasized by world leaders at the 24 September 2007 high-level event, and a sense of solidarity was expressed with those who are most vulnerable to climate change. The negative impacts on progress in meeting national priorities, particularly those relating to the Millennium

Development Goals, were recognized. There was also a clear recognition that development and adaptation efforts must be complementary, allowing countries to pursue strategies for sustainable economic growth and the enhancement of living standards.

The high-level event called for better national and international planning for sustainable development supported by capacity-building and additional funding. National Adaptation Programmes of Action were highlighted as potentially important in addressing long-term adaptation needs in addition to immediate ones. Leaders also called for additional funding to be made available through mechanisms such as the Adaptation Fund.

The links among disaster risk reduction, climate change and development opportunities were underscored. Leaders highlighted the need to reduce disaster risk and increase the resilience of communities with respect to extreme weather phenomena, including through systematic planning and capacity-building.

The challenge of climate change is unlikely to be gender-neutral, as it increases the risk to the most vulnerable and less empowered social groups. In the formulation of global and national approaches, as well as in the strategic responses to specific sectors, gender awareness, substantive analysis and inclusive engagement will be necessary.

The United Nations system has the capacity to support developing countries in mainstreaming adaptation to climate change within integrated national policies, sector-specific strategies and investment plans, for both the short and longer terms. The design of appropriate macroeconomic policy frameworks and fiscal instruments will need to address climate change objectives. A long-term strategy will also entail adjusting to new patterns of production, consumption and employment.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Promote and support the development of broad-based national strategies on adaptation to address both short- and long-term needs, including legislation, policy decisions and operational programmes in sectors
- Assist countries in socio-economic cost-benefit analysis, the climate-proofing of investments, and spatial planning
- Strengthen national capacities to improve integrated policymaking and effective early warning systems, based on improved vulnerability analysis with respect to both natural disasters and other climate risks
- Collect, systematize, analyse and disseminate good practices and knowledge, based on experience and lessons learned, including from National Adaptation Programmes of Action and pilot implementation projects
- Build resilience at the local level by promoting autonomous adaptation capacity and mainstreaming community-based adaptation
- Enhance regional cooperation on adaptation
- Develop policies designed to ease transitions in labour markets and to seize opportunities for generating new and sustainable sources of employment, and to build capacity of enterprises, trade unions and Governments to anticipate

changes in employment and adopt an efficient and equitable process of adaptation

- Support countries in dealing with specifically vulnerable sectors, such as tourism, recognizing that a holistic approach is critical to poverty alleviation, conservation and gender equality in many countries
- Build capacity to protect and sustainably manage the biodiversity and ecosystem services that are required for maintaining resilience with respect to climate change and extreme weather events, and the maintenance of critical genetic resources
- Build capacity among decision makers to better utilize demographic data and information in sustainable development planning.

B. Mitigation

Many leaders attending the high-level event referred to specific goals for mitigation, in particular the need to halve emissions by 2050 and to limit global mean temperature increase to 2° C. Several leaders of industrialized countries expressed their willingness to undertake deeper emissions reductions and several leaders of developing countries also acknowledged the need to take enhanced action to control emissions in a new legal framework that would be equitable and consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The challenge of mitigation can be met by a portfolio of technologies; some of these are available and others need to be developed. A wide variety of national policies and instruments are available to Governments, including market-based instruments. At the international level, instruments like emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism are already providing incentives for investments in mitigation. The main challenge is to substantially reduce emissions in industrialized countries and to address the rapid growth of emissions in emerging economies by stimulating cleaner development choices while promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication. While many developing economies are already developing and implementing national mitigation strategies, such efforts can be significantly expanded if appropriate incentives are provided.

The United Nations system has the capacity to support developing countries in mainstreaming integrated policies and plans on mitigation that are in line with their development goals and do not compromise economic growth.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Assist developing countries in the identification and implementation of national mitigation strategies that limit the growth of or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while promoting local sustainable development and cleaner economic growth
- Support the integration of such mitigation policies in national development strategies, focusing on energy, construction, agriculture, transportation, industry, forestry and land management
- Assess, illustrate and disseminate collateral benefits of mitigation activities

- Support developing countries in the assessment of their mitigation potential and in measuring their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (including the compilation and reporting of national greenhouse gas inventories)
- Promote an enabling regulatory environment for mitigation programmes
- Scale up the delivery of carbon finance through strategic choices that help catalyse a change in the way greenhouse gas mitigation is achieved in developing countries and integrated into development plans and transformed investment patterns.

C. Technology

Leaders at the high-level event emphasized the essential role of clean technologies and appropriate adaptation technologies in the context of sustainable development. It was agreed that while technological solutions exist, effective policy frameworks and cooperation instruments are needed to accelerate the deployment and diffusion of these solutions, and that current mechanisms for technology transfer and cooperation will need to be scaled up.

In particular, international cooperation on energy is needed to assist developing countries in meeting their objectives while moving in the direction of low carbon, renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuel technologies. Here, the United Nations has a role to play both in strengthening research, innovation and skills development, and in diffusion, dissemination and adoption of low-carbon technologies.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Develop effective policy frameworks to accelerate the transfer, deployment and dissemination of existing and new technological solutions
- Promote the creation of bilateral, multilateral and private-public partnerships on technology research and development
- Promote sustained and joint efforts between government and the private sector, including the financial sector, to promote the market for new technologies
- Provide technical support to developing countries in conducting and improving their technology needs assessments and in transforming them into bankable technology transfer projects that meet the standards of potential financiers
- Develop international energy management standards to increase the efficient use of existing and future technologies in industry and other sectors.

D. Finance

Global investments in the magnitude of from 15 trillion to 20 trillion United States dollars may be required over the next 20-25 years to place the world on a markedly different and sustainable energy trajectory. If investment choices are based on solid economic rationale and sound scientific evidence, valuing true costs, they can unlock huge change potential. The high-level event stressed the need to provide developing countries with additional resources for investment and capacity-building. While the bulk of investment will come from government and the private sector, the United Nations system can support countries to make choices based on

sound scientific and technical criteria. It will become essential to coordinate access and utilize available resources, as the proliferation of funding mechanisms can lead to fragmentation and loss of coherence and effectiveness.

Related to finance and investment choices, trade is one of the enabling factors that come into play in the complex process of tackling climate change. The creation of an open global market in environmental technologies is essential to efforts to deal with climate vulnerability and adaptation. Trade liberalization may help adaptation to climate change. In particular, the successful conclusion of the environmental goods and services negotiations in the current Doha Round can increase access to adaptation and mitigation technologies and increase countries' ability to invest in such technologies. In addition, existing World Trade Organization rules on trade in financial services are relevant to the operationalization of any market-based system for trading emissions credits or licences.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Support national Governments in the formulation of policies to increase investment and financial flows in mitigation and adaptation
- Support the development of national capacities to access and utilize resources to implement an appropriate mix of policy instruments to achieve sustainable growth
- Support efforts to reinforce international financial mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility
- Strengthen actions aimed at targeting public funding more effectively, encouraging more effective engagement of the private sector and strengthening work to address investment flows and financing initiatives
- Support efforts to enhance the tools of the carbon market, including the broadened application of the Clean Development Mechanism, and to enhance action under the Nairobi Framework to support developing-country participation in the Clean Development Mechanism
- Support the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund
- Support commitments to trade liberalization and investment in goods, services and technologies that contribute to mitigation efforts
- Increase efforts to ensure that energy efficiency measures have better access to finance, including carbon finance.

IV. Coordinating the United Nations system's work in key sectors

The present section provides an initial outline of the means by which the United Nations system can, in seeking to effectively respond as one to the challenges of climate change, coordinate its substantive work in different sectors and some cross-cutting areas. The sector engagements need to be linked to the key areas addressed in the negotiations, namely, adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance, and related to the continued work on science, assessment and monitoring.

These objectives have been conceptualized in the attached indicative matrix, with the identified sectors being relevant to the key areas in differing degrees.

United Nations system coordination at the sector or thematic level can build on already established groupings, such as UN-Energy, UN-Water, UN-OCEANS, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Communications Group. In some areas, there is clear leadership accountability following the institutional mandate of a United Nations entity or entities, while in others, accountability is more diffuse. The magnitude of the challenge of climate change will require enhanced collaboration within and among sectors, and an effectively coordinated structure to guide action. The United Nations system will continue to develop its response to these needs as the intergovernmental discussions and negotiations evolve.

Energy

Energy is at the heart of the climate mitigation agenda. In the developed world, energy consumption patterns exacerbate the challenge. In the developing world, countries face the challenge of providing 2 billion people with access to modern energy and meeting their overall development objectives. Deeper emission cuts are required by industrialized countries, while greater efforts are required in developing countries to address energy access in a sustainable manner. The United Nations undertakes a range of activities related to both policy and implementation which need to be better aligned to support climate change mitigation as well as access to energy.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Improve national capacities to integrate climate change in developing countries' sustainable energy strategies in order to meet their growing energy needs, particularly through renewable energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies and cleaner fossil fuel technologies
- Utilize the immense potential of cooperation with the private sector, particularly in energy financing and technology
- Improve understanding of transportation systems, taking into account cleaner transportation options (for example the use of shipping)
- Improve energy management in industry by developing standards, product labelling, and certification procedures for both domestic appliances and industrial equipment
- Provide authoritative technical and economic analyses of climate-relevant technologies, including, for example, the experience gained in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances
- Improve access to clean energy for households, schools and health facilities and raise awareness on the linkages between clean energy and child health
- Better utilize the potential of UN-Energy to improve coherence in the United Nations system's work on energy.

Agriculture and fisheries

Agriculture is both a source and a sink for greenhouse gases, as well as both a source and a user of energy. Agriculture is thus a cause, a victim and a potential mitigation mechanism of climate change. It is predicted that climatic fluctuations and extreme weather events will have increasingly negative impacts on agriculture, particularly in developing countries where there are fewer options for adapting. Uncertainties throughout the food chain, over a spectrum ranging from yields to trade dynamics, will be heightened. Water, land, biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystem services will become stressed. This will impact food security and the ability to feed a population approaching 9 billion by 2050.

Also, climate change impact on marine, coastal, estuarine and freshwater ecosystems is likely to affect many of the 200 million people directly or indirectly dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods, through changes in nature, distribution and productivity of aquatic resources. The result is heightened vulnerability of communities with increasing prevalence of natural disasters, such as flooding and cyclones.

If not properly managed, the switch in use of productive land from food to biofuels production risks increasing prices of food crops, aggravating food insecurity, and exacerbating rural poverty and gender inequality.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Strengthen capacities of countries to determine adaptation and mitigation responses in their agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, including in sustainable land and water management
- Increase technical support to farmers in developing and implementing alternative agricultural systems
- Improve provision of data and information on the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems, fisheries, rural population and food security, including efforts to improve short-term weather forecasting and medium-term weather projections
- Deepen the understanding of the links among biofuels and food security, land and water use, and biodiversity
- Promote research on drought-resistant and saline-tolerant crops
- Promote research on “second-generation” biofuels generated from cellulose, waste and other materials that minimize competition with land and water use for food production
- Support increased carbon sequestration through restoration of degraded land and through improved agricultural land management
- Develop financial instruments to compensate poor farmers for the environmental services they provide by adopting land-use and forestry practices that reduce carbon emissions.

Water

Climate change will have significant impacts on the hydrologic cycle, affecting both the availability of fresh water and the frequency of floods and droughts. The consequences are far-reaching and are likely to be felt the hardest by the most vulnerable. Changes in water availability and extreme events could undermine development, affect human security and livelihoods, significantly impact agriculture and industry, and act as a push factor in population movements and migration. Water scarcity can also trigger conflict. Adaptation to climate change needs to build on conventional hard and soft interventions and may also require a major shift in planning and designing of water investments.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Increase the understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change on water systems
- Identify the hot spots where climate change and other driving forces are expected to exacerbate water scarcity and extreme events, and help monitor social impacts, facilitate population movement and prevent conflict
- Strengthen integrated water resource management by promoting methodologies for incorporating hydrologic variability and climate change in the design of project, programme and sector-wide investments
- Raise awareness, build capacity and increase resilience of local communities with respect to coping with water stress, increased hydrologic variability and extreme events
- Increase resilience of industry with respect to reduced availability of water resources by promoting the deployment of water-efficient technologies.

Oceans

Ocean-climate coupling regulates and mitigates the exchange of heat, carbon and water within the Earth's systems. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report forecasts rising sea levels and increased storminess, ocean acidity and precipitation which will have significant impacts on coastal flooding, marine food chains, and the water cycle.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Improve the understanding of the impacts of climate change on the ocean heat pump, marine ecology and marine risk forecasting
- Strengthen an integrated network of ocean-climate observations
- Build capacity of local communities to forecast and cope with coastal risk
- Encourage research to fill knowledge gaps for ocean carbon sequestration schemes.

Forestry

Climate change impacts on forests, including forest dieback and forest fires, will exacerbate impacts on dependent food systems, with consequences for the over 400 million people directly depending on forests for food and livelihoods. Deforestation and forest degradation contributes about 20 per cent of global emissions. Reducing deforestation and encouraging afforestation and reforestation therefore offer significant cost-effective solutions to mitigating climate change. They also offer adaptation benefits by increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems, as well as significant carbon sequestration potential.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Promote the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests which has developed a comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management, combining national action and international support, and offering environmental, social and economic benefits
- Build the capacity of countries to shape policies and plans aimed at realizing the benefits of halting deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management
- Strengthen incentives to developing countries to stimulate improved sustainable forest management
- Promote forest expansion as an adaptation measure for watershed protection, prevention of soil degradation and rehabilitation of degraded land
- Promote the protection of existing forest, which could become eligible for carbon financing under the new climate regime
- Support community-based reforestation projects and promote awareness among children and young people to impact reforestation efforts at community level
- Help local communities benefit from new international instruments designed to compensate forest holders for global ecosystem services provided
- Promote efforts to simplify Clean Development Mechanism rules for broader integration of community-based afforestation and reforestation projects
- Foster synergies among the Rio Conventions to promote biodiversity, prevent land degradation and promote land rehabilitation
- Explore mechanisms of compensation from the international community to take account of the opportunity costs of alternative land use and the administrative costs of forest protection
- Improve scientific understanding and adoption of standards and methods of assessing carbon change in forests and carbon storage.

Health

Climate change brings major new challenges to health security and will increase the costs and difficulties of disease control. It is therefore essential to empower and equip health institutions and to protect population health from current and projected risks of climate variability and change.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Generate knowledge and evidence for action (for example, definition of an applied research agenda that is targeted specifically at health and climate and the impact on mortality and population)
- Increase research, knowledge and awareness of health consequences of climate change at all levels, including through schools and community outreach activities (through the development of a consistent set of messages)
- Strengthen public-health planning capacities, including through improved monitoring and evaluation of climate and health impacts
- Strengthen health systems to enable them to provide protection from climate-related risks (for example, through promotion of a more forward-looking preventative approach to health protection)
- Integrate health considerations into decisions on climate change in other key sectors (for example, through improved participation of health professionals in key national and international processes).

Transport

Transport consumes a quarter of the world's energy, and accounts for some 25 per cent of total CO₂ emissions, 80 per cent of which can be attributed to road transport. Moreover, local and regional air pollution, congestion in urban areas, land use for transport infrastructure-building and health effects are key problems. With growing demand for mobility in developed and developing countries, these problems will become more and more pressing.

Maritime transport carries over 90 per cent of the world trade in volume, which is vital for the world economy, and remains the most environmentally friendly and energy-efficient mode of transport in specific terms. Therefore, although maritime transport may be a small contributor to climate change, it can also be part of the solution to the problem. In view of the international nature of maritime transport, legislation and mitigation measures should be taken at the global level.

Aviation is a critically important transport mode, moving more than 2.2 billion passengers and 40 per cent of international exports by value. Air traffic demand is growing at a rate of 5-6 per cent per year as a global average, with the fastest growth rates in developing countries and regions, resulting in increasing aggregate amounts of CO₂ emissions. This could cause the aviation share to grow above its current emission levels, estimated at 2 per cent of the global total. Significant improvements in fuel efficiency can be achieved if congestion is eliminated and aircraft fly more direct routes. Work on the development of alternative fuels for aviation shows promise and is continuing apace. New technology in airframes and engines continues to demonstrate significant fuel efficiency.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Support the use of cleaner marine fuel and more efficient marine engines

- Support the use of operational and technical measures, which may include optimal routing design and speed management as well as optimization of the ship's hull, appendices and propeller design and interaction
- Introduce market-based measures, which may include emissions trading
- Strengthen technical cooperation to support developing countries in meeting their trade needs through access to clean transport
- Further develop aviation emissions impact assessment tools and facilitate data access and dissemination
- Further explore possible alternative fuels for aviation and assess their environmental impacts
- Continue to develop and update aircraft engine emissions standards, and medium- and long-term goals
- Promote the use of operational measures that reduce fuel consumption and emissions
- Foster the modernization and optimization of air traffic management systems
- Continue to explore the use of global market-based measures to reduce aviation emissions
- Promote further research on the impact of aviation on the atmosphere
- Facilitate the sharing of information on best practices and voluntary measures to address aviation emissions.

Disaster risk reduction

Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and intensity of severe weather events (for example, droughts, cyclones and heatwaves). These trends may lead to significant negative impacts on public safety, productive systems and livelihoods and, in some cases, national stability. Disasters disproportionately affect the poor and most vulnerable and can lead to significant movements of population, as well as be drivers for migration, and may also become potential drivers of conflict and instability owing to increased scarcity of natural resources.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Better articulate the relations and synergies between the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters^b and climate change and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- Mainstream and strengthen disaster risk reduction in the United Nations system, at both policy and programme levels
- Strengthen national capacities in disaster preparedness, with an emphasis on early warning, vulnerability analysis and mapping and logistics

^b A/CONF.2006/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

- Implement the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations relating to emergency telecommunications for disaster reduction and relief^c
- Develop a comprehensive approach aimed at reducing vulnerabilities to climate risks by identifying the most critical issues and likely areas of concern (for example, hot-spotting)
- Improve and make accessible existing disaster reduction tools and methods and information on best practices at the national and local levels.

Population and human settlements

The impacts of climate change, the mitigation opportunities and the necessity for adaptation are relevant to all sectors of human settlements. The need to improve the planning of cities and settlements so that they may better cope with climate change has to be recognized in order to prevent loss and destruction of lives and properties and reduce vulnerability, particularly in light of rapid urban growth, especially in densely populated countries. Opportunities for energy saving and emissions reduction in urban areas need to be identified. The multifaceted nature of the relationship between climate and human settlements (over a spectrum ranging from infrastructure, economic stability and natural resources use to large population movements, migration, gender equality and human security) and the complementary needs of increasing resilience and reducing emissions require an integrated approach.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Construct a comprehensive programme of support aimed at reducing urban poverty, through building national and local capacity in integrated urban planning, based on scenarios of future climate change impacts on population movements
- Support local authorities in assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change, particularly those in secondary cities in developing countries, which are at the most risk from climate change, develop a strategic plan accordingly
- Develop and disseminate technologies, standards and codes to support resilient and sustainable infrastructure and construction.

Education

For mitigation and adaptation, the role of education, in general, and of education for sustainable development, in particular, is pivotal. The objective is to lay the foundations for an educated population aware of the challenges of sustainable development and climate change. The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014, envisages the mobilization of all strata of society and expertise through both formal and non-formal education to further principles, values and behaviour linked to sustainable development and to induce necessary behavioural and attitudinal changes so as to minimize negative

^c United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

climate impacts. In this area, the United Nations system can contribute by promoting basic education, reorienting and revising education programmes, developing public understanding and awareness and providing practical training.

The United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Integrate environmental sustainability, including climate change, into national curricula and into lifelong learning, as well as mainstream it in teaching and teacher training
- Develop prototype materials and awareness-raising tools for the benefit of educators, teachers and students worldwide
- Adapt the work of institutions of higher education towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives and national science, technology, engineering and innovations systems to respond to the exigencies of the climate change agenda, while increasing local, national, and regional capacities for informed decisions about climate change
- Raise awareness in developing countries that education constitutes a highly effective strategy for supporting long-term sustainable and climate-resilient growth.

Public awareness-raising

Clear expression of public sentiment is a key driver of political will. Informed action by individuals is fundamental to tackling climate change. Both are dependent on citizens' having a good level of understanding and awareness of the causes and effects of climate change as well as of the required response. Engagement with civil society organizations across the world is essential. Consistent with article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations system can contribute in the following ways:

- Provide a venue for engagement with civil society organizations across the world
- Enhance the role of the media in raising public awareness
- Improve the use of information and communication technologies to facilitate improved access to data and information so as to support timely responses to climate change risks
- Create incentives to encourage the public to undertake climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

V. Moving towards a climate-neutral United Nations

The United Nations system recognizes the need to explore ways of making the United Nations more climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, and to develop a climate-neutral approach to its premises and operations. The Secretary-General tasked the Environmental Management Group, under the leadership of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to develop approaches on how best to make the United Nations climate-neutral. While

the principles underlying this initiative are widely subscribed to, and while a number of positive signals have been given for financial support from Member States, there is a need for greater precision in defining the practical aspects of its implementation. However, there is agreement that the initiative is both symbolically important and administratively possible, and appropriate steps can make economic sense.

In response, a report by the Environmental Management Group proposed to the Chief Executives Board for Coordination a framework for guiding the work, a strategic approach on how to achieve a climate-neutral United Nations and a commitment from all agencies to implement the initiative. The objective by the end of 2009 was for members of the Chief Executives Board to assess emissions, start to reduce and manage these emissions, and assess the cost and budgetary implications of offsetting emissions from activities that remain. Once the initial assessments have been undertaken, a strategy should be presented to the Chief Executives Board recommending a date by which the whole of the United Nations should become climate-neutral. A small unit in UNEP would be set up as a clearing house to provide support to organizations in managing the processes involved in moving towards climate-neutrality.

The United Nations system through the Chief Executives Board decided to commit to a process that would ensure that the United Nations system moved decisively towards establishing climate-neutrality in its operations worldwide.

The United Nations system further agreed to undertake the following steps:

- Reduce energy consumption at the United Nations Headquarters compound in New York by at least 40 per cent, through an accelerated strategy for the United Nations Headquarters capital master plan, and inviting the private sector to donate its best technology
- Conduct an environmental audit of United Nations Headquarters in New York, covering procurement and renovations, assisted by UNEP
- Calculate emissions from air travel, with the help of approved methodologies
- Lead by example in individual institutions, including through supporting staff association efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle paper and lower paper consumption, and make other changes in offices as far as possible.

VI. The way forward

The international community acknowledges the United Nations as being the multilateral framework for establishing a post-2012 climate regime, and a source of multisectoral and sectoral support. In fulfilling this expectation, the United Nations will need to draw on its strengths to *deliver as one*, providing a neutral negotiating forum, establishing trust and galvanizing high-level political support. Each United Nations entity has a role in supporting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process based on an agreed approach, and in supporting countries over the short and long term in responding to the challenges of climate change. It will be essential for each body to illustrate the impacts of climate change, in its specific policy area, the relevance of its work to addressing climate change, and the type of support services it can make available.

As a global problem, climate change demands a collective international response. The United Nations commands the ability to support such a response on the basis of a strategic vision, setting out common goals and objectives, assigned roles for United Nations entities and strengthened mechanisms for collaboration. Such a strategy, which should be developed within the Chief Executives Board, would also ensure that future climate programmes of individual agencies in their area of comparative advantage are developed in collaboration within a broader framework and in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

Areas of potential United Nations system support to the implementation of climate change negotiation results (Indicative list)

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
<p>Support to overall planning and action:</p> <p>All United Nations system organizations in their respective fields of activity</p> <p><i>(Note: Mention below of United Nations system entities by their acronym indicates engagement of the entity in the sector under consideration within its respective mandates and programme of work. The list is not exhaustive and does not indicate the kind or level of engagement. Existing coordination mechanisms for each sector are underlined.)</i></p>	<p>Promote and support the development of broad-based national strategies on adaptation to address both short- and long-term needs, including legislation, policy decisions and operational programmes in sector</p> <p>Assist countries in conducting socio-economic cost-benefit analysis, climate-proofing investments, and spatial planning</p> <p>Strengthen national capacities to improve integrated policy and effective early warning systems</p> <p>Collect, systematize, analyse and disseminate good practices and knowledge, based on experience and lessons learned, including from National Adaptation Programmes of Action</p>	<p>Assist developing countries in the identification and implementation of national mitigation strategies that limit the growth of, or reduce, greenhouse gas emissions while promoting local sustainable development and cleaner economic growth</p> <p>Support the integration of such mitigation policies in national development plans, focusing on energy, construction, agriculture, transportation, industry, forestry, and land management</p> <p>Assess, illustrate and disseminate collateral benefits of mitigation activities</p> <p>Support developing countries in the assessment of their mitigation potential and in measuring their efforts</p>	<p>Develop effective policy frameworks to accelerate the transfer, deployment and dissemination of existing and new technological solutions</p> <p>Promote the creation of bilateral, multilateral and private-public partnerships on technology research and development and provide support to Governments for initiatives on research and development of climate-friendly technologies and in offering incentives to the private sector for participation in them</p> <p>Promote sustained and joint efforts between government and the private sector, including the financial sector, to promote the market for new technologies</p> <p>Provide technical support to developing countries in</p>	<p>Support national Governments in the formulation of policies to increase investment and financial flows in mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Support the development of national capacities to access and utilize resources needed to implement an appropriate mix of policy instruments for achieving sustainable growth</p> <p>Support efforts to reinforce international financial mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility</p> <p>Strengthen actions aimed at targeting public funding more effectively, encouraging more effective engagement of the private sector and strengthening work undertaken to address investment flows and financing initiatives</p>

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	and pilot implementation projects	to reduce greenhouse gases (including the compilation and reporting of national greenhouse gas inventories)	conducting and improving their technology needs assessments and in transforming them into bankable technology transfer projects that meet the standards of potential financiers in order to attract international finance	Support efforts to enhance the tools of the carbon market, including the broadened application of the Clean Development Mechanism, and to enhance action under the Nairobi Framework to support developing-country participation in the Clean Development Mechanism
	Build resilience at the local level by promoting autonomous adaptation capacity and mainstreaming community-based adaptation	Promote an enabling regulatory environment for mitigation programmes		
	Enhance regional cooperation on adaptation	Scale up the delivery of carbon finance through strategic choices that help catalyse a change in the way in which greenhouse gas mitigation is achieved in developing countries and integrated into development plans and transformed investment patterns	Develop international energy management standards to increase the efficient use of existing and future technologies in industry and other sectors	Support the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund
	Develop policies to ease transitions in labour markets and to seize opportunities for generating new and sustainable sources of employment, and to build capacity of enterprises, trade unions and Governments to anticipate changes in employment and adopt an efficient and equitable process of adaptation	Assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation by building their capacity, including developing a methodological and policy framework for the implementation of programmes that reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation		Support commitments to trade liberalization and investment in goods, services and technologies that contribute to mitigation efforts
	Support countries in dealing with specifically vulnerable sectors, such as tourism, recognizing that a holistic approach is critical to poverty alleviation, conservation and gender equality in many countries			Increase efforts to ensure that energy efficiency measures have better access to finance, including carbon finance

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	<p>Build capacity to protect and sustainably manage the biodiversity and ecosystem services that are required for maintaining resilience with respect to climate change and extreme weather events, and the maintenance of critical genetic resources</p> <p>Build capacity among decision makers to better utilize demographic data and information in sustainable development planning</p>	<p>Develop and disseminate strategies to address increasing emissions from the transport sector</p> <p>Support research on the impacts, in particular on developing countries, of mitigation policies and measures</p>		
<p>Energy: <i>UN-Energy</i>, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, World Bank Group, GEF, IAEA, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNICEF</p>	<p>Improve access to clean energy for households, schools and health facilities and raise awareness on the linkages between clean energy and child health</p>	<p>Improve national capacities to integrate climate change in developing countries' sustainable energy strategies in order to meet their growing energy needs, particularly through renewable energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies and cleaner fossil fuel technologies</p> <p>Utilize the immense potential of cooperation with the private sector, particularly in energy financing and technology</p>	<p>Provide authoritative technical and economic analyses of climate-relevant technologies, including, for example, the experience gained in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances</p>	

Negotiating theme/sector	Adaptation	Mitigation	Technology	Financing
Agriculture and fisheries:	<p>Strengthen national capacities to determine adaptation responses in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, including in sustainable land and water management</p> <p>Increase technical support to farmers in developing and implementing alternative agricultural systems</p> <p>Improve data and information provision on the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems, fisheries, rural populations and food security, including through efforts to improve short-term weather forecasting and</p>	<p>Improve understanding of transportation systems, taking into account cleaner transportation options (for example, the use of shipping)</p> <p>Improve energy management in industry by developing standards, product labelling, and certification procedures for both domestic appliances and industrial equipment</p>	<p>Deepen the understanding of the links between biofuels and food security, land and water use, and biodiversity</p> <p>Promote research on “second generation” biofuels generated from cellulose, waste and other materials that minimize competition with land and water use for food production</p> <p>Support increased carbon sequestration through restoration of degraded land and through improved agricultural land management</p>	<p>Develop financial instruments to compensate poor farmers for the environmental services they provide by adopting land-use and forestry practices that reduce carbon emissions</p>

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	<p>medium-term weather projections</p> <p>Promote research on drought-resistant and saline-tolerant crops</p>			
<p>Water:</p> <p><i>UN-Water</i>, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, WMO, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, FAO, World Bank Group, IFAD, UNIDO, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNICEF, IAEA, Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>Increase the understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change on water systems</p> <p>Identify the hot spots where climate change and other driving forces are expected to exacerbate water scarcity and extreme events and help monitor social impacts, facilitate population movement and prevent conflict</p> <p>Strengthen integrated water resource management by promoting methodologies for incorporating hydrologic variability and climate change in the design of project, programme and sector-wide investments</p> <p>Raise awareness, build capacity and increase resilience of local communities to cope with water stress, increased</p>		<p>Increase resilience of industry to reduced availability of water resources by promoting the deployment of water-efficient technologies</p>	<p>Increase investment to better understand the impacts of climate variability and change on water systems and implications in terms of investments in the water sector</p>

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	hydrologic variability and extreme events			
Oceans:				
<i>UN-Oceans</i> , UNESCO, IMO, WMO, UNEP, IAEA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, GEF, Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>Improve the understanding of the impacts of climate change on the ocean heat pump, marine ecology and marine risk forecasting</p> <p>Strengthen an integrated network of ocean-climate observations</p> <p>Build capacity for local communities to forecast and cope with coastal risk</p>	Encourage research to fill knowledge gaps for ocean carbon sequestration schemes		
Forestry:				
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, World Bank Group, IFAD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, Convention on Biological Diversity, regional commissions, WFP	<p>Promote implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, which has developed a comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management, combining national and international support, and offering environmental, social and economic benefits</p> <p>Build the capacity of countries to shape policies and plans aimed at realizing the benefits of halting deforestation and forest degradation and</p>	<p>Strengthen incentives to developing countries to stimulate improved sustainable forest management</p> <p>Support community-based reforestation projects and promote awareness among children and young people to impact reforestation efforts at community level</p> <p>Improve scientific understanding and adoption of standards and methods of assessing carbon change in forests and carbon storage</p>		<p>Promote the protection of existing forest, which could become eligible for carbon financing under the new climate regime</p> <p>Explore mechanisms of compensation from the international community to take account of the opportunity costs of alternative land use and the administrative costs of forest protection</p> <p>Help local communities to benefit from new international instruments to compensate forest holders for global</p>

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	<p>promoting sustainable forest management</p> <p>Promote forest expansion as an adaptation measure for watershed protection, prevention of soil degradation and rehabilitate degraded land</p> <p>Promote synergies among the Rio Conventions to promote biodiversity, prevent land degradation and promote land rehabilitation</p>			<p>ecosystem services provided</p> <p>Promote efforts to simplify Clean Development Mechanism rules for broader integration of community-based afforestation and reforestation projects</p>
<p>Health: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, IAEA, Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>Generate knowledge and evidence for action (for example, definition of an applied research agenda that is targeted specifically at health, climate and impact on mortality and population)</p> <p>Increase research, knowledge and awareness of health consequences of climate change at all levels, including through schools and community outreach activities (through the development of a consistent set of messages)</p> <p>Strengthen public-health planning capacities,</p>			

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	<p>including through improved monitoring and evaluation of climate and health impacts</p> <p>Strengthen health systems to provide protection from climate-related risks (for example, promotion of a more forward-looking preventative approach to health protection)</p> <p>Integrate health considerations into decisions on climate change in other key sectors (for example, improved participation of health professionals in key national and international processes)</p>			
<p>Transport:</p> <p>ICAO, IMO, World Bank Group, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, UNCTAD, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Trade Organization, regional commissions, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p>		<p>Support the use of cleaner marine fuel and more efficient marine engines</p> <p>Support the use of operational and technical measures, which may include optimal routing design and speed management, as well as optimization of the ship's hull, appendices and propeller design and interaction</p>	<p>Further explore possible alternative fuels for aviation and assess their environmental impacts</p> <p>Facilitate the sharing of information on best practices and voluntary measures to address aviation emissions</p>	<p>Introduce market-based measures, which may include emissions trading</p> <p>Continue to explore the use of global market-based measures to reduce aviation emissions</p>

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
		<p>Strengthen technical cooperation to support developing countries in meeting their trade needs through access to clean transport</p> <p>Further develop aviation emissions impact assessment tools and facilitate data access and dissemination</p> <p>Continue to develop and update aircraft engine emissions standards, and medium- and long-term goals</p> <p>Promote the use of operational measures that reduce fuel consumption and emissions</p> <p>Foster the modernization and optimization of air traffic management systems</p>		
	<p>Disaster risk reduction:</p> <p>International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, WMO, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WFP, UNESCO, World Bank Group, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),</p>	<p>Better articulate the relations and synergies between the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and climate change and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</p>		

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
IMO, UNFPA, ITU, IFAD, UNICEF, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	<p>Mainstream and strengthen disaster risk reduction in the United Nations system, at both policy and programme levels</p> <p>Strengthen national capacities in disaster preparedness, with an emphasis on early warning, vulnerability analysis and mapping, and logistics</p> <p>Implement the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Integration and Relief Operations relating to emergency telecommunications for disaster reduction and relief</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive approach aimed at reducing vulnerabilities to climate risks by identifying the most critical issues and likely areas of concern (for example, hot-spotting)</p> <p>Improve and make accessible existing disaster reduction tools, methods and information</p>			

<i>Negotiating theme/sector</i>	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Financing</i>
	on best practices at the national and local levels			
Population and human settlements:				
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	Construct a comprehensive programme of support aimed at reducing urban poverty, building national and local capacity in integrated urban planning, based on scenarios of future climate change impacts on population movements		Develop and disseminate technologies, standards and codes to support resilient and sustainable infrastructure and construction	
	Support local authorities in assessing risks and vulnerabilities with respect to climate change, particularly those in secondary cities in developing countries, which are at the most risk from climate change, and develop a strategic plan accordingly			
Education:				
UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNDP, WMO, WHO, FAO, United Nations University	Integrate environmental sustainability, including climate change, into national curricula and into lifelong learning, and mainstream it in teaching and teacher training			
	Develop prototype materials and awareness-raising tools for the benefit of educators, teachers and students worldwide			

Adapt the work of institutions of higher education towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives and national science, technology, engineering and innovations systems to respond to the exigencies of the climate change agenda, including through increasing local, national, and regional capacities for informed decisions about climate change

Raise awareness in developing countries that education is a very effective strategy for supporting long-term sustainable and climate-resilient growth

Public awareness-raising:

All United Nations system organizations in their respective fields of activity

Provide a venue for engagement with civil society organizations across the world

Enhance the role of the media in raising public awareness

Improve the use of information and communication technologies to facilitate improved access to data and information in support of timely responses to climate change risks

Create incentives to encourage the public to undertake climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

Summary of the General Assembly Thematic Debate
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”
New York, 11-13 February 2008

Opening Session

1. In his opening statement, the President underlined that the General Assembly had a unique role to play on climate change due to its global composition and the broad range of social and economic issues it covered. However, to contribute most effectively the General Assembly needed to respond to two key challenges. The first was to create more effective partnerships, involving as many relevant stakeholders as possible, with a common vision and a global alliance for action. The second was to help define a global strategy for the United Nations system to respond to the challenge of climate change. The overall goal should be for the whole to deliver more than the sum of its parts. The President also emphasised that climate change is not just an environmental issue; rather, it was a sustainable development issue.

2. The Secretary-General emphasized that the international community was now armed with a combination of authoritative and compelling science, a rising tide of public concern, and powerful declarations of political will voiced at the Bali Climate Change Conference. He underlined that every part of the United Nations system was committed to supporting Member States in implementing effective measures to address climate change. The overview report presented to the Membership by the Secretary General represented a first step, and reflects a commitment to strengthen and coordinate the work of the UN system into a common approach. He also underlined that success is possible only if all countries contribute, with developed countries to take the lead. Ambitious commitments from developed countries could be expected to elicit more action from developing countries.

3. Mayor Bloomberg of New York City noted that since over half of the world’s population lives in urban areas, cities were natural leaders in the fight against climate change. The experience of cities and local governments around the world demonstrated that ambitious action is possible, with win-win solutions available. He called on governments to make cities active participants in their climate change policies and actions. He also said that New York and more than 700 other cities in the United States, representing over 80 million Americans, have independently pledged to meet the Kyoto targets. New York City has embarked on measures reducing its carbon footprint. The Mayor also announced a reduction of the use of hardwood to assist in preserving rainforests.

Panel 1: “Rising to the Challenge: Partnerships on Climate Change”

4. The panel comprised speakers from various constituencies (parliaments, cities, non-governmental organisations, regional organisations, private sector and media) who addressed the role of partnerships in combating climate change. The panellists emphasized the importance of mobilizing popular support to build a global alliance for action and that multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels were necessary to promote global solidarity and cooperation. In this regard, it was recognised that non-governmental organisations could help to galvanise public support and encourage governments and the private sector to move away from “business-as-usual”.

5. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, it was noted that combating climate change and promoting sustainable development provided a significant opportunity to re-organize and re-energize the United Nation's work and institutional arrangements. It was highlighted that the United Nations sets the stage for and can facilitate action by the full range of climate change stakeholders. Partnerships could be organized at the global, regional and country levels, addressing social concerns and equity issues. National parliaments were considered to be particularly important stakeholders, as they are responsible for adopting legislation and for holding governments to account on behalf of their citizens.

6. It was noted that such partnerships should work to strengthen existing international cooperation on climate change and sustainable development and commitments made by developed and developing countries to achieve international agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

7. Most delegations stated that climate change and sustainable development are interlinked, and as a result there was a need to integrate climate change initiatives into national sustainable development strategies. In this regard, it was underlined that adaptation should be given more emphasis and, that there was an urgent need for more funding and technical assistance for developing countries – as they were least responsible for the problem but would bear the brunt of the impacts. There was also a recognition that adaptation strategies needed to evolve from reactive to proactive and planned approaches focusing on reducing vulnerability.

8. The importance of the Bali Adaptation Fund was highlighted including the need for it to be fully funded and begin operating quickly. The inadequate process of technology transfer was raised by a number of participants and it was noted that intellectual property rights were acting as a barrier. In this respect, closer partnerships and more cooperative approaches could prove useful, including by providing incentives for the private sector to invest in the development of affordable new technologies.

9. On mitigation, one speaker noted that channelling private sector funds towards cleaner and climate-friendly options would deliver results. In this regard, investment in infrastructure in developing countries was of key importance, because technology choices made today would have an impact of future emission for decades to come. In this regard, reaching agreement on emission targets for major emitting industrial sectors had the potential to deliver significant reductions. At the same time, it was also noted that such approaches needed to be reconciled with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

10. The centrality of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was emphasized. Also, that going forward negotiators should focus on the four Bali framework items, namely: adaptation, mitigation, financing, and technology as there was a risk of overwhelming the climate change negotiations with additional issues such as trade.

Panel 2 “Responding to a Multifaceted Challenge: The United Nations at Work”

11. The second Panel consisted of executive heads of UN agencies, programmes and departments. Panellists reiterated that action to respond to climate change should be considered within the context of sustainable development so as not to compete with it.

12. Panellists stressed the centrality of the UNFCCC for addressing climate change and that the United Nations should focus on action to address the four key aspects of the Bali Framework. They underlined the need to accelerate the distribution of affordable, environmentally sound technologies and stressed the need to address vulnerabilities and the humanitarian aspects of climate change. Panellists recognized the importance of partnerships between the United Nations and multiple stakeholders, particularly with the private sector and civil society and agreed that the United Nations General Assembly should continue to support the negotiation process leading to the Copenhagen Conference in 2009.

13. In the ensuing interactive dialogue many stressed that the UN should strengthen assistance offered to those countries most vulnerable to climate change, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries. The global public health impacts of climate change were also noted

14. Several speakers highlighted the need to move from reactive to planned adaptation processes, as well as, the need for strengthened climate observation and climate research. The role of the UN in assisting countries to raise funds, particularly for adaptation, was repeated. There was a call for the international financial institutions and regional development banks to scale up financing for adaptation and mitigation.

15. Many participants stressed the importance of coherence in the delivery of United Nations activities to address climate change. These speakers underlined that inter-agency coherence and collaboration on cross-cutting issues, such as the UN-Energy model, could contribute to the United Nations system “delivering as one”. It was noted that the urgency of climate change requires closer cooperation, strengthened management, leadership and accountability from the UN system. There is also a need to better define outcomes and to move to a “results based and rational planning process” to improve the UN’s effectiveness.

Statements by Member States and Observers

Partnerships

16. The United Nations has a key role to play in facilitating and promoting partnerships at all levels. A number of delegations highlighted partnerships to promote the development of advanced energy technologies to help protect the global environment while enabling economic growth. Many delegations also highlighted the importance of partnerships in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and technology transfer. It also was noted that multi-stakeholder partnerships could play an important role in supporting national efforts. Some delegations also called on the Commission on Sustainable Development to do more to promote partnerships.

Climate change and sustainable development

17. Among delegations there was broad consensus that climate change is a sustainable development challenge, which needs to be addressed in an integrated manner, with due regard to all its economic, social and environmental dimensions. Delegations emphasized the seriousness that the impact of climate change could have on the three pillars of the United Nations work: development, peace and security, human rights and the rule of law.

18. Many delegations also stressed the need to adhere to the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In this respect, it also was important to recognize that poverty eradication and economic development remained the overriding priorities of developing countries. Therefore, the focus on climate change should not detract from the need to promote sustainable economic development, financing for development, and the achievement of the MDGs. Several delegations noted that these objectives were compatible with climate change mitigation goals.

19. The integration and mainstreaming of climate change into development planning and national sustainable development strategies was supported by many delegations, and several gave examples of national initiatives they had undertaken. Many delegations also reported on their national climate change strategies including progress on mitigation efforts, and called on the UN system to offer its full support. Some speakers also noted that the affects of climate change could exacerbate insecurity and instability and trigger large migrations.

UNFCCC and the Bali process

20. Delegations reaffirmed that the UNFCCC is the central multilateral instrument for addressing climate change. The importance of the Bali Action Plan was emphasized for establishing a vision for cooperative action and setting out the building blocks for a future agreement. Some delegations stressed that mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology development and transfer should all be given equal attention. It was also noted that the path from Bali to Copenhagen in 2009 would not be easy.

21. Several speakers reaffirmed the continued validity of the Kyoto Protocol and Convention and called for Parties to implement the provision more effectively. The first General Assembly thematic debate in on climate change in July/August 2007 and the High Level Event in September 2007 were noted as successful examples of raising awareness and strengthening political will. However, these discussions should aim to enhance, and not divert, efforts to strengthen the implementation of commitments under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. It was also noted that other forums had a role to play in supporting the UNFCCC process, including, the Financing for Development process, G20 and G-8, where the relationship between climate change, energy security, environment, development, finance and trade could be further defined and explored.

22. Several delegations were adamant that consultations related to international environmental governance (IEG) and System-wide Coherence should not be linked to discussions on climate change. Though many other delegations noted that these were integral aspects of the UN's overall reform agenda and would strengthen the ability and

effectiveness of the organisation to assist Member States in their own efforts to implement national climate change policies.

Means of implementation

23. Many delegations highlighted the importance of immediately implementing policies to promote energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy, and the deployment of clean and advanced technology. They noted that the effective implementation of commitments to address climate change was largely dependent on political will. In this respect, good governance, capacity building, financing and technology transfers, as provided by the Bali Action Plan, should be fully implemented. Many delegations called for additional resources to achieve this than provided by the Bali Framework and that in this regard, the UN had an important role to play.

24. The importance of adaptation for all countries was highlighted, but that international support for the most vulnerable countries should be the priority. Delegations provided numerous examples of climate vulnerabilities with respect to water, sea-level rise, natural disasters, agriculture and others. Many emphasized the specific conditions and challenges faced by SIDS, drawing attention to the impact of climate change on coral reefs, the marine environment, and fisheries. Several delegations described examples of adaptation policies and measures adopted, including innovative mechanisms such as risk insurance.

25. The need to drastically scale up support, particularly for adaptation in the most vulnerable countries, including in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small developing island states was supported by most delegations, including by mobilizing resources for both private and public sources. Levies on international air travel, joint implementation and emissions trading were mentioned as potential vehicles to finance adaptation activities.

26. Going forward, it was noted that there should be an effort to harmonize existing resources and prevent a proliferation of funds. Some delegations highlighted the need for innovative mechanisms to remove barriers to the transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, including new and additional financing, as well as, joint development of such technologies. Several delegations highlighted the need for African countries and least developed countries to receive a greater share of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

27. Many delegations called for consideration could be given to establishing an international technology transfer mechanism to overcome the barriers posed by intellectual property right regimes. There was also a proposal to establish joint ventures between SIDS and advanced countries for technology development under the umbrella of appropriate UN agencies.

UN System

28. Some delegations emphasized that the first and overriding priority of the UN system's work on climate change should be addressing the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Many delegations called for coordination of efforts within the UN system to avoid duplication and inefficiencies. Delegations also called for the United Nations to provide a solid platform

for facilitating technology transfer and to provide technical support to developing countries in this regard. The important role of the UN in disseminating knowledge and raising public awareness on climate change was recognized by many.

29. With respect to the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the UN system, many delegations underlined that questions relating to the way forward and specific mechanisms for coordination of the UN system remained under the purview of Member States. In general, the UN system entities should assist in the effective implementation of commitments and action plans of the UNFCCC, while coordination of UN system activities with respect to meeting the challenge of climate change required inter-governmental consideration and agreement, as well as oversight by Member States.

30. Many other delegations expressed support for the approach taken to strengthen coordination among entities of the UN system, including identifying strengths and opportunities for cooperation. Many delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and the process underway in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), in particular initiatives to make the United Nations system more efficient and results based. One delegation called for a coherent UN Climate Engagement Strategy under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

31. There was a further proposal to convene a High-level Meeting of all international development agencies to guarantee efficiency and strategic impact in the allocation of resources. The need for coherent and coordinated action by the UN and improved coordination and cooperation with donor countries, recipients and international organizations was noted by many speakers. One delegation expressed its concern about the lack of a central UN agency to tackle climate change

32. There were several specific proposals made by individual Member States in relation to the General Assembly's continued consideration of climate change, including:

- introducing a separate agenda item on climate change to allow regular debates in future;
- that the President of the 63rd session of the General Assembly consider convening a thematic debate on new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation;
- for the General Assembly to bring the situation of island states under threat from the affects of climate change to the attention of the Security Council;
- for the General Assembly to hold a High-level Event or Special Session to consider how reductions in the availability of drinking water as a result of climate change could undermine internationally agreed development goals; and,
- establishing a General Assembly Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Committee, to include Member States, relevant UN agencies and nongovernmental organisations.

33. In his concluding remarks the President proposed that in due course the Secretary-General should provide the General Assembly with a detailed briefing on efforts to

strengthen and coordinate the United Nations activities on climate change. In order to give further consideration to climate change within the General Assembly, the President also announced his intention to convene two additional meetings to consider specific aspects of climate issue in more detail: one focusing on the needs and concerns of vulnerable countries and the other on corporate responsibility and sustainability.

Further details about the thematic debate, including the programme, statements and video footage are available on the President's website:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/themclimatechange.shtml>



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 December 2007

Excellency,

There is wide agreement that the United Nations system has a central role to play to address climate change. In order to do so, we have to ensure the organization is configured in such a way to contribute most effectively to global efforts. In this regard, following my letter of 8 November on the programme of work I can now confirm that I will convene a high-level thematic debate entitled "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work" on 11 and 12 of February 2008.

On the first day of the debate there will be an opening ceremony with an address by the Secretary-General followed by two separate informal interactive panel discussions in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The panels will bring Member States together with representatives from the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, parliaments, the media, and the United Nations system to promote partnerships and to consider the approach the UN system might take to most effectively address climate change.

On the second day, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly will provide an opportunity for Member States to discuss climate change, including the Secretary-General's report requested by resolution 62/8 on 19 November and the themes of the Panels.

It is my pleasure to invite your delegation to participate in this thematic debate and to encourage representation at ministerial level or higher.

In early January I will make available a detailed program of the event and a background paper prepared in cooperation with the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's report can also provide a helpful contribution to our discussions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

To All Permanent Missions and
Permanent Observer Missions
to the United Nations

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Srgjan Kerim", written over a light-colored background.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 January 2008

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 10 December, I would like to update you on the preparations for the thematic debate entitled “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”, that will take place on Monday and Tuesday 11 and 12 February 2008.

For your information, please find attached a background paper, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General, which, together with the Secretary-General’s report, as requested by Member States in General Assembly resolution 62/8, should serve as a substantive input to this thematic debate. A detailed programme of the debate is also attached. These documents are also available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

I am pleased to confirm that the thematic debate will consist of a brief opening ceremony followed by two consecutive interactive panel discussions in the morning and afternoon of the first day. There will be no list of speakers for the panels. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion with panellists, special guests, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

As previously announced, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be held on Tuesday, February 12 will provide an opportunity for Member States to further discuss climate change, including the Secretary-General’s report. I would like to encourage Member States to be represented at this thematic debate at a ministerial level as appropriate. A list of speakers will be established in accordance with General Assembly procedures. I strongly encourage concise statements that do not exceed five minutes to allow as many delegations as possible to participate in the discussions.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

It is also my pleasure to inform you that Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Group, kindly agreed to be a keynote speaker at a luncheon on Monday, 11 February 2007, to which you and ministers or other senior representatives are kindly invited to attend. Individual invitations will follow.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Srgjan Kerim



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 March 2008

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith an informal summary of the proceedings of the thematic debate 'Addressing Climate Change: the United Nations and the World at Work', that took place on 11-13 February 2008.

I would like to thank all Member States, Observers and invited guests for their support and active participation in this important event. The high interest in the subject and the urgent necessity to find solutions to tackle climate change was reflected in the depth of the discussion, the level of participation and the number of delegations that took the floor.

The summary can provide further input towards the General Assembly's continued consideration of climate change. In this regard, the Secretary-General has agreed to my proposal to brief Member States on efforts to strengthen and coordinate the United Nations activities on climate change. In due course, I will revert to you with details on the two further meetings I intend to convene, one focussing focus on the needs and concerns of vulnerable countries and the other one on corporate responsibility and sustainability.

Please accept, Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written in a cursive style.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

11 February 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
on “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World
at Work”**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; the Mayor of the City of New York, Michael Bloomberg; the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for climate change, H.E. former President of Chile Ricardo Lagos; as well as, all our distinguished panelists and guests to this special thematic debate of the General Assembly – entitled, 'Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work'.

I invite all of you to give thoughtful consideration to the unique perspectives we will hear today so that we can formulate a clearer understanding of the actions necessary to address climate change comprehensively.

Excellencies,
We must continue to support the ongoing negotiating process that was launched in Bali. It is also clear that we should focus on immediate practical action.

The General Assembly has a key role to play; we have a unique global composition, and cover the broadest range of social and economic issues. However, in order to most effectively contribute we must respond to two specific challenges.

The first challenge we face is to create more effective partnerships.

The UN cannot address climate change alone. No one can. The causes are multiple and complex. Inevitably we need as many actors as possible to get involved and unite in order to address its affects.

What is needed is a common vision, a global consensus, a global alliance for action, shared by individuals, the media, lawmakers, business leaders, governments, regional organisations and ultimately the global community embodied in the UN. Only then will we have a chance to tackle this enormous challenge to our way of life.

The United Nations should be at the forefront – reaching out, facilitating new and strengthening existing partnerships. We need partners from all sectors and constituencies, particularly the

private sector. We are fortunate, that today, many of these stakeholders are represented on the panels or are participating in the debate as special guests.

Second, we must define a global strategy for the United Nations to respond to the many different challenges climate change poses.

Climate change has implications across a broad range of policy issues from the environment, health, security, and migration, to energy, good governance and economic development.

Many steps have already been taken by the United Nations and its Member States. We now must concentrate on streamlining the UN system's many programmes and focusing resources where they will have greatest effect.

We can achieve this by defining a simple, straightforward and effective global strategy around which all parts of the United Nations system can rally. Our goal must be to deliver more than the sum of our parts.

I would like to commend the Secretary-General for beginning to take this work forward. We must bear in mind however, that the system has ongoing commitments to support the UNFCCC process, to implement existing agreements and to support Member States own initiatives.

Excellencies,

As the chief deliberative policy organ of the United Nations the General Assembly has an important contribution to make towards a global strategy for action and promoting more effective partnerships.

During the General Debate last September many world leaders spoke passionately about the need for a step change in our approach and attitude towards climate change.

It is clear that the benefits of prompt action far outweigh the cost of inaction - by as much as twenty times.

The Stern Review also concludes that prompt action to stabilize emissions at acceptable levels could still require around 1 per cent of global GDP, or US\$ 500 billions per annum of 'green' investment.

Climate change however, is not just an environmental issue; it is a sustainable development issue.

Our response must be seen in the context of our broader international development agenda, in particular achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

We need to reconcile the economic aspirations of developing countries with the necessity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The challenge is to find policies, instruments and technologies

that can create low-carbon economies which promote sustainable economic growth and provide incentives for individuals to change behaviour.

The links with ongoing United Nations initiatives on Financing for Development, achieving the Millennium Development Goals and improving international environmental governance are clear.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

During this thematic debate, we have a real opportunity to openly discuss solutions for a more sustainable future. Ultimately, we will have to answer some demanding questions of ourselves.

As individuals are we willing enough to change our lifestyles and patterns of behaviour? Are Member States, business and households investing enough in energy efficiency and new technologies to curb emissions? And, globally are we making adequate efforts to adapt to the long-term affects of climate change?

Today, I am pleased to announce that we have done our small part. Our thematic debate is carbon neutral. We have off-set the carbon emissions at United Nations headquarters during the debate, including emissions from the air travel to bring panelists and guests to New York.

We did this by supporting a Clean Development Mechanism approved eco-friendly power plant in Andra Pradesh, India. The project reduces carbon emissions by creating a market in renewable fuels - agricultural waste that would otherwise rot or burn producing carbon.

Finally, I would also like to thank our sponsors - the United Nations Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Citigroup Foundation - for their generous support so that this debate could happen.

Our first panel will focus on partnerships with business, civil society, regional and local government; the second this afternoon, on how best to get the various parts of the United Nations system working together to deliver maximum impact.

I'm very much looking forward to a frank, inclusive and open exchange of views among all stakeholders during the discussions.

Thank you very much for your attention.

13 February 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Closing of the Thematic Debate in the General Assembly
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at
Work”**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am very grateful to Member States for powerfully articulating a clear message that climate change must remain one of the top priorities of the General Assembly during this session.

The number of delegations that have spoken, 115 in total, is a testament to the importance of taking immediate practical action to address climate change.

Over the last three days we have heard some compelling reasons why the United Nations should promote integrated partnerships and approaches with all interested stakeholders, in particular the private sector and local authorities, to successfully overcome the threat that climate change presents to our way of life.

But this does not mean that as individuals, we should feel disempowered by the scale of the challenge. Small contributions add up. Many of our speakers made the case that we can all make a difference through simple changes to our daily behaviour.

Member States also made clear that fostering innovation, developing and transferring new technologies, leveraging green investment and changing our economic future can only happen with the private sector firmly on board.

The challenge for us now is to implement policies globally that can create low-carbon economies which promote sustainable economic growth and provide incentives for individuals to change behaviour.

Member States, regional and multilateral organisations, must therefore develop stronger, more mutually supportive partnerships with the private sector. The United Nations, through the Global Compact, already has a head start to promote more ethical global corporate leadership.

It is clear that when billionaire businessmen like Sir Richard Branson and Mayor Michael Bloomberg are willing to throw their weight behind the United Nations General Assembly that the private sector and local government take this issue extremely seriously. And, more importantly that they recognise the contribution that we can make.

By bringing in business creativity and innovation we have a real opportunity to create a virtuous cycle whereby Member States - providing market incentives and a clear enabling framework for the private sector - bolster confidence in green investment over the long-term.

Excellencies,

Increasingly, many developed countries are demonstrating their willingness to provide fresh finance and to enhance the critical roles played by international financial institutions and the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In this context, the importance of accelerating technology transfers to developing countries and securing sufficient financing for adaptation and mitigation cannot be underestimated.

The United Nations system has a significant role to play to facilitate these goals and Member States own initiatives on climate change. Member States also recognise that the United Nations is best placed to provide an integrated response to the complementary challenges of addressing climate change and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The system also has an important role in raising awareness globally, generating broad based support and providing cooperation to ensure the full implementation of existing and future agreements under the UNFCCC.

To support this process it is extremely important that Member States work speedily and cooperatively to agree on the principles of a strategic policy framework to steer the United Nations systems activities on climate change.

Excellencies,

Finally, I would like to thank all Member States for their insightful contribution to this thematic debate, 'Addressing Climate Change: the United Nations and the world at work'.

We have heard various comments on the Secretary-Generals report. There appears to be a general understanding however that further work is necessary.

Given the sense of urgency expressed by many, I propose that in due course the Secretary-General provides the General Assembly with a more detailed briefing on efforts to strengthen and coordinate the United Nations activities on climate change.

Furthermore, and in order to give continuous consideration to climate change within the General Assembly, I intend to convene two meetings so that we have the opportunity to consider specific aspects of the climate issue in more detail. One will focus on the needs and concerns of vulnerable countries and the other one on corporate responsibility and sustainability

Thank you.

AOSIS STATEMENT
General Assembly Thematic Debate,
11 and 12 February 2008
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the
World at Work”

1. Mr. President on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, I have the honour to convey to you our sincere appreciation for your leadership on this critical issue of Climate Change.
2. This leadership is manifested in the urgency given to the Climate Change agenda in this the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly. And we are very encouraged by the rapidity with which this thematic debate is being held in the aftermath of Bali.
3. During this thematic debate we have been presented with a wider array of ideas with the participation of others from outside the UN family who have enlightened us with their own perspectives on this matter. Clearly, tackling the problem of Climate Change is not a task we will accomplish ourselves. Opening the dialogue to others is one way to begin partnerships. And partnerships are essential if we are to work together to overcome this challenge of Global Warming.
4. Those who attended the eventful meeting in Bali may well agree that Bali was like a strong wind, blowing down old barriers so that new alliances and partnerships could be grown. Groups which previously stood apart began negotiating along common positions. Countries that stood outside the mainstream of the general consensus had the courage to join in.
5. In a real sense Mr. Chairman, the spirit of partnership really began in Bali and we look forward to seeing this continue and thrive. We welcome the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund and we congratulate the GEF on receiving the mandate to provide the services of managing this fund.
6. Mr. Chairman in bringing my opening remarks to a close, I take this opportunity on behalf of all of AOSIS, to once again recognize the outstanding efforts and hospitality of the government and people of Indonesia. Indeed, as we move forward on the Bali Road Map, we eagerly anticipate further successes in Poland and in Denmark.
7. Today, AOSIS would like to talk about Partnerships for Urgent of Action.
8. As the enhancement of the Kyoto Protocol post 2012 rapidly approaches, I must emphasize that we in the island states do not have the luxury of time. We are at the edge of a tipping point and time has run out.
9. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the SIDS began to alert the world to the dangers of Global Warming some 20 years ago. When I read the speeches made by the president of the Maldives in 1988, I can assure you that there is little difference to what is being said today by AOSIS.

10. So today I do not wish to emphasize the fact that Climate Change is a critical existential issue for the island states, because we have said again and again that this is a matter of survival for our member states. There is no need for me to elaborate that our coastal zones are being rapidly eroded or that we are threatened by the increasing ferocity of hurricanes which in the case of my own country caused damages worth 200% of GDP. It would be repetitive for me to talk about the salinization of our limited water resources and the encroaching desertification that threatens our agriculture and food security.
11. Today AOSIS does not wish to elaborate on these disastrous impacts of Climate Change that we are facing today, because, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman there is a time for talking and there is a time for action. The time for action is now.
12. We must work as one to achieve the fundamental principle of protecting the most vulnerable. Be they in the villages of low-lying countries like Bangladesh and Guyana, be they in vulnerable atolls like Tuvalu and the Maldives, be they in hurricane prone areas like Jamaica or Belize.
13. No man, Mr. Chairman, is an island. And no Island must be left behind. That is the fundamental principle for which we are building partnerships and for which the UN and the world must work together.
14. No Island Left Behind.
15. Last year, we joined hands in partnership with UNEP and UNDP in preparing us for Bali. We joined hands with the UN Foundation and the Friends on Climate Change in developing a round table series that deals with the very immediate issue for financing for Climate Change. Tomorrow we have the final installation of this which is being held at the Indian Mission. We will release a green paper on Global Islands Green Financing which deals with the issue of financing adaptation in island and low-lying coastal states. The details of our proposed actions for working in partnership with others will be detailed in that document which is released tomorrow.
16. Today, however, we are announcing further partnerships and we are pleased with the staunch support expressed by our fellow islanders in the Mediterranean. In this regard, Mr. Chairman, Greece has agreed to come on board as a cornerstone partner with one million euros. In recognition of the immediate threats faced by us all, this is a partnership for urgent action. It will support the members of AOSIS as we navigate our way from Bali to Copenhagen, it will promote information sharing and it will augment the mainstreaming of adaptation into the very core of our economic development.
17. This special account will be used as seed funding to promote and attract further partnerships and to implement tangible projects on the ground. We see this as a necessary adjunct that will work synergistically with the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and other multilateral, bilateral and private sources of funding.
18. We welcome this type of partnership and indeed the strong expressions of support that we have had from UN partners, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector are all very much welcome. We seek to strengthen these.
19. So Mr. Chairman. The UN and the World is at work in addressing climate change. We at AOSIS do not have the luxury of time. We cannot wait to implement, we cannot wait to take action, we cannot wait to adapt. We must do all of these things now. When we meet again, we encourage others to



League of the Arab States



Permanent Mission of
Algeria to the United Nations

Statement of the Arab Group

Presented by

H.E. Ambassador Youcef YOUSFI
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations

Before
Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on

"Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the world at work"

(11-13 February 2008)

Please check against delivery

New York, 12 February 2008

Mr. President

On behalf of the Arab Group, the delegation of Algeria, would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this thematic debate on "Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the world at work", and extends our thanks to the Secretary-General for preparing the report on "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change". The Arab Group associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G 77 and China.

Mr. President

There is no doubt that addressing the issue of climate change has started to take a new turn after the issuance of the fourth report of the IPCC, which confirmed that climate change is mostly due to human activities that started with the industrial revolution. This reality necessitate that all nations of the world, including the Arab states join efforts to address the threats to planet Earth. The decisions we take today in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities towards the planet that we all share makes us responsible before the future generations.

The Arab Group welcomes such initiatives to discuss climate change, and also finds that the Secretary-General's report entitled "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change" provides useful information on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of climate change. However, the Arab Group would like to emphasize that negotiations on this matter must remain under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol as the primary mechanism that deals comprehensively with this phenomenon. The Arab Group stresses that this debate should remain in the context of exchanging views on how to further advance the implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework Convention and its mechanism.

The Group is of the view that this thematic debate as well as the documents before it should not overlap or pre-empt ongoing consultations in the UN on climate change or influence the consultations on system-wide coherence. Bearing in mind that the coherence process relates to operational activities in developing countries, while the issue of climate change is of concern to all States, with primary responsibility to be shouldered by industrialized countries.

The Arab Group stresses the need to commit to the ultimate goal of the UNFCCC to stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents damaging of the climate system through a time frame that allows the ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not endangered, economic development is able to pursue in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

The Arab states, like all other developing countries are vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, and their repercussions on development including in the Arab region. These vulnerabilities include among other things the decline of agricultural production and green cover, the increase of drought and desertification, the negative impact on biodiversity, the lack of food security, the threat to vital economic investments, in addition to its social implications, as well as other negative consequences outlined by the fourth report of the IPCC.

Mr. President,

The Arab Group believes that dealing with the potential negative impacts of climate change requires international action and solidarity within the context of the goals of sustainable development with its three pillars: social development; economic development; and environmental protection based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The international action and cooperation, must give special attention to supporting the developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, and take into account the interests of developing countries that produce fossil fuels, including oil.

whose economies will be adversely affected by the responding measures to climate change, as well as the interests of the developing countries whose economies will be affected adversely by measures and procedures on the exploitation of forests.

The Arab Group emphasizes its commitment to the agreement reached by the State Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its thirteenth session, which resulted in the plan of action and the road map of Bali, as a framework for negotiations on post-2012. It also emphasizes the need to provide technological and financial support and capacity building to achieve sustainable development in developing countries.

Mr. President,

The Arab States are working to include policies that address climate change issues, at all levels within their national and regional policies for sustainable development, in harmony with sustainable economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty. It is also working on the adoption of national and regional action plans dealing with climate change to assess possible impacts and to develop mitigation and adaptation programs. It also recognizes that mitigation programs shall focus on the production and use of cleaner fuels such as natural gas, improving energy efficiency in all sectors, diversifying energy sources in accordance with the prevailing economic and social conditions, and expanding the use of cleaner production techniques and technologies friendly to the environment.

In the framework of solidarity and in affirmation of the principle of regional and international cooperation, the international conference on global solidarity for the protection of Africa and Mediterranean from the impacts of climate change, was held in Tunisia from 18 to 20 November 2007 and concluded with the adoption of the Declaration and Plan of Action contributing to the international and regional efforts to address the challenges of climate change and to activate the international cooperation mechanisms of to achieve development goals comprehensively.

Mr. President

The Arab States call upon the developed countries to be more committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because of their historical, current and direct responsibility of climate change, and that the post-2012 should include identification of quantified commitments of developed countries, and emphasize that the policies and measures to achieve these commitments do not adversely affect sustainable development in developing countries.

The Arab group calls that the action of developed countries mount up to the level of their commitments towards the developing countries in accordance with the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, through supporting their currently existing mechanisms, particularly the Clean Development Mechanism, as well as funding mechanisms and funds that emerged from the Kyoto Protocol which have not yet been operational, and to provide necessary support for technology transfer, capacity-building and financing to undertake a deeper and more comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable developing countries, including the Arab countries, and to be able to develop and implement mitigation and adaptation programs to climate change.

The Arab Group calls for strengthening the partnership between governments, civil society and private sector in addressing climate change, on the basis of complementarity to the international and bilateral cooperation and it is not meant to substitute them. The Group stresses the need to hold the upcoming rounds of negotiations under the plan of action and the Bali road map, in any of the headquarters of the United Nations to ensure widest participation of Member States.

The Group of Arab States believes that the parties of Annex I should be committed to reduce emissions in post 2012 taking into consideration that developing countries, including Arab States, are still in the phase of development and in the need of cleaner fossil energy with improved efficiency and

clean energy technology in order to be able to achieve progress and development on the basis of sustainability, while taking into account that its first priority is still the eradication of poverty.

The Arab Group calls for the development and transfer of clean technologies to developing countries, including technologies of clean fuel production, and the technologies of carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS), and the development of the projects of the clean development mechanism (CDM), and the establishment of research and study centers for climate changes in developing countries, including the Arab States to study the impacts and challenges that their peoples face as a result of this phenomenon.

Mr. President

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for environmental issues has adopted at its Nineteenth Meeting that was held at the headquarter of the League of Arab States from 5 and 6 December 2007, the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change constitutes the basis for future action, and reflects the Arab point of view in dealing with climate change issues.

Thank you, Mr. President

11 February 2008

**Statement of Mayor Bloomberg,
at the Thematic Debate “Addressing Climate Change: The United
Nations and the World at Work”**

Good morning. Mister President; Mister Secretary-General; Mr. Escobar, and permanent representatives to the United Nations; excellencies; delegates; and particularly my country's ambassador, Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad.

We are pleased to me members of the United Nations and I am thrilled to have the honor to address this august body. The United Nations has been, and always will be a important New York- important to New York City for the vital work that you do and I think important to this country and to the world. And its importance to New York is shown by the fact that the Mayor's office maintains a Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps, and Protocol, whose commissioner is my sister, Marjorie Tiven. So if it's good enough for my family, it's good enough for New York City.

And on a personal note, I was just thinking that nothing would have made our father prouder than to see us here today. I was born shortly before the United Nations was founded and it has always been important to my family.

Of course, being the Mayor of New York – the world's most international city – is a bit like presiding over the United Nations every single day of the year.

If you call our Citizen Service Hotline at 311, you can get information about City services in any of the 170 different languages spoken in our city. We do try to help everyone. I will say we're not always successful. Earlier this year, someone called to ask for Oprah Winfrey's phone number. I don't think we were able to satisfy her.

And not too long after, someone else asked: “What is the capital of the world?” Actually, that was an easy one for us to answer: the home of the United Nations. But maybe I'm a little bit prejudiced.

It has been not quite two months since the close of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali. And it was my privilege to address that convention at the invitation of ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, a worldwide network of more than 700 cities and counties that, like New York City, are actively engaged in combating climate change. Bali certainly was an historic gathering. It set the stage for a global compact that advances the progress begun some 10 years ago at Kyoto.

However, between now and the Copenhagen Conference late next year, we must establish, I think, the preconditions for such progress. Both developed and developing nations must recognize the need to alter their policies and make serious commitments to change. And I believe that our experience in New York City, and the experience of many of the world's other great cities, too, can help guide that process.

Because today I want to outline just how much we and the world's other cities have already contributed to the struggle against global climate change and some of the new steps our city is now taking in this arena and why the world's cities must be part of the next and critical phase of international action.

The first precondition for making the Copenhagen negotiations a success, I believe, is that the United States, which leads the world in greenhouse gas production, must finally set real and binding carbon reduction targets. As long as there is no penalty or cost involved in producing greenhouse gases, there will be no incentive to meet such targets. And for that reason, I believe the U.S. should enact a tax on carbon emissions. Now, others advocate a cap-and-trade system – an approach that I believe would be less direct and therefore less successful. But either alternative would be superior to our current inadequate status quo. Instituting either would mark a major and welcome commitment to addressing climate change. And I believe the American people are prepared to accept our responsibility to lead by example. America always had- has, and I think America should continue to. And our President and Congress must begin to work together in a bi-partisan fashion to make such leadership possible.

The carbon reduction targets that the U.S. should set must be ambitious but also achievable. And here, as I have said, the experience of New York City is instructive.

Ten months ago, we adopted a set of long-term sustainability goals, which we call our “PlaNYC,” and which was highlighted in the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report for 2007-2008. Based on a careful assessment of what existing technology makes feasible, we determined that New York City can shrink our carbon footprint 30% from current levels by the year 2030. And recent authoritative studies indicate that the U.S. could do something very close to that, too – and at nearly zero net cost, because so many of the energy efficiency strategies involved actually save money in the long run.

The second pre-condition for progress at Copenhagen is a willingness by nations with developing economies to make serious commitments to address global warming as well. Realistically, such commitments are likely to be different from those required of the U.S. or other developed countries. But China and India are also great nations and they must accept the burdens of greatness by setting the energy efficient standards that will help meet the most urgent environmental challenge of our era.

New York City's experience is illustrative here as well because as we've embarked on reducing our carbon footprint, we've learned something that I hope our colleagues from Beijing and Delhi

are also realizing: reducing your carbon production increases the social and economic well-being of your people. Let me quickly cite four examples.

First, we're converting our city's taxi fleet to hybrid cars. This action alone will reduce New York City's carbon footprint by half of one percent. In the bargain, it will also clean our air of pollutants, and save thousands of dollars a year in fuel costs for our cabdrivers.

Second, we've also proposed a program of congestion pricing, designed to discourage driving in our busy business district during the peak weekday hours. It's modeled on successful efforts in London, Stockholm, and Singapore. Those cities have now been joined by Milan, where Mayor Letizia Moratti will be a panelist later this morning.

Not only will the congestion pricing we propose reduce the carbon emissions produced by autos. It will also clean our air, make our economy more productive, and finance the new transit lines we desperately need.

Third, we're working to green our buildings – again, not just to cut carbon emissions, but also because it will allow us to redirect billions of dollars a year it now takes to heat and cool these buildings, often inefficiently, to better purposes.

Fourth, we're planting one million trees throughout our city during the next ten years – and have already put more than 30,000 of them in the ground, often in neighborhoods where such trees are sorely lacking.

They will not only capture carbon dioxide, but also clean the air, cool our streets, reduce street flooding, and raise property values.

I could go on and on, but I think I made my point: serious carbon targets will not hamper growth, and it will leave us all better off. If the U.S. and the developing nations make such commitments, then the prospects for a new international global warming accord improve greatly. But it's also clear that the world cannot wait for 2009. Global warming demands immediate action. As the *New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman warned in a report summing up the Bali conference: On this issue, "It's too late for later."

The world's great cities recognize that. Each day, we confront the health effects of the air pollution produced by power plants and auto traffic that's also raising the earth's temperature. With half the world's population now living in our cities – a trend which will only accelerate in the years ahead – leaders in local governments around the globe are already moving aggressively and creatively to fight climate change.

As the officials who are closest to the people, and the problems they face, we don't have the luxury of talking about change, but not delivering it. So we are not waiting for others to act first. And it's why the mayors of many of the world's largest cities have joined forces to fight climate change in the "C-40" organization, whose conference it was New York's privilege to host last May. It's why, even though our national government has yet to approve the Kyoto Protocol, more than 700 cities in the United States, representing more than 80 million Americans, have pledged

to meet its goals. And it's why, later this year, New York City will convene a two-day conference of representatives from more than 20 major world cities. It will feature experts from around the globe in such fields as transportation, city planning, public health, and other disciplines. It will address the challenges that the world's cities share in reducing urban air pollution and curbing climate change. The conference is also being organized by New York City Global Partners, a non-profit organization that conducts our city-to-city partnerships with the world's most creative and far-thinking cities.

We're also working with the Climate Group, an extraordinary organization that has partnered with governments and corporations around the world in implementing "green" policies. And these companies include that of the luncheon speaker you're going to have today, Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group, who has made his company a leader in "greening" the aviation industry.

The world's cities must also think globally, even as we act locally. And so let me announce what New York City is now prepared to do to curb tropical deforestation. The conference in Bali highlighted the fact that such deforestation is an ecological calamity – one with huge global warming implications. It accounts for some 20% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. New York, like many other cities, uses tropical hardwoods – in our case, for park benches, ferry landings, our extensive beach boardwalks, and also for the walkway on the world-famous Brooklyn Bridge. The physical properties of these hardwoods, especially their durability and resistance to rot, make them ideal for such uses. And, as any engineer will tell you, once you've designed a structure for one material, you just can't use a replacement; you've got to go back to the drawing board.

Currently, we purchase more than \$1 million a year of such hardwoods, making us one of the largest consumers of hardwoods in North America. Nevertheless, I made a commitment in Bali that we would assess New York City's use of these hardwoods and develop an ambitious and achievable strategy to reduce it. And here is the result:

Our City's agencies will immediately reduce their use of tropical hardwoods by 20%. They will do that by specifying domestic wood, recycled plastic lumber, and other materials in the design of park benches and other construction projects. We are also going to undertake serious, long-term studies of the design of our boardwalks and ferry piers to see what alternatives we can use when these structures have to be replaced. And from now on we will also refrain from designing new boardwalks with tropical hardwoods. New Yorkers don't live in the rain forest. But we do live in a world that we all share. And we're committed to doing everything we can to protect it for all of our children.

And that's just one example, I think, of how, not just New York, but the other cities of the world, can help shape a better future for our world. We do small things but the small things all add up and the key is that we do things. And as you and your governments look forward to Copenhagen, let me conclude by repeating a message that I delivered in Bali: Make the cities of your nations active participants in that process because we bring much to the table. From the dawn of civilization, we have always been the hub of human industry and the matrix of human invention. The scientific curiosity, thirst for discovery, and enterprising spirit fostered so long ago in

medieval cities launched the process that today knits our world together into one global community. It was said then that “city air is freer,” because cities liberated people from the bonds of feudalism. Cities unlocked human creativity and fired human imaginations. Now cities can help make air not only freer, but also healthier, for everyone who inhabits our globe.

Our time for meeting this urgent challenge is short. So I wish all of you attending this conference every success as you work together to address it. Good luck to all of you. And for those who have come from great distances to attend this conference: Thank you very much for what you’re doing, the future of our planet really is in your hands, and welcome to the capital of the world: New York City. Thank you.

11 February 2008

**Statement of Sir Richard Branson,
at the Thematic Debate “Addressing Climate Change: The United
Nations and the World at Work”**

Thank you President Kerim and Daryl, it is an honour to be here today amongst so many people who have dedicated their lives to tackling the issue of climate change and peace in this world.

“There are no boundaries in the real Planet Earth. No United States, no Russia, no China, no Taiwan. Rivers flow unimpeded across the swaths of continents. The persistent tides, the pulse of the sea do not discriminate; they push against all the varied shores on Earth.”

What a beautiful, if terrifyingly apt, insight Cousteau had into our world given the crisis we are here to talk about today.

I could quote many inspirational leaders across the decades who have quoted similar truths. ‘One world – one people’ has been the rally cry of many of our greatest minds: a cry used to highlight the pointlessness of religious persecution when in reality we are one people; to rage against the shame and horror of one half of the world standing by while the other half suffers the horrors of disease and starvation; a cry to try and influence those who wage barbaric wars around the world placing territorial gain above human life and a cry to alert the world to the biggest crisis we as one people have ever faced – Global Warming.

“There are no boundaries in the real Planet Earth.”

Unfortunately in many areas of the world the wars and apathy continue. Wars in the name of religion take on more sinister and indiscriminate forms. Whole continents such as Africa continue to be ravaged by three of the most deadly diseases in the world and millions continue to die. Both the western and eastern world still turns a blind eye to the victims of territorial wars in areas of the world in which neither has any real economic interest.

And climate change continues, the quietest, most sinister, most deadly threat of all.

Before the age of mass communication by radio, television and the internet - the world could be forgiven for inaction, for its ignorance.

Today there is no excuse for inaction, no excuse for ignorance – to turn a blind eye in the 21st Century is unforgivable.

These communication tools bringing us together as one global village are also giving us the opportunity to form some unlikely partnerships in order to work together to stop human suffering. For example, many organisations both in the public and private sector are joining together in a new War Room in Sub Saharan Africa to fight AIDS, TB, Malaria and other diseases that are unbelievably continuing to kill thousands of people every single day. A war room that will help to coordinate the hundreds of thousands of organisations doing good work and will seek out best practises. Other groups such as The Elders, made up of some of the most inspirational leaders of our time come from diverse backgrounds ranging from incredible civil society leaders to past heads of states. They have come together as an independent group to work with The UN and other organisations to use their collective wisdom and moral courage to tackle some of the world's toughest challenges.

At this crucial point in time in order to fight climate change, there is a wonderful opportunity to create a similar powerful partnership that helps to scale up the best innovations by bringing together business leaders, economists, scientists, environmental groups and other expert organisations to tackle the war against global warming.

And it is a war. The first war that truly threatens almost all human life - a war that to win we must all fight together - one world, one people.

We all recognise that we only have a short two years to really come together on an agreement for the next stage of the Kyoto Protocol. The private sector, public sector and civil society must join forces to build a common framework that can take on this challenge with the urgency and scale required.

The UN is doing excellent work in helping to truly build a global framework for the response which includes everything from highlighting the threat of climate change, to helping build the ground rules for business, to bringing together the greatest climate scientists in the world to prove that this threat is real, to a whole host of other activities that many of you in the room are driving. The Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly are showing true leadership and spearheading the seriousness with which the UN is approaching this war against climate change. As the President mentioned this morning – the time is now for practical action, effective partnerships and a common vision.

But there is so much more that the rest of the global community can do by putting aside our differences and forgetting the usual 'rules' of commercial secrecy and individual agendas. Historically, when the world has tried to tackle large scale issues such as HIV/AIDS, rather than coming together as one common humanity, thousands of splintered groups have developed causing confusion and a lack of a truly swift global response. We have an opportunity in this fight to have a coordinated effective and innovative approach. Science, business, technological, environmental, government and communications leaders need to come together, in partnership.

So how far on the back foot in this war are we? Have we lost the fight before having the chance to fight back?

There are some eminent scientists who believe we have already gone through the tipping point and that there is nothing mankind can do now to stop the earth heating up by 5 degrees with all the dire consequences that comes with that. James Lovelock for instance goes further than the UN report and believes we will have lost the floating Arctic ice within ten years and that the 5 degrees rise is possible within 40 years, rather than 80 years predicted by the UN.

However, unlike the UN report he believes the earth will stabilise at a 5 degree rise – that there will be survivors – but much of the lush and comfortable world that we now enjoy will be gone and it will change into largely a featureless desert. The loss of life that will occur is likely to be quite gigantic. We'll be in a world where nowhere near enough food is being grown – or enough water will be available - to support the huge population we have.

Whether you believe we've gone through the tipping point or not - most scientists are in agreement that we're close to it.

It doesn't look good, does it?

History has taught us that in times of peril, when all seems lost, bringing together the greatest minds of a nation to work together, with one common goal – survival – is the most effective way to prevail.

I'm convinced a winning strategy can be devised. The great minds are out there – but they are fighting in isolation.

Until now the emphasis of environmentally aware governments has been how to reduce Carbon output. This emphasis should continue as an insurance policy and may delay by a few years the 5 degree rise in the earth's temperature. Hopefully as the Stern report showed, this insurance policy will also lead to economic benefits as reducing emissions will be far cheaper than the harm from the impacts of adapting to a new reality.

But in order to respond to this issue with the speed that is necessary, far more emphasis needs to be placed on finding scientific and technological solutions to the problem. A technological solution is perhaps the only real chance to avert a catastrophe

We all need to play a role in rallying all the scientists, engineers and inventors worldwide with a common purpose in mind to find a way to extract carbon out of the earth's atmosphere. If such a breakthrough could take place mankind would be able to regulate the earth's temperature. By extracting Carbon when it's getting too hot – and by adding Carbon when it's too cold. We have certainly sorted how to add carbon – we just need to sort out how to extract it. It can not be beyond the wit of man to crack this problem.

We at Virgin have put up a \$25 million dollar prize to encourage scientists and inventors to put their mind to it. Today we'd like to urge the 20 wealthiest Governments to match us in this endeavour so we can make this the largest scientific prize ever. A half a billion dollar prize. All of us should be delighted to write our 25 million dollar cheques because the successful person could literally have saved most of mankind!

But like all wars this one may have to be fought on many 'fronts'. How to extract carbon represents only one 'front'. It's a battle that may never be won. We need an overall battle plan. We need a War Room.

So today I'd like to propose that we create an Environmental War Room. This 'War Room' will be a nerve centre to catalyze and scale up innovative ideas that will have the most significant impact on ensuring the long term sustainability for humanity on the planet.

This 'War Room' will be a unique combination of: entrepreneurial muscle, the best possible data and the power to mobilise resources and influence policy.

The 'War Room' will identify all the best (and in some cases radical) ideas, map who is doing what, track and prioritise the impact of existing solutions on carbon reduction and conservation of ecological systems. It will provide analysis of all the data collected – focusing on identifying and prioritising the best options, cost implications and develop global implementation plans with partners such as the UN. It will never duplicate efforts, but instead act as a catalyst to bring together relevant public and private organisations, businesses and governments to drive action on a large scale. A powerful combination of innovation, intelligence and the right resources in order to fight one of the largest battles of our lifetime.

The 'War Room' will be independent of politics – but will ideally act as a tool for the UN and other bodies to help drive the right political policies. It will not adhere to any one economic theory but include economists who may have differing theories but be great economic brains – in the long-term a new theory of world economics may need to be created – as mentioned by the Secretary General in his speech in Bali “we stand at the threshold of another great change: the age of green economics”. It will draw on the knowledge of many scientists - those respected by their peers and those with slightly more radical solutions and ideas. Representatives from big business and finance will work alongside representatives from 'green' organisations with whom they may previously have been at odds. It will be a collection of 'best' of class brought together for the good of all.

The War Room could support the great work of the UN bodies represented in this room. Critical to its success will be the forming of a strong partnership with all of you to ensure that innovative ideas from all over the world are fed into the 'war room' and that information is provided from the 'war room' to support the UN's efforts.

It will be a truly global 'war room' – that will fight this war on all 'fronts'.

Should a technological solution fail to be found it will start to prepare the world for the consequences of a 5 degree rise in temperature and look at ways of mitigating the worst effects. It will come up with ideas that need the global communities backing such as happened when CFC gasses were banned to deal with the hole in the ozone layer.

There will be radical ideas that will come into the war room that initially the world community will say “you can’t do that!” many of these radical ideas will be rejected for good reason. But they will be debated all the same. Let me give you an example of one such idea that may or may not see the light of day.

It is now widely accepted that rising sea levels, as a result of global warming, will destroy hundreds of thousands of homes in coastal towns all over the world and displace millions of the world’s population. But what if today we start planning to create massive inland lakes in Africa, Asia, Australia, North Canada and South America, where there aren’t people and homes, using fresh water from rivers that would otherwise have gone into the sea. These inland seas can be created as sea levels start to rise with the aim of keeping sea levels as they are at present. They will also - as water - have an added benefit in helping cool the earth down. They will help create more rain in desert regions - which in turn will create more trees - which in turn will absorb more carbon. Perhaps it will be better to plan where all this rising water is going rather than let nature itself decide.

The Environmental or Global Warming War Room can evaluate and cost out large ideas like this. The War Room can support the negotiation of compensation costs with individual countries. But in the end it will need the United Nations, governments and other organisations to help make sure implementation happens.

To quote one of the most famous advocates of the need for a War Room, Sir Winston Churchill: “One ought never to turn ones back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!”

The formation of The Elders has shown that it is possible to bring together experts and inspirational leaders from all over the world to work together in times of crisis. It was wonderful news to see that visits by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon and mediation by two of The Elders Kofi Annan and Graca Machel have made considerable headway in Kenya. I truly believe that the same can be achieved through the setting up of an environmental ‘War Room’ to lead our fight against climate change. A War Room will need someone of the stature of Churchill to run it and we’d love your help in finding that person.

Incredible technological breakthrough’s – on both sides took place in the five years that men and women were up against it during the second world war. As Lovelock remembered “all that counted then was how could problems be solved today or better yesterday.”

Codes were decoded, penicillin was invented, breakthroughs in radar research lead to a new understanding of our universe. The pressures of war led Braun to develop rockets which resulted in man going to the moon. Everyone – individuals, businesses and governments stood together and re-tooled their economies to create what they needed to fight the war.

In times of crisis the impossible, through the strength of the human spirit, becomes possible.

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege to speak on behalf of the African Group at this thematic debate on the theme, "Addressing Climate Change: the United Nations and the World at Work".

The African Group associates itself with the statement made this morning by the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for organizing this event and for providing an informative background paper on key issues on the subject for consideration. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his report.

Mr. President,

Climate change is a serious challenge and threat due to its global nature. It is being discussed widely, in various fora. However, these debates and fora discussions should not be allowed overshadow the ongoing consultations within the existing frameworks and instruments (namely the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol) aimed at addressing this global challenge. It is imperative that all initiatives aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change, endeavor to bolster and strengthen these instruments.

Mr. President,

Climate change is a reality that we cannot overlook. It affects all countries but its impacts are most felt in developing countries, particularly in African countries where it is threatening efforts for

poverty eradication, economic gains made in the recent past and sustainable development achievements.

In terms of impacts, Africa is at the receiving end of climate variability and climate change, with all the consequences of rise in extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and high winds, which have the capacity to damage national and sub regional economics within the continent. Droughts have led to economic losses due to decreases in hydro-power generation while floods have caused widespread damage to infrastructure thus disrupting food production and threatening food security.

We are all aware now that temperature rises have been accompanied by an increase in vector-borne diseases such as highland malaria, typhoid, cholera and Rift Valley Fever. Similarly, as a result of global warming, glaciers on Mts. Kenya and Kilimanjaro, for instance, are fast melting. This in effect has a lot of negative impacts on the people around these regions.

Mr. President,

Individual countries are undertaking several initiatives to improve our understanding of how adaptation can be achieved, in particular how our adaptive capacity can best be enhanced.

Recent concerted efforts by African countries to tackle their common concerns are many. The Declaration and Action Plan, adopted by the International Solidarity Conference on Climate Change, Strategies for Africa and the Mediterranean Countries, an event held in Tunis from 18 to 20 November 2007, sought to contribute to the international efforts addressing climate change challenges, and to enhance international and regional cooperation and solidarity. It aims to enable the countries of the region to implement their national climate change adaptation plans and strategies. In addition, the Tunis Declaration was endorsed a few days

ago in Addis Ababa, by the 10th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

These initiatives are a testimony of our commitment to fight climate change.

Mr. President,

Much as African countries are in a small way addressing the impact of climate change, their efforts, however, will not be very effective without international support. It is on the basis of the foregoing that the more the international community delay in initiating and supporting adaptation activities in the vulnerable countries, the more costly it is going to be in the future. We believe that the debate on climate change should now concentrate on actions.

Mr. President,

In relation to financing, the African Group wish to observe that adaptation to the impacts of climate change is key to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Assisting developing countries, particularly the poor and the most vulnerable countries, to cope with their adaptation needs due to the impacts of climate change, is an obligation under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and must be undertaken in an urgent and sustainable manner.

A recent assessment on the Adaptation funds suggests that tens of billions of dollars will be required per year yet, so far, only few hundred million dollars are available from "voluntary" Funding sources. These are the Least Developed Country Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, the Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants and Bilaterals. It is therefore obvious that a huge gap exists between adaptation funding needs and the actual funding available. This huge gap needs to be dealt with in earnest. It is imperative that the Adaptation Fund be funded adequately and expeditiously.

Mr. President,

Achieving equitable distribution of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, as well as the need for financial resources to support these activities, has been recognized as a priority. We wish to note that CDM has the potential to play an important role, for the sustainable development and poverty alleviation of sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. President,

We must emphasize that, while we underscore the fact that only a global solution can solve the global problem of climate change, this solution must be consistent with our sustainable development priorities, poverty reduction and our right to grow our economies.

As regards the post 2012 climate regime, we believe that an ambitious comprehensive agreement negotiated within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and building on the Kyoto Protocol must be our focus and should, as agreed at Bali, be achieved not later than 2009. To this end we call on the international community to fast track and support the process and outcomes of the Bali conference, particularly the Bali Roadmap.

Mr. President,

Mitigation and adaptation can not be achieved without appropriate technology. It is our hope that the ongoing UN efforts and the discussions on the Bali Roadmap will be given priority.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol provide a sound basis for multilateral global action. Although some progress has been made and is being made in the implementation of these instruments these actions are far from adequate,

primarily because of limited scope of the commitments of developed country Parties and inadequate implementation of these commitments.

Finally, we would also wish to caution on a current trend towards amplifying Climate Change while at the same time shelving the threat of poverty and the need to make head way on the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs.

I THANK YOU



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

UNITED NATIONS
62nd Session of the General Assembly

Thematic Debate
**"Addressing Climate Change:
The United Nations and the World at Work"**

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Janez Podobnik
Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning

on behalf of the European Union

New York, 12 January 2008

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

It is an honour to address this important Thematic Debate on behalf of the European Union and the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Montenegro, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Climate Change represents one of the major challenges facing our planet. We can already see its impacts, threatening to undermine the livelihoods of future generations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its authoritative findings in 2007 and was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize for its exceptional work. The report clearly states that global greenhouse gas emissions have increased about 70 per cent between 1970 and 2004 due to human activities. Our current understanding of the problem and the high risks involved leave no option for any responsible policymaker but to act.

In this respect, today's Thematic Debate is much welcomed in order to further develop and support the decisive role of the United Nations in this matter.

The European Union and Climate Change

Mr. President,

Climate change is upon us and we believe it is time to act. The European Union has put climate change on the top of its political agenda. International collective action is crucial for an effective, efficient and equitable response to the challenges posed by climate change. Working together will benefit every one of us.

The European Union will continue its efforts aimed at building international consensus on the urgent need to take further and stronger post-2012 action. We are doing our homework by implementing and further developing comprehensive Community Climate Change Policies.

The European Commission recently presented the legislative "Climate Action and Renewable Energy package", which will be instrumental in shaping a response in line with our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by at least 20 per cent by 2020 relative to 1990 levels. The package has provisions to reduce EU's emissions by as much as 30 per cent as part of a global agreement, where all developed countries commit to comparable efforts, and where also developing countries contribute further. We are convinced that transforming Europe into a highly energy-efficient, low-carbon economy will improve our energy security and strengthen our competitiveness. Let me reiterate the European Union's objective to limit the global average temperature increase below 2 °C relative to the pre-industrial levels.

* Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Post-Bali Action

Mr. President,

Last year was a turning point for international action against climate change. The Fourth IPCC Assessment report underlined the urgent need for action. Subsequently, all Parties at the Climate conference in Bali agreed to launch an inclusive negotiating process on a new global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement in December 2009 in Copenhagen. Importantly, it was agreed that all developed and developing countries need to take appropriate action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The Bali agreement addresses a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, and identifies four key building blocks: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. This is a very important step forward, yet leaving many important decisions to be made in the coming two years. The EU has already presented its general ideas in this respect. In view of the EU, all building blocks are equally important and must be dealt with accordingly. The main objectives of mitigation and adaptation cannot be achieved without supporting the development and transfer of clean technologies and scaling up and re-directing investment and finance flows.

The Bali conference also took important decisions on several other issues, including the launching of demonstration activities aimed at reducing deforestation, the finalisation of arrangements for the Adaptation Fund, which will help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change, as well as a strategic programme on the transfer of technologies to developing countries.

Climate Change is a Sustainable Development Challenge

Mr. President,

Our world is increasingly interconnected. It is thus impossible to talk about climate change and development as two unrelated issues. Climate change is a sustainable development challenge, which will affect our natural environment, as well as our social and economic development. The goal to halve the proportion of poor people in the world by the year 2015 will be impossible to achieve if we do not give due consideration to the natural resources and the environment our livelihoods depend upon. However, meeting development needs and achieving poverty eradication, while reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and the impacts of climate change, will present a challenge to all of us.

Several important events will be taking place this year, such as the dialogue on Financing for Development, a high-level event on Millennium Development Goals, as well as the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit under the Japanese G8 presidency. We must ensure that climate change will be addressed in those debates and that the relationship between climate change, energy security, environment, development, finance and trade is further defined and explored. Cutting across the four building blocks, identified in Bali, the integration of climate into development plans is crucial. The overarching objective is to

achieve sustainable development, and the UN should play a key role in supporting integrated policy and decision making at all levels.

The EU is committed to promoting climate stabilisation of Greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere and adaptation in the context of sustainable development. Increased integration of adaptation and mitigation actions into national sustainable development strategies is therefore essential to combating climate change.

The United Nations at Work

Mr. President,

If the attempts to reach a global post-2012 agreement on climate change are to breed results, the process leading to such an agreement as well as its scope has to be all-encompassing.

Nevertheless, the key issue is still pending: how can we all contribute? Unequivocal scientific evidence, the increasing impact of climate events and the resulting increased public attention have elevated climate change high up the political agenda. The international community needs to respond to this challenge. The United Nations provides the appropriate multilateral framework to deal with the issue and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only forum where global decisions about future actions can be agreed to.

The time has come for the UN to strengthen its response to climate change and speaks with a united voice. The UN system must be capable of working together to support international efforts to address the negative impacts of climate change:

- through the UNFCCC, as the appropriate multilateral framework for the negotiation, as we look to a global agreement on a post-2012 framework;
- through the work of the agencies, funds and programmes who are best placed to provide an integrated response to the complementary challenges of promoting sustainable development, achieving the MDGs and tackling the impacts of climate change;
- through the voice of the Secretary-General, who has so effectively galvanised the international response over the last year.

It is in this light that the EU fully supports the efforts under the leadership of the Secretary General and carried out by the Chief Executives Board to achieve a coordinated UN approach to climate change. Much good work is already underway in many parts of the UN system. The continuation of this process will enable the United Nations system to identify its strengths and consequentially the areas, in which it can maximise its contribution to fighting climate change. We, as Member States, must also take responsibility by supporting this process through our own actions.

Implementing a post-2012 climate change framework will present fundamental challenges to the global community and calls for a strengthened international environmental governance. Of particular importance will be the financing of enhanced mitigation and adaptation efforts, which calls for new and innovative concepts. This will

require enhanced cooperation between various stakeholders from private and public sectors.

Mr. President,

Climate change has the potential to redraw the face of our planet. Science has clearly underlined that the time has come for all of us to act. According to polls, undertaken in many countries of the world, a vast proportion of the world's population believes that the international community must take a different path if we are to prevent consequences of climate change. Several events have shown us that there is increasing political will to do so. However, there is always space for improvement. The UN can play an important role in assisting this process, not only by addressing the capacity gap to act and thus guarding Millennium Development Goals, but also by leading the process to generate global consciousness. Certain activities can be undertaken by the system, within the framework of the mandates provided to it by Member States.

However, at the end of the day, we must not forget that the UN is the sum of its member states and it is up to us to determine the size of this sum.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China
by
H.E. John Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
during the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on
"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work"
Tuesday, 12 February

Introduction

1. Mr. President, the Group of 77 and China thank you for convening this debate in the General Assembly on the theme "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work." It provides the Assembly with an additional opportunity to exchange views among Member States and with other partners on one of the important issues on the development agenda of the UN.
2. At the outset, the Group of 77 and China reiterates that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is, and should remain, the primary comprehensive framework for addressing climate change. Therefore, this thematic debate should be recognized as an opportunity for Member States to dialogue on ways of increasing support for the Framework and on meeting the urgent need for immediate action to fully implement commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol; supporting the Bali Action Plan and other mechanisms of the Convention.
3. Mr. President, the Group of 77 and China is of the view that there should not be a parallel process of debates that would detract from the negotiation process under the Convention. The Group of 77 and China believes that multilateral action to address climate change should remain firmly rooted in the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
4. Furthermore, this thematic debate, as well as the Secretary General's report on the Overview of UN activities in relation to Climate Change should not attempt to influence any other processes such as the system wide coherence debate or the discussions on international environmental governance.

Climate Change as a Sustainable Development Challenge

5. Mr. President, the Group of 77 and China is of the view that discussions on climate change should be placed within the proper context of

sustainable development. It is imperative that our discussion reinforces the promotion of sustainable development, highlighting the three pillars – economic development, social development and environmental protection – and the need to promote all three in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner.

6. We must not lose sight of the fact that climate change is a sustainable development challenge. As such we should adhere steadfastly to the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We must take fully into account that poverty eradication, economic and social development are the paramount priorities of developing countries. Hence, we must ensure that the discussion on climate change is placed in its proper context so that it does not undermine the overall discourse on sustainable development.
7. Mr. President, urgent action is needed now to fully implement the commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, especially commitments on financing for adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building, if we are to make progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals of developing countries, in particular the internationally agreed development goals (IADG) including the MDGs.
8. Urgent action is particularly needed on commitments, as climate change threatens the livelihoods of the very poor and vulnerable developing countries, in particular Africa, the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and disaster prone developing countries. The G77 and China is of the view that while addressing the challenge of climate, the most affected countries and most vulnerable countries should be given adequate attention and support.
9. Developed countries Parties must take the lead in addressing the implementation gap, since the extent to which developing countries Parties can effectively respond to the challenge depends on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments relating to financing and technology transfer.

Scaling-up financing, technology transfer and capacity building support

10. While the UN can support the efforts of developing countries in formulating policies for attracting climate change related investment flows, adaptation and nationally appropriate mitigation actions will have to be enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building that are commensurate with the magnitude of the tasks ahead of us, that is, in a

measurable, reportable and verifiable manner, as agreed in the Bali Action Plan. The provision of financial resources is a binding commitment of developed country Parties. Clear guidance should be given to facilitate access to financial resources and investments without conditionalities. It is essential that such financial resources not be considered as official development assistance (ODA), but additional, and in compliance with existing binding commitments under the Convention. Further, financing for adaptation to climate change and the impact of response measures should not be a reallocation or realignment of existing development financing.

11. Developing countries should be provided with greater access to cost-effective, efficient and affordable advanced clean technologies. The Group of 77 and China has repeatedly led calls for developing countries to have greater access to climate-friendly technologies. Efforts in this regard need to be scaled up. Furthermore, the UN can play an important role through the promotion of an intellectual property rights (IPR) regime that facilitates the transfer of such technologies.
12. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its call for increased support for capacity building in developing countries to enhance national efforts to promote an integrated approach to climate change response measures and sustainable development planning.

Greater support by the UN system for developing countries to address the climate change challenge

13. The UN's efforts in supporting national adaptation activities must be strengthened, so that developing countries can achieve their sustainable development goals while responding to the challenges of climate change. The role of the UN in supporting the overall development efforts is vital. However, the G77 and China finds that technology transfer and financing, have not been addressed adequately in the background documents made available in preparation for today's debate.
14. On the issue of partnerships, Mr. President, the G77 and China is of the view that multi-stake holder partnerships have an important role to play in addressing climate change. The UN system should assist in fostering and promoting partnerships in support of national efforts. However, partnerships should not replace ODA or international cooperation.
15. Additionally, South-South cooperation is useful in the area of adaptation efforts, and greater support for South-South Cooperation can also help

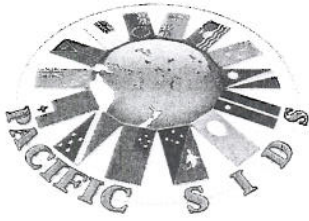
developing countries better respond to the challenges of climate change. However, South-South Cooperation should not be considered within the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Further, South-South cooperation on climate change should complement North-South Cooperation.

Report on the overview of UN activities in relation to climate change

16. Mr. President, in General Assembly resolution 62/8 Member States requested a comprehensive report providing an overview of the activities of the UN system in relation to climate change. Based on this mandate the G77 and China anticipated a factual report that takes stock of current UN system activities in this regard. As such there is no mandate with regard to "an indication of the way forward," and "coordination of the UN system action on climate change." This remains the purview of the Member States to decide on. Work on coordination mechanisms, and structures or frameworks, including clusters of activity or lead agencies, must be subject of intergovernmental consideration and decision prior to implementation.
17. In general the UN system entities should assist in the effective implementation of the provisions, commitments and action plans of the UNFCCC. Coordination of UN system activities to enhance its role in meeting the challenge of climate change requires inter-governmental consideration, agreement and oversight by Member States.
18. The G77 and China recognizes the primacy of the UN in directing and supporting global efforts to meet the global challenge of climate change, and in supporting its Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The General Assembly, given its universality, should unequivocally urge Parties to undertake urgent action now to meet their commitments under the Convention, provide clear policy direction in this regard and to support to the Bali Plan of Action.
19. Mr. President, the G77 and China believes that the road to Copenhagen, where the concluding talks on the current process on the Bali roadmap will be held in 2009, will be a difficult one, particularly for developing countries and the poorest and most vulnerable. Leadership will therefore be critical if our response is to reflect the scale of the challenge. We need effective and comprehensive global response, within the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to cover adaptation, technology transfer and financing, as well as mitigation. Without rapid and tangible efforts by developed countries in this regard, climate change

will lead to increased poverty and will negate our efforts at achieving sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. President.



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MRS FEKITAMOELOA 'UTOIKAMANU
AMBASSADOR /PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF KINGDOM OF TONGA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SIDS GROUP

DURING THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON "ADDRESSING CLIMATE
CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK"

NEW YORK, 12th February 2008

1.

Mr President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum Small Island Developing States namely: Fiji, Nauru, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, the Kingdom of Tonga. At the outset, we associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Grenada on behalf of AOSIS.

Mr President,

We welcome the report of the Secretary General and applaud you both for your collective leadership and efforts to position and maintain the prominence of climate change on our UN agenda.

The range of issues and stakeholders identified in the Secretary General's report confirms its enormity and complexity and highlights the need for streamlining, realignment and the integration and harmonization of Agencies, functions, and budgetary support to maximize the benefits from the utilization of the limited resources available.

The bringing together and the forging of extensive partnerships between the Government and the private sector especially from developed countries (since partnership with the private sector in Pacific SIDS is limited due to diseconomies of scale), to bring about and to execute the requisite transformation and improvement in production; as well as in development and deployment of necessary technologies and financial resources is also vital.

This is particularly important as we have embarked on the implementation of the Bali roadmap and the involvement of the UN and its agencies as the primary vehicle in facilitating action against climate change. Its support in the negotiations process is therefore crucial.

Mr President,

It is equally important to re-emphasise that the time for action is now. We must not delay or defer action until the negotiations are completed. There is much work that can be done on the ground, particularly in the most vulnerable countries but who are at the same time the least equipped to face climate change.

The Pacific Islands are already experiencing climate change and its impacts and the outlook for the future is also grim. Our Leaders have reiterated their deep concern over the serious and growing threat posed by climate change to the economic, social and environmental well being of Pacific Island Countries, their communities, peoples and cultures. We consider the issue of climate change as one of security since it impacts of basic human security needs including economic, food, health, environment, personal, and community security.

2.

Mr President,

Our Leaders have further agreed that national action plans for climate change should be developed and implemented and climate change should be mainstreamed into national development planning. There is therefore a clear linkage between climate change and the achievement of international frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation. The Pacific Plan therefore provides a solid platform for regional cooperation guiding collective positions through the Commission on Sustainable Development and other international forums that advocate the "special case" of Small Islands States (SIDS).

In this regard, we are also of the view that the SIDS Unit of DESA should be strengthened as a focal point for climate change in New York, so that Pacific SIDS do not have to wait for SIDS day within the CSD session to address the Barbados Programme of Action.

Mr President

Our leaders welcomed the guidance from the IPCC that it is physically and economically feasible to mitigate climate change and with concerted international support, adaptation can succeed. Conversely, without serious action, the global economy and the fragile resources of the Pacific will be severely affected.

Our regional agencies have been directed to intensify joint programming with the aim of advancing the implementation of regional frameworks and action plans, in particular, the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action to better assist members with developing adaptation measures in response to the effects of climate change; facilitate the collection and analysis of scientific, social and economic information and traditional knowledge in a manner that will allow for appropriate and informed decision making by members; and identify sustainable financing options at national, sub-regional and/or regional levels to support climate change adaptation and mitigation by members.

Mr President

Five of the Pacific SIDS countries are also LDCs and have benefited from preparing their National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA). At the Bali COP many of our countries called for the extension of this type of support activity to all SIDS. This is a step that the UN system can implement without delay. All that is required is some technical and financial support. We have a network of expertise in the Pacific including through our regional inter-governmental agencies that are ready and willing to assist should a decision on the extension of NAPAs be taken. There will also be a need to support the implementation of projects identified by existing and future NAPAs.

Another area where the UN system can assist is to implement actions in support of the GEF Capacity Development Initiative. While this is of relevance to all multilateral environment agreements, it is of particular importance in the area of climate change. The work that has been

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undertaken so far is been limited to national capacity self-assessments. We now need to progress to the vital phase of actual implementation.

Mr President,

Although Pacific SIDS has limited GHG emissions, we nevertheless are implementing a regional project to remove barriers to renewable energy. We estimate that this project will reduce our fossil fuel emissions from the business as usual scenario by 33% by 2015. In real terms this is only 2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, but we have made a commitment to renewable energy in the region and we are making this contribution. We see an important supporting role from the UN system in ensuring that our project plans actually succeed in the GHG reduction.

The Bali Roadmap concluded that any new climate change regime would need to include reduced emissions from deforestation in developing countries. However, there is a need to develop appropriate monitoring guidelines as well as capacity at the local level to reduce deforestation. As we negotiate the Roadmap there is scope for a coordinated UN system effort to assist the relevant countries in establishing preparedness to implement projects to reduce deforestation.

Mr President,

In conclusion, the United Nations and the global community has this opportunity to impact what the Secretary General has noted as the "defining issue of our era" and that is climate change. Let us truly make a difference and follow through our commitments with concrete actions.



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NJU JORK

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Thematic Debate “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations
and the World at Work”

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Lufter Xhuveli
Minister of the Environment, Forests and Water Administration of the
Republic of Albania

New York, 12 February 2008

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Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my special pleasure to address this important thematic debate which focuses on global climate change, one of the most challenging and threatening issue of the humanity nowadays. I would like to thank the United Nation for arrangements to organize this very important debate.

Climate Change is a complex and serious threat and it has shown that it arises mostly from **unsustainable development** - unsustainable energy production, unsustainable energy consumption, unsustainable industrial development unsustainable land use, unsustainable lifestyles, etc. The experience of **responding** to climate change threat is fundamentally linked to the concerns of sustainable development; vulnerability and adaptation; economy, and poverty reduction.

Albania joined countries gathered under the leadership of the Secretary General in New York that called for a breakthrough to be reached in Bali. We went there with the aim to share our modest contribution to make it happen. We are here today to follow-up the real breakthrough that climate change negotiations achieved last December, after a **historical attention and support** awarded in the course of the last year.

While bearing **very little responsibility** for the global greenhouse gas emissions Albania is bearing the majority of the environmental, social and economic consequences caused from climate change as the majority of the developing world. Despite its relatively small carbon footprint due to its heavy reliance on hydropower, **climate change significantly affects Albania**, as the rest of the world with increased temperatures, less precipitation and other consequences.

Albania's **needs for adaptation** to face climate changes are significant and diverse: they go in other sectors such as tourism, coastal area, agriculture and ecosystems governmental programs, will properly respond to its needs to cope with such consequences and address climate change risk into its national and local development plans.

The Government of Albania is committed to fulfil all the obligations, deriving from Global UN Conventions, such as Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol. From this point of view, we find the role of the UN as a catalytic one in leading and supporting climate change mitigation efforts not only at international level but also at national one.

Albania is implementing a program of activities aiming to **reduce** the growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions, **adaptation** to negative impacts of climate change and enabling the **carbon financing** mechanisms under the coordination and support

provided from the United Nations Development Program. The “**One UN**” program that Albania’s Government has voluntarily joined, provides new opportunities to address among others the global environmental issues and specifically climate change through application of new approaches and new ways of partnership.

Despite of **no-reduction commitments** under the Kyoto Protocol, Albania is aiming to promote sustainable growth of economy. We are aware that energy is a prerequisite to achieve it. In Albania’s circumstances this is definitively a challenge that brings together two important concerns: the energy security and climate change. Through its fiscal policies, promotion of renewable energy sources, and making operational its institutions dealing with carbon finance mechanisms, Albania is aiming for a **carbon neutral economy** as well as has increased its capacities to get advantage and benefit from the very dynamic and emerging carbon market. The role and support of the UN has been significant and crucial on that direction.

Albania has a **potential for cost-effective reduction** of greenhouse gas emissions, which are generated as a result of outdated and inefficient energy consumption and relatively unexploited sources of renewable energy. Lot of interest has been shown from developed countries, aiming at reducing emissions in exchange of carbon credits in energy and forests sector in Albania. The Government of Albania responded positively to these interests already materialized with the first ever ERPA (Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement) signed between the Government of Albania and the Bio Carbon Fund of the World Bank and two other Cooperation Agreements that are signed with the Government of Italy and Denmark.

Only during 2007, Albanian Government has supported the investments of about 50 Small Hydro Power Plants and it will continue to do so in the years to come. Also, taking advantage from favourable environmental conditions, the production of about 1000 Mwat from wind farms will become soon a reality. At the same time we are implementing policies that aim reducing of forest exploitation along with forestation and reforestation of vast areas of the country.

Excellencies,

Albania will continue to keep the low level of green house gas emissions while getting developed, providing its modest contribution for saving our planet from the climate changes. Albania considers the climate change challenge as an opportunity to address mitigation and adaptation actions in the context of sustainable development.

Thank you!



República de Angola
MINISTÉRIO DO URBANISMO E AMBIENTE

Statement
by
His Excellency
Mr. Diekumpuna Sita José
Minister of Urbanism and Environment
of
The Republic of Angola
On
General Assembly Thematic debate:
“Addressing Climate Change: The United
Nations and the World at Work”

February 12, 2008

New York

His Excellency, Mr. Srgjan Kerin President of the General Assembly
His Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
Distinguished heads of Delegations and Members of Governments
Delegates and invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Angola, allow me to express our appreciation to the Secretary General and the United Nations System for the ensemble of activities being carried out on Climate Change and for convening this important debate.

The Republic of Angola aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Cameroon, Bangladesh and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the African Group, the group of Least Developed Countries and the Group of 77 and China, respectively.

During the Bali Summit, His Excellency the Secretary General reaffirmed the fact that fighting global warming is the principal moral challenge of our generation. Earlier, in September of 2007, our heads of State and Government gathered in this same room and expressed their will and support for a multilateral commitment, under the United Nations System, on Climate Change.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentleman,

The fourth IPCC report is unequivocal in finding that human activities are the cause for Climate Change.

The observance of the effects of Climate Change is pointing to an unhealthy future for humanity, particularly for small island states and the Least Developed Countries.

We must all consider that we are under obligation not to transfer to future generations the negative legacy associated with these climate changes.

In the case of African countries, in spite of their miniscule contribution to the emissions of Greenhouse gases, the effects of climate change are already visible in their economies.

Many African counties are heavily affected by drought and desertification. We are witnessing the intensification of the damages caused by drastic variations of the pluviometric regimes, which in each occasion penalize populations and hamper the implementation of food security programs as well as programs and strategies

for the alleviation of poverty; all of which aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the millennium development goals.

Ladies and Gentleman,

In Bali, we made the first steps towards the necessary agreement on much lower emissions of greenhouse gases without prejudice to sustained economic growth. The next steps must also address the effective operationalization of the adaptation fund and other financing mechanisms, as well as to encourage international cooperation to respond to the challenges posed by climate change.

We have full confidence in the capacity of the United Nations System to confront the challenges posed by climate change, and this is why we are all gathered here today to express our commitment to the desired and indispensable collective efforts for a successful negotiation of a global agreement before the end of 2009 as per the Bali Road Map.

Recognizing that all parties must contribute in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, Angola, a Post Conflict country for less than six years and engaged in the difficult process of national reconstruction, will contribute by among other actions, encouraging and mobilizing all private and public actors, NGOs as well as local communities to participate in the implementation of the National Strategy prepared under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. This strategy was announced here, in September of 2007, by His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.

The Government's partners are called upon to adhere to measures and programs in various sectors, including actions in energy: through the use of renewable energy and the increase in the provision of electricity; in transportation: through improvements in urban and intra-urban public transportation system, rehabilitation of the road and rail networks; in forests: through the creation of forest reservations and the maintenance of virgin stocks; in industry: through the establishment of fiscal incentives for the use of clean technologies; and in the oil industry: through the elimination of the burning of gases associated with production of oil.

Mr. President,

To enable Least Developed Countries such as Angola to effectively participate in the collective efforts of mitigation and adaptation of the United Nations system, it is imperative to establish priority measures seeded in national and regional initiatives aiming at:

- Development of continues observation capacities and systemic analysis of the effects of Climate Change;

- Assisting the development of local early warning systems and plans for the prevention of natural risks;
- Sustainable tropical forestry and fighting desertification;
- Ensuring access to clean technologies; and
- Improving access to available financing throughout the United Nations System.

Thank you

**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK**

February 12, 2008

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
AMBASSADOR ARMEN MARTIROSYAN**

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For many years the climate change was a remote topic, a theoretical issue, which, even if somewhat alarming, was not perceived a vitally threatening problem. Nowadays the situation has changed, and noticeable transformations in the global climate have translated into a critical issue, which commands immediate attention. An "awareness rising" campaign, which is being conducted with the active participation of the UN leadership, former and present political leaders, as well as the celebrities, has yielded its results: It is clear that real threat-adequate and urgent measures are required.

The Republic of Armenia is a party-signatory of the Kyoto Protocol and as such it has its share of responsibilities. After the ratification of the Convention in May of 1993 Armenia has undertaken a number of steps to contribute to the international efforts to mitigate the possible dire consequences of the process.

In the framework of the UNDP sponsored project "Armenia – Country Study of Climate change" since 1997 in Armenia has been functioning the Climate Change Information Center with the main goal of strengthening the Information Center of the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection. The Information Center, with its state-of-art equipment, accumulates and updates periodically the information on the climate change issues. The implementation of the project is directed at identifying and creating connections to both national and international sources of information, which would lead to knowledge sharing and prevention of duplication of efforts.

After the ratification of the Convention, Armenian delegations participated to 13 climate-related conferences, worked at the sessions of the permanent auxiliary bodies of the Convention. The Armenian experts partook also in the activities of the intergovernmental groups of climate change experts. Back in 2004 the Republic of Armenia adopted a plan of action to fulfill our obligations stemming from the Convention. For the Fourth Conference Armenia developed and presented to the member states its first national report regarding the climate change.

It has been estimated that as a result of global climate changes in 2100 the average air temperature in Armenia will rise by 1.7 C, and the precipitation on the territory of Armenia will decrease by about 10%. These developments would adversely affect not only the climate-dependent sectors but also the entire economy of our country. The consequences may be even worse: under the projected change of climatic characteristics, the efficient cultivation in Armenian

can be reduced by 8-14%. It will intensify desertification, which by now has become a burning issue. This data serves the purpose of showing our colleagues here that Armenia is taking climate changes very seriously and is committed to work on the national and international levels as hard as necessary to mitigate the negative processes.

Armenia, as a developing country, is not included in the Annex I of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and has no obligations for greenhouse gas emission reduction. However, within the corresponding mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention and with adequate international assistance, Armenia is ready to voluntarily undertake obligations for their limitation.

On a more practical side Armenia has been undertaking also a number of projects and one of them is a large-scale the "Energy efficiency in urban heating and hot water supply systems" project. The project is based on the strategy developed in the first national report and is aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, Armenia is implementing the Energy Master Plan developed up to 2010, and the emission limitation strategy is based on the principle provisions of that Master Plan.

As a member of international community and of this organization, Armenia is ready to bring its contribution to the global efforts to make our planet Earth a better and a safer place to live for generations to come.

Thank you.



STATEMENT

12 February 2008

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

High-level Thematic Debate: "Addressing Climate Change: The UN and the World at Work"

Mr Howard Bamsey

Deputy Secretary, Department of Climate Change

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Australian Government, I am very pleased to be able to participate in this event, and would like to recognise the statement to be made later today by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group of Small Island Developing States.

Mr President, we are here today because we recognise that climate change is a serious global problem that demands a determined global response. Events such as this are instrumental in maintaining and strengthening the political momentum and public commitment crucial for addressing the significant challenges posed by climate change. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the President of the General Assembly for his timely initiative.

Mr President, just two months ago in Bali, we, the community of nations, demonstrated our strong will to work together to meet these challenges, across four broad areas for action. The UN system is central to that delivering on that mandate.

The UNFCCC is, and will remain, the overarching framework that guides our collective climate change response, and within which we will reach a comprehensive agreement next year. But beyond the negotiations, we must also recognise that action at all levels, in all regions, and across all sectors and communities, is necessary to ensure that our global efforts are successful. This is true also across the UN system.

Notwithstanding the respective mandates and diverse areas of expertise across the UN, Australia believes that there are significant opportunities for ensuring a more cohesive, system-wide response to climate change. An efficient and effective UN response, delivered in collaboration with Member States, the private sector and civil society, is fundamental for implementing existing commitments and delivering on future agreements.

Mr President

As confirmed by the Secretary-General's overview that forms the background for this debate, the UN system is already playing a vital role in leveraging increased investment and financial flows for adaptation and mitigation actions, and in supporting the wide-scale diffusion of low-emission technologies.



We must ensure that practical, on-the-ground support provided through UNDP, UNEP and other relevant agencies - in particular support to least developed countries - is well coordinated, and does not duplicate efforts or lead to wasted resources. It is imperative that available funding and support is properly targeted and utilised in a manner that maximises the sustainable development benefits for the regions, countries and local communities in question.

Mr President

The efforts of national governments and support from UN agencies, while critical, will not be sufficient to meet the challenges at hand. Action by, and collaboration with, the private sector, local communities and non-government organisations has become an important tool in the fight against climate change. And there are increasingly positive signs that all stakeholders are responding to the challenge.

We have recently seen an explosive proliferation of partnerships in the climate space, including government with government, public with private and industry with industry. This phenomenon was confirmed by the sheer number and diversity of those in attendance in Bali, from government, business, NGOs and local community organisations.

In Australia's experience, the most effective partnerships are informal and flexible, facilitating quick action and responsiveness to change. At their best, partnerships deliver innovation in technology, development of markets for new products and services and encourage the sharing of knowledge and best practices. For example, in Australia, we have developed innovative new partnerships based on the designation of 'solar cities', often bringing together disparate partners for the first time.

Partnerships can allow new approaches to be trialled, mistakes to be made and learnt from, ideas to be cultivated and then, as they mature, brought to larger forums for wider application. We see such partnerships as potentially beneficial in a number of climate-related sectors, for example, in trialling approaches to address deforestation and land degradation, including how such efforts might be supported by market mechanisms.

Amongst neighbours and friends, partnerships expand understanding and deepen existing relationships. Amongst countries challenged by climate change, partnerships can foster a collegiate atmosphere that builds cooperation and trust beyond the boundaries of formal diplomacy.

And between governments and business, partnerships can lay the foundation for exciting new enterprises and the development of new, clean technologies. All partners bring with them expertise and take with them a share of the profits of the relationship - capacity, technology, experience, and most importantly, the confidence to act.

The Australian Government and Australian industries are participating actively in a range of international partnerships, including with many countries represented here. We welcome the discussions at this forum as to how our collective efforts can support, complement and build on the solid base of action and partnerships already underway.

Thank you.



The
Bahamas

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. PAULETTE BETHEL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

**THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

12 FEBRUARY 2008

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The Bahamas also welcomes in particular the operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund during the Bali Conference last year. This together with mechanisms such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility would do much in the way of assisting countries like The Bahamas to access funding for recovery from natural disasters, as well as for other vital adaptation activities.

Mr President,

As I conclude, I would once again like to thank you for convening this most timely debate and hope that events such as these will continue to gather the momentum necessary to effect real change .

Thank you.

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Bangladesh

Statement
on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

by

Mr. A. H. M. Rezaul Kabir, ndc
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

at

the General Assembly Thematic Debate
on Climate Change
Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at
Work

New York, 12 February 2008

PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Least Developed Countries. We align ourselves with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China.

The Group of LDCs commends you for convening this thematic debate, which has special significance, as we embark on the negotiations for a global agreement under Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action. We are confident that under your able leadership, our deliberations will be steered to meaningful conclusions.

We consider that UNFCCC is the central multilateral structure within which the negotiation on climate change should take place. We believe, the thematic debate will contribute to generate significant political momentum which can support the ongoing negotiations under UNFCCC.

The 13th Session of COP of the UNFCCC, last December, culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap. It charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009. This will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change. We should bear in mind that the agreement must be scientifically valid, environmentally sound, economically feasible and fair, particularly for the LDCs, which are facing serious structural impediments. They do not have necessary resources to meet the adaptation needs.

Bali Action Plan has heightened our hope for a comprehensive global agreement by 2009. We all must work hard to complete the framework within the stipulated time-frame. However, the most important issue for all of us is to agree on the stabilization target within the framework of Bali Action Plan. We from the LDCs, the most vulnerable countries would certainly raise our voice for IPCC Category I stabilization scenarios, where emission peaking for carbon-dioxide is in the range of 2000-2015, and with a global mean temperature increase above pre-industrial equilibrium of 2.0-2.4 degrees Celsius. To achieve that we have to reduce our emission by 50% compared to our present emission by 2050. Failing to achieve this target would mean unbearable consequences for the developing countries especially the most vulnerable LDCs.

Mr. President,

Climate change magnifies the possibility of increased extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, tornados, droughts and desertification. The report of the Secretary General has very aptly recognized that the LDCs are bearing the brunt of increased climate variability and unpredictable and severe weather events. This Group of countries needs immediate international support to build their resilience to global warming and climate change.

Comprehensive adaptation can help many countries to minimize economic losses induced by natural disasters. Lack of adequate infrastructure often undermines a country's adaptation efforts. This in turn can make a disaster hugely and horrifically costly. The United Nations and the international community must be mindful of these linkages. International support for adaptation must take into account infrastructural needs of affected countries, particularly in disaster management, agriculture, water resources, and coastal zone management.

We have noted with concern that the resources mobilized under different international mechanisms for the purpose of adaptation are grossly inadequate. Lion's share of resources earmarked for climate change is now being deployed for clean development mechanism. This leaves a meager amount of resources for adaptation. LDCs are not getting CDM projects. We need to address this immediately.

The agreement on establishing the Adaptation Fund is a welcome initiative. However, Adaptation Fund, which will be generated through 2% levy from CDM sales proceeds, will fall short of the required level of funding needed to meet the developing countries' adaptation need. According to a recent UNFCCC study, annually, about US\$ 50 billion would be required for adaptation by 2030. The Fund must have adequate resources commensurate with the needs of the developing countries, in particular the LDCs.

The post-2012 agreement should include precise commitments on servicing the adaptation needs and priorities of the LDCs. The contributions should be legally binding in a measurable and verifiable manner. We also need to find innovative ways and means to generate the required fund. Mobilizing resources through levying International Air Travel and Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading can be considered to cover the cost of adaptation activities. Allocation of available resources needs to be based on the principle of equity and fairness taking into account the level of vulnerability in specific countries.

Let me in this context draw your attention on recent initiative of the European Union "Building a Global climate change alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change". We invite the United Nations to initiate similar cooperation for LDCs by providing support through various UN agencies. However, the support should not merely deal with studies and assessments, which is usually the practice. It must go beyond that in terms of implementing the projects and programs. Support in terms of investment projects, can reduce or dissipate the dangers of climate change impact.

Mr. President,

Clean and appropriate technologies are crucial for both mitigation and adaptation. There should be renewed efforts to promote 'carbon-neutral' economic growth. While technological solution exists, we need to develop effective policy frameworks and cooperation instruments to accelerate the development, deployment and diffusion of these technologies. The fact remains that state-of-the-art technologies are developed in the richer countries. However, the current framework does not support the transfer, deployment and diffusion of technologies.

Preferential access to environmentally sound technologies, know-how, practices and process pertinent to climate change is crucial for LDCs. The international intellectual property regime needs to be revisited, and, if needed, revised, so that an enabling atmosphere for smooth transfer of technology is established. The United Nations can play a catalytic role by providing a solid platform to facilitate technology transfer. It can provide technical support to developing countries in conducting technology needs assessment, as well as in transforming such assessments into bankable technology transfer projects. The UN can also undertake studies and provide policy recommendations on how the current IP regime could be tailored towards the sustainable development needs of the developing countries.

The role of partnership in addressing climate change is significant. While building partnerships among countries are crucial, it is also important to forge partnership within the country between the government, business community, NGOs and other stakeholders. Business community, which provides investment capital and undertakes technological innovation, can play a major role in support of Government's efforts in addressing climate change. We are encouraged that business leaders, during World Economic Forum 2008 in Davos, have clearly proclaimed their willingness to step up to play a pivotal role in any solution to climate change. However, business cannot do this in isolation. The development and implementation of technological solutions require clear policy frameworks from governments. Efforts to counter the effects of climate change require concerted engagement by all stakeholders.

The world now is more united than ever before in addressing the threats of climate change. I would urge the UN to take the lead in facilitating discussions between developed and developing countries for an agreement on the stabilization target and subsequent action plans to save our humanity from the dangerous consequences; which is imminent. If we fail to do so, humanity is destined to suffer.

I thank you Mr. President.



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



Statement by

H.E. Dr. Christopher Hackett
Permanent Representative of Barbados
to the United Nations

on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

at the

Thematic Debate Entitled "Addressing Climate Change:
The United Nations and the World at Work"

on

12 February, 2008

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM associates itself with the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China, and Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS). CARICOM wishes to convey its appreciation to you for convening this event and also to the Secretary-General for the timely submission of his report on the UN activities in relation to climate change.

Mr. President,

CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the Bali Road Map at Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, including the Bali Action Plan, the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund, and the decision taken by Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to continue the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Protocol (AWG). Agreement on this comprehensive Road Map is an important first step and we are cautiously optimistic that the Bali Conference represented a new beginning in our common effort to confront this global threat. The SG has said "there is the will, and the determination, at the highest level, to break with the past and act decisively." It is now our job to translate this will and determination into concrete and lasting results.

Collectively we are tasked with the awesome responsibility of crafting a political response to the overwhelming scientific evidence that the future of humanity will be placed in greater jeopardy without urgent and ambitious global action to address climate change. The negotiations over the next two years will be extremely complex and challenging, however, CARICOM cannot over-emphasize the critical importance of a successful outcome to our very existence. We therefore urge all Member States to engage constructively and in good faith in the discussions and negotiations. Inaction or insufficient action are unacceptable options for the smallest, poorest and most vulnerable members of our global society.

Mr. President,

It is an unfortunate reality that CARICOM countries and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), all of whom contribute the least to the problem, are confronted with the most serious challenges associated with climate change; yet we possess the least capacity to adapt. Climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emission cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs.

Negotiations around the four themes agreed to at Bali – Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Technology – should not prevent advancement of, or immediate action under any theme. For CARICOM adaptation, finance and technology are not only required in 2009 or post-2012, they are urgently needed **now**.

CARICOM Member States have been forced to divert scarce resources from key developmental initiatives (e.g. health, education, food, provision of critical infrastructure etc) to climate change adaptation activities. Surely this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals.

The inadequacy of financing for adaptation activities in developing countries is a major failing of the entire international system. As stated in the 2007 UNDP Human Development Report “the current framework provides the equivalent of an aid sponge for mopping up during a flood”. That report estimates that new additional adaptation finance of **at least US\$86 billion** a year will be required by 2015 to meet the most basic and pressing adaptation needs of developing countries. Expressed in other terms this figure represents a mere one tenth of what developed countries currently mobilize for military expenditure.

While increasing emphasis is being paid to private-public partnerships the role of international cooperation remains essential and must be enhanced. CARICOM urges developed countries to take immediate action to significantly scale-up the level of financing devoted to adaptation through the provision of new and additional resources, over and above traditional official development assistance (ODA). This would serve as a major confidence building measure and demonstration of good faith, as we enter a period of great uncertainty.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the UN System by the very nature of their respective mandates are important fora for dialogue, awareness raising and the exchange of information on issues of global concern. CARICOM believes that the General Assembly and ECOSOC must continue to ensure that addressing climate change remains a global priority, while fully respecting and not duplicating the ongoing negotiating process with the Convention. In this context, future actions or initiatives by the GA or the ECOSOC should add value to the ongoing negotiations, and be guided by the needs of Member States, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. While we are convinced that a parallel negotiating theatre should not be established within the GA, we are equally convinced that the issue of climate change should not be held in abeyance in New York until our work is completed within the Convention.

Mr. President,

CARICOM has some concerns over the orientation of the SG's report and in particular the rationale given for what he terms “a more inclusive and coherent approach to climate change”. We believe that the first and overriding priority of the UN System's work in climate change should be addressing the needs of those most vulnerable and most adversely impacted by climate change – SIDS, LDCs, countries in Africa and disaster prone developing countries, rather than, as the report states providing support for negotiations. The effectiveness of the UN System should be assessed by its capacity to deliver the required assistance to, and build capacity in, these vulnerable countries and other developing countries.

CARICOM Member States are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks. In this regard we call on relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes to ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges. This demand driven approach with strong national

and regional ownership must be embedded in the UN's work at the national and regional levels. Areas, sectors, projects and programme identified as priority in our national communications to the Convention, national and regional adaptation plans and sustainable development plans and strategies should receive the full support of the relevant parts of the UN System.

Towards these ends the international community including the UN System should:

- Assist CARICOM to incorporate climate change adaptation concerns in national development plans and strategies, and provide the required resources to implement these plans and strategies.
- Provide technical and financial resources to assist CARICOM to strengthen national and regional climate change coordination mechanisms such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC).
- Support cooperation for information sharing on adaptation technologies, development and transfer between developing countries including the dissemination of examples of climate change adaptation 'best practices'.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to CARICOM in the areas of climate monitoring and modeling, and support the further development of vulnerability assessments, climate scenarios and climate impact studies in the region.
- Provide technical and financial support in the areas of disaster preparedness, early warning, risk management, disaster mitigation and disaster recovery and rehabilitation
- Develop new financial arrangements to support adaptation measures and provide insurance to SIDS to recoup losses due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

Mr. President,

At Bali, our main message was captured in the phrase "No Island Left behind". Post-Bali, we are hopeful that this short, yet simple message, remains at the forefront of all efforts by the international community to address climate change.

I thank you.



BELARUS

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Thematic debate
"Addressing climate change:
the United Nations and the world at work"
13 February 2008

KEY POINTS OF THE NATIONAL STATEMENT

- **Belarus is the only country in the world anxiously awaiting ratification by the parties to the Kyoto protocol of an amendment to the annex B of the Kyoto protocol.** This amendment puts Belarus on the list of countries which have voluntarily undertaken upon themselves quantified emission reduction commitments. The commitment of Belarus is in the highest tier. Notwithstanding a number of official requests of Belarus to speed up the ratification process – bilateral and in the multilateral fora, only 3 countries to date have ratified the amendment since its adoption by the Protocol Parties Conference 15 months ago. All in all 132 ratifications are needed.
- Attention of the Member States and of the Secretary-General to this issue and a practical action on it could be a significant **intergovernmental trust-building measure** and an important evidence of the ability of the international community to undertake a **timely collective action** in order to prevent adverse climate change. Further muddle on this issue would cast **doubts about the real degree of resolve and concern of the Member States with the problem of climate change.**
- The United Nations should undertake practical steps to establish a mechanism which could facilitate **joint development of technologies** and ensure **wider access of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to new and emerging technologies in the sphere of new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation.**
- The Secretary-General and UNDP should consider practical ways of **enhancing the capacity of the UN at the regional and national levels with the adequate expertise on joint development and transfer of environmental, energy and sustainable development technologies.**
- The most advanced technologies in sphere of new and renewable sources of energy, energy-efficiency and energy-conservation should become **the common property of the humankind.**
- The General Assembly and ECOSOC could play a key role in this process, including by preparing and holding at the 63rd session of the General Assembly a **thematic debate on new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation.**



BELGIQUE

Discours de S.E. Monsieur Charles Michel,

**Ministre de la Coopération au Développement
du Royaume de Belgique,**

lors du débat thématique informel de l'Assemblée générale :

**« Faire face aux changements climatiques : Les Nations Unies et
le monde au travail »**

New York, le 12 février 2008

Vérifier au prononcé

Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations Organization
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Ce vendredi, je soumettrai à mes collègues du gouvernement, la création d'un fonds par lequel la coopération belge compensera les émissions de CO2 liées à ses déplacements officiels. Ce fonds sera ouvert aux autres pouvoirs publics belges ainsi qu'au secteur privé. J'estime en effet que les pouvoirs publics doivent être exemplaires dans ce domaine. Même si le geste est symbolique à une échelle planétaire, il témoigne d'un volontarisme qui est important dans cette période post-Bali.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, ma seconde proposition est que les Nations Unies examinent la faisabilité d'un mécanisme qui permettrait de vérifier systématiquement l'impact climatique de leurs actions, qu'il s'agisse du déploiement d'une Opération du Maintien de la Paix ou du démarrage d'un programme de développement. Ce test climat que j'appellerais à l'image de la couleur de notre planète, vue de l'espace, un « test bleu », devrait permettre de prendre dorénavant nos décisions en connaissance de cause sans pour autant créer de surcroît bureaucratique.

Pour ma part, je suis fier d'annoncer la tenue le 7 mars prochain à Bruxelles d'une conférence sur le changement climatique et la coopération au développement, qui aura pour objectif de mener une réflexion de fond sur les conséquences du changement climatique sur les projets de coopération au développement et les défis que ce changement climatique pose à nos politiques de coopération au développement.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.



REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN

62E SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES

DEBAT THEMATIQUE SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

INTERVENTION

DE

**SEM. JEAN-MARIE EHOZOU,
AMBASSADEUR, REPRESENTANT PERMANENT
DU BENIN AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

NEW YORK, LE 12 FEVRIER 2008

Monsieur le Président,

1- Ma délégation vous exprime sa haute appréciation pour l'initiative que vous avez prise d'inviter d'éminentes personnalités pour animer les panels sur la mobilisation de la Communauté internationale face aux effets pervers du changement climatique. *Le Bénin s'associe aux déclarations faites respectivement par les représentants du Cameroun et d'Antigua et Barbuda au nom du groupe africain et du groupe des 77 et de la Chine.*

2- Le changement climatique n'est plus du domaine du virtuel. C'est déjà une réalité concrète qui affecte les bases de vie des populations de par le monde. Il se manifeste par la fréquence plus élevée des catastrophes naturelles qui entraînent des pertes colossales pour les pays frappés. Le changement climatique met en péril l'existence même de nombreux Etats côtiers et insulaires et entraîne ~~un~~ un amenuisement de l'espace vital disponible, en réduisant de façon considérable la superficie des terres habitables et en rendant plus difficiles les conditions environnementales pour la vie et l'activité humaine. A preuve, nous sommes déjà confrontés à l'érosion côtière et aux inondations dues à hausse du niveau de la mer, dans diverses régions du monde, de même qu'à la baisse du niveau de la nappe phréatique, à l'assèchement des cours d'eau, *et des lacs.* à la salinisation des eaux fluviales, et à bien d'autres phénomènes qui compliquent l'accès aux ressources naturelles essentielles pour la survie de l'humanité.

3- Les discussions fort enrichissantes que nous avons eues *avec les panels* ~~sur~~ sur la question ont été d'un bénéfice certain pour la recherche de solutions idoines et innovantes aux défis auxquels il confronte l'humanité dans tous les secteurs d'activités. Les solutions doivent être concertées, fondées sur la solidarité internationale, l'esprit de partage et de responsabilité commune mais différenciée, seul moyen de préserver notre aptitude à piloter les changements de comportements et de modes de vie nécessaires mais surtout de limiter les dégâts, en œuvrant pour l'atténuation et en opérant une adaptation planifiée. Pour ce faire, il nous faut mobiliser à temps les ressources financières requises, assurer les transferts de technologies appropriées et renforcer les capacités.

4- Au – delà des mesures systémiques mises en place dans le cadre des Conventions sur l'environnement pour maîtriser les facteurs anthropiques qui contribuent au changement climatique, nos sociétés doivent opérer des transformations en profondeur pour éloigner le spectre de chocs climatiques majeurs.

Le dernier rapport du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement qui est consacré à la lutte contre le changement climatique s'appuyant, entre autres, sur les travaux du GIEC, a mis en évidence le rapport coût – avantage largement positif de l'action par anticipation par rapport au coût des catastrophes naturelles causées par le changement climatique.

5- Les avancées technologiques de ces dernières années permettent d'introduire et de disséminer l'utilisation des sources d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables afin de diminuer la pression sans cesse croissante sur les ressources naturelles épuisables. Par exemple, un four de cuisson solaire, introduit dans une famille pauvre, contribuerait à lutter contre la désertification, en réduisant considérablement l'utilisation du bois de chauffe et partant la déforestation. C'est prouvé. Les panneaux solaires constituent un autre recours alternatif à une énergie abondante, surtout en Afrique. *Malheureusement ils ne sont pas accessibles pas à la portée de nos populations, trop pauvres pour se les approprier -*

6- Le temps est venu de mettre fin à une spéculation mercantile sur ce genre de produits, et de les rendre accessibles aux couches les plus pauvres des populations nécessiteuses. Nous disposons des ressources à la fois financières et technologiques pour réaliser l'adaptation au changement climatique. Il faudrait davantage de volonté politique, davantage de vision, pour pouvoir léguer aux générations futures un monde viable. Toute stratégie d'atténuation ou d'adaptation doit inmanquablement s'inscrire dans la perspective du développement durable qui passe par l'élimination de la pauvreté, la capacitation de l'individu pour une vie saine, décente, respectueuse de l'ordre normal des choses. Nous devons maximiser **les synergies** pour ~~x~~ parvenir à activer tous les acteurs potentiels du changement, en favorisant la réorientation des cadres de coopération conventionnelle existants.

7- Dans le même esprit, l'on devrait maximiser les bénéfices que l'on peut tirer de la convergence et de la complémentarité des conventions internationales relatives à la gouvernance mondiale de l'environnement. C'est également dans ce cadre que la communauté internationale, en particulier celle des donateurs, doit comprendre qu'une mise en œuvre réussie de la Convention sur la lutte contre la désertification requiert des ressources financières au même titre que les autres Conventions de la génération de Rio.

8- Le Bénin plaide pour une exécution synergique des programmes d'action de lutte coordonnées contre les effets pervers des changements climatiques. Synergies des politiques, mais aussi, et surtout, synergies des ressources. Dans la même veine, les ressources allouées au titre des fonds d'adaptation au changement climatique qu'il faut renforcer, devraient servir aussi à financer les projets de lutte contre la dégradation des terres et soutenir un vaste programme de reboisement et de protection des sols. Ces activités contribueront non seulement à améliorer la santé environnementale de notre planète, mais aussi celle de ses habitants par le truchement de la génération de revenus. La Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification devrait servir de plateforme pour l'adaptation au changement climatique, l'atténuation de ses effets et le renforcement de la résilience des pays où la dégradation des sols est un problème crucial.

9- De ce même point de vue, la Commission du Développement Durable devrait se pencher davantage sur les questions ayant trait au changement climatique. Dans ce cadre, il y a lieu de palier la faiblesse des capacités d'observation et d'analyse des phénomènes liés au changement climatique en Afrique. Il y a lieu d'instituer une banque de données planétaire qui permette de disposer de statistiques et d'informations scientifiques d'égale précision dans toutes les régions du monde pour être à même d'assurer une surveillance efficace de nature à renforcer notre capacité d'anticipation. Les Nations Unies doivent surtout aider les pays en développement à bas revenus à intégrer la donne du changement climatique dans leur stratégie nationale d'investissements afin d'internaliser pleinement la rationalité basée sur le changement climatique.

10- En ce qui concerne la mobilisation des ressources, les Nations Unies, ^{la possibilité d'} pourrait, outre la réalisation des engagements déjà pris, examiner ^{opérer un} un prélèvement de solidarité sur les ressources générées par les activités concernant les facteurs de production déclarés patrimoines communs de l'humanité comme les fonds marins, les sites historiques pour alimenter le Fonds d'adaptation. Les Nations Unies sont les mieux placées pour trouver des formules innovantes de mobilisation de ressources additionnelles pour la lutte contre le changement climatique. Nous devons nous pencher spécialement sur cette question.

Je vous remercie.

***INTERVENCIÓN DE
S.E. HUGO SILES-ALVARADO***

Representante permanente de Bolivia

Debate temático de la Asamblea General:

*“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the
World at Work”*

Señor Presidente:

En primer termino felicitar a su presidencia por el esfuerzo y el tiempo que esta dedicando al tratamiento de un tema tan importante como es el de los Cambios Climáticos.

Señor Presidente,

En nuestro empeño por enfrentar con prontitud las posibles consecuencias catastróficas que se vislumbran como consecuencia de los cambios climáticos, parecería que nos olvidamos de las causas fundamentales que nos llevaron a la situación actual y en consecuencia nos avocamos a atender solamente los problemas coyunturales, olvidándonos de aquellos que pueden surgir a mediano y largo plazo.

Debemos recordar que los cambios climáticos son consecuencia de un proceso largo de contaminación ambiental, que se inicia de manera muy notoria con el uso industrial del motor a vapor y del motor a combustión interna por los años de 1850. El proceso acelerado de la industrialización vino acompañado de una gran demanda de recursos naturales y energéticos, en muchos casos generando conflictos armados que todavía seguimos viviendo en nuestros días y que ciertamente atentan contra la convivencia pacifica de la humanidad. Este desarrollo industrial, con aportes incuestionables al mejoramiento de las condiciones y la calidad de vida de millones de seres humanos, lamentablemente, también llego acompañado de consecuencias altamente peligrosas para la preservación de la raza humana, la naturaleza y el planeta en general.

La sobreproducción industrial en las sociedades de consumo, la demanda irracional e insaciable de fuentes de energía por parte de estas sociedades a generado la sobreexplotación desenfrenada de los recursos no-renovables, la contaminación de los ríos y mares, el aire y la tierra, la depredación continua de nuestros bosques naturales. En la actualidad, esta sobre demanda energética esta obligando a algunos a países a convertir millones de hectáreas de tierras cultivables, que pueden ser utilizadas para mitigar el hambre de millones de seres humanos, en sembradíos de maíz, caña de azúcar y otros destinado al biocombustible que empieza a alimentar millones de automóviles que en general no cumplen una necesidad vital. Algunas ciudades como Londres y Nueva York empiezan a buscar medidas tendientes a desmotivar el uso suntuoso de los automóviles.

Señor Presidente,

A veces nos preguntamos que es mas peligroso para la supervivencia de la raza humana, los cambios climáticos o la insensibilidad de quienes lo poseen todo. Los cambios climáticos, convertidos hoy en trastornos climáticos, en ultima instancia son consecuencia de la sobre demanda y el desperdicio energético y de bienes de consumo en los países mas desarrollados.

Países como Bolivia, que nunca se beneficiaron en gran escala del desarrollo científico-tecnológico y sin haber aportado de manera significativa a la contaminación ambiental, tenemos que pagar las consecuencias de los trastornos climatológicos. Paradójicamente, los países que mas aportaron al sombrío panorama de nuestro planeta son los que decidieron que todos debemos asumir una “responsabilidad compartida” para enfrentar los problemas de la adaptación y la mitigación de los cambios climáticos. En este momento, Bolivia vive por segundo año consecutivo momentos muy dolorosos como consecuencia de las devastadoras lluvias y las inundaciones que amenazan la integridad, seguridad y la salud de miles de personas, todo esto es consecuencia de los enfriamientos o calentamientos bruscos de las masas de aire de la atmosfera que en los últimos años viene afectando fundamentalmente al continente sudamericano. El pasado año, después de las inundaciones que sufrió la ciudad de Trinidad-Bolivia, con ayuda del pueblo hermano de Venezuela se construyo un dique de protección para evitar nuevas inundaciones tomando en cuenta los niveles de agua que se observaron por primera vez en las indicadas inundaciones. Sin embargo, en la actualidad el nivel de agua ya está sobrepasando el muro de contención. Esto nos dice que las medidas de adaptación pueden ser insuficientes ya que no es posible prever los alcances de los trastornos climáticos.

Los países con mayor desarrollo económico, responsables de los trastornos ecológicos que empezamos a vivir, han planteado dos estrategias para frenar el colapso ecológico y climático: La adaptación y la mitigación. En ambos casos, los países con menor desarrollo carecemos de la tecnología necesaria para cumplir con las políticas de adaptación y mitigación a los cambios climáticos, esta tecnología debe ser puesta a disposición de todos los países de manera inmediata y sin costo alguno para los países menos desarrollados. Los países que aportaron mas a la contaminación ambiental en el ultimo siglo y medio, lo mínimo que pueden hacer es precisamente aportar con su tecnología para enfrentar los desafíos de la adaptación y la mitigación de los cambios climáticos.

Las políticas de adaptación y mitigación son medidas de carácter exclusivamente paliativas, por si mismas no garantizan el control eficaz de los cambios climáticos en tanto se mantenga o siga creciendo la demanda energética de los países con mayor desarrollo. El futuro de los países menos desarrollados en un plazo no mayor de 50 años es muy incierto en materia energética, para entonces se prevé que la voracidad por los recursos naturales haya dado fin con estos, las nuevas formas de producción energética que vienen desarrollándose hoy en día, por los costos, quedaran fuera del alcance de los mas pobres y menos desarrollados.

Es preciso disminuir la demanda energética per capita en todos los países del mundo y muy especialmente en los países con sobre demanda energética, las Naciones Unidas tiene la obligación de proponer políticas de educación que cambien los hábitos de consumo de las personas, frenar la deforestación de los bosques naturales, eliminar la contaminación de los ríos y mares. Todos los países debemos comprometernos firmemente a trabajar por salvar a nuestro planeta de la voracidad de los insaciables.

Gracias señor Presidente.



BRAZIL

**“Addressing Climate Change:
The United Nations and the World at work”
Statement by Ambassador Sergio Serra
Ambassador for Climate Change
(New York, 12 February 2008)**

(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

From the outset, I commend you for organizing this thematic debate. Along with eradicating poverty and combating hunger and disease, climate change is one of the most urgent challenges of our times. The IPCC has presented unequivocal evidence that global warming is in course and is caused by human action. Historic emissions of CO₂ are its main cause; Its consequences are already observed. The poorest communities in developing countries are the most affected by – and the least able to cope with – a warming planet.

As a global challenge, climate change requires a global response. Responsibilities are common, but they are also differentiated. Brazil is committed (and I quote from the Bali Action Plan) “to [pursue] nationally appropriate actions on mitigation of climate change that are measurable, reportable and verifiable”, according to our fair share and our respective capabilities.

Mr. President,

Climate change has profound social, economic and environmental implications. Hence, the engagement of a vast array of stakeholders from civil society and private sector should be praised and welcomed. This should not replace, however, the central role of states and international organizations.

The establishment of partnerships between different actors can help us reach a global low-carbon economy. One such partnership is the Ethanol Programme that Brazil has been developing since the 1970s as a substitute for gasoline, involving the government and the private sector. According to the IPCC, the main source of historic and current emissions of CO₂ is the burning of fossil fuels. By extensively using ethanol, Brazil has avoided emitting 644 million tonnes from fossil fuel use in the past 30 years. It is an established scientific fact that ethanol production from sugarcane reduces greenhouse gas emissions, does not affect the production of staple food and is socially sustainable.

Despite this untapped potential, developed countries have placed all sorts of barriers to biofuels from developing countries while spending billions of euros and dollars in subsidies for inefficient producers. Such measures distort markets, raise energy prices, spread poverty, endanger food security and are inconsistent with climate concerns. It is time the high talk on climate sustainability be matched with real action that effectively mitigates climate change.

Mr. President,

The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol provide the appropriate forum for concerted action. When discussing future action, in spite of some allegiances to the contrary, we are not looking at a new post-2012 regime nor is there a Kyoto Protocol expiration date. The successful outcome of COP-13 last December with the approval of the Bali Action Plan

reiterated the validity and importance of the current climate change instruments and multilateral regime.

Debates and initiatives undertaken by the United Nations, specialized agencies and member states can strengthen and support negotiations and actions under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The recent General Assembly Debate on “Climate Change as a Global Challenge” as well as the High Level Event convened by the Secretary General last September paved the road that led to a successful Bali meeting. Today’s fruitful discussions are a part of this process and are providing valuable insights for the ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC.

The international community should concentrate efforts on implementing the Bali Plan of Action. Mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology development and transfer are its four pillars. I would like to single out the issue of technology. We must act decisively to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technologies and know-how, particularly from developed countries to developing countries, for both mitigation and adaptation. Innovative mechanisms for removal of barriers to transfer and diffusion of these technologies to developing countries, including new and additional financing, are fundamental issues that should be discussed and agreed upon under the Bali Action Plan. This will enable developing countries to implement mitigation actions in line with their historical responsibilities and current capabilities.

Mr President,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for the comprehensive overview of the United Nations climate change activities. The report reiterates the intrinsic relations between global warming and the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. When discussing the different roles of relevant UN bodies in this matter, we should ensure that they

act under the guidance of member states,

ensure national ownership,
take into account UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol decisions,
and guide themselves by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

By adhering to these four criteria, the UN system can play an instrumental role in assisting our countries' efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Thank you.



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STATEMENT BY

**AMBASSADOR JOHN MCNEE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE 83rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THEMATIC DEBATE
“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

NEW YORK, 13 FEBRUARY 2008

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**DÉCLARATION DE**

**L'AMBASSADEUR JOHN MCNEE  
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**LORS DE LA 83<sup>E</sup> SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DE LA SOIXANTE - DEUXIÈME  
SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES**

**DÉBAT THÉMATIQUE INTITULÉ  
“FAIRE FACE AUX CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES:  
LES NATIONS UNIES ET LE MONDE AU TRAVAIL”**

**NEW YORK, LE 13 FÉVRIER 2008**

Mr. President,

First, let me take the opportunity to thank you as President of the General Assembly for convening this debate. Let me also thank the Secretary General for his continued commitment and initiative to raise awareness of, and promote action on, the challenge of global climate change. Climate change is, without a doubt, one of the most complex, dynamic and worrying challenges of our time.

Canada was pleased to participate in last summer's thematic debate on climate change where we outlined our national and international commitment to addressing global climate change. As in the discussion last year, Canada welcomes the opportunity to speak today in order to continue to demonstrate the importance the Government of Canada places on the issue of global climate change.

Internationally, the world has seen a remarkable focus on climate change over the past year. The UN Security Council debate on the linkages between climate change and security, the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, the UN Secretary General's High-Level Event last September in New York, the release of the landmark Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – which clearly outlines that human induced climate change is unequivocal and accelerating – and of course the Bali Conference on Climate change.

These and other efforts by the international community reflect an increased sense of urgency regarding action on climate change. That urgency is made ever more challenging when we consider some of the current trends for greenhouse gas emissions in various sectors and regions.

Mr. President, we must also remember that climate change is not simply an issue of environmental protection. Climate change has deep roots in global economic and political activity. To be clear, addressing climate change also means addressing issues of development, health, natural disasters, demographic change, and security. Effectively addressing climate change will also bring about co-benefits in these areas.

We must focus our attention on how we, as members of the global community, can best address climate change. Mr. President, the response to all global challenges begins at home. In this regard the Government of Canada announced, in April 2007, its Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions, which is the cornerstone of its integrated approach to addressing both greenhouse gases and air pollutants. Canada has developed an approach that fits its unique circumstances and we believe that the principles underlying this approach can assist in forging consensus around a new international framework.

Specifically Canada's domestic plan will reduce greenhouse gases 20% by 2020, and between 60 and 70% by 2050.

However, the sum of national actions must drive a collective effort at the international level. Last December the world assembled in Bali and rose to the challenge of charting a

course towards the goal of a new international agreement on climate change which should be developed over the coming two years.

Mr. President, two years is an incredibly short period of time in which to craft so complex a global agreement. However, this timeline also reflects the urgency we all feel to address the issue at hand. The Bali Roadmap, as it is known, is achievable but it must allow for the development of a strong and comprehensive international agreement that will be ecologically effective and balance environmental protection with economic prosperity.

In Canada's assessment, the Bali Roadmap allows for the development of a strong and comprehensive international agreement and Canada is committed to working within the UN climate change process to this end.

One of the most important components of the Bali Roadmap is that it recognizes no country can effectively address climate change on its own and that all countries in a position to act must do so.

As such, Canada is fully aware of the importance of having all major global emitters take on meaningful and binding emission reduction commitments in any future international agreement. Canada, of course, includes itself in this group. While none of us can predict the outcome in Copenhagen, Canada is fully committed to reducing its absolute emissions of greenhouse gasses between 60 and 70% by 2050.

Mr. President, while it is clear that all major emitters must act, Canada also understands that technology will play an integral role in addressing the challenge of climate change - both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. The Bali Action Plan itself has endorsed, "enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation" as a required pillar of any future agreement.

Transition technologies are required now to both reduce energy demand and increase supply from cleaner fossil fuel use. Over the longer term, both existing and new clean technologies will need to be widely deployed in developing countries and especially in emerging economic powers with rapidly rising emissions where the majority of future emissions growth is expected to occur. Canada specifically recognizes the role that public-private partnerships can play in stimulating the development and deployment of these technologies while reducing their costs.

Mr. President, reducing greenhouse gasses through mitigation and the use of clean technology is only one part of the solution. While the most attention is often paid to the discussions on mitigation there is no question that the discussions on the issue of adaptation to the impacts of climate change are of the utmost importance. Adaptation is a concern for us all, from the most exposed small island developing state to Canada's own vast and immensely vulnerable Arctic.

Even if we could stop all greenhouse gas emissions today, the impacts of climate change would continue to preoccupy us for decades and perhaps centuries. These impacts will have severe implications for water resources, ecosystems, agriculture, forests, coastal zones, and human health, and security.

Ultimately, these impacts will demonstrate their full severity on our citizens. It is the individuals who are often the most vulnerable and the least responsible for the problems they are now forced to accept, who will bear the brunt of the impacts. The importance of ensuring adequate adaptation measures is vital not only to a future agreement on climate change, but also vital to ensure the safety, well being and very livelihoods of billions of people.

In keeping with this spirit, Canada will continue to participate actively in the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change. Canada also continues to stress the importance of integrating climate change adaptation considerations into national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies by vulnerable countries.

The Bali Roadmap has recognized adaptation as one of the key elements of a post-2012 agreement. Canada is in full agreement with this approach and will work to ensure that any future agreement includes effective provisions to achieve more effective adaptation measures for all countries.

Mr. President, Canada welcomes the Secretary-General's report "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change". It illustrates that a large number of UN entities are carrying out important work across a broad range of sectors to implement existing mandates. This work should expressly complement and support the outcomes negotiated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Canada commends the Secretary-General for his leadership in the process underway in the Chief Executive Board to improve the UN system's coordination on climate change activities. Canada especially welcomes efforts that place emphasis on making the UN system more results-based, efficient and accountable.

Canada is committed to the Bali Roadmap and to meeting our obligations while working with the international community to find a global solution to this global challenge.

To conclude, Canada will play its part by rigorously pursuing a future international agreement which 1) includes meaningful and binding emissions reductions commitments by all major emitters - for without the participation of all major emitters, both historic and emerging, we will never truly address the problem with rising greenhouse gas emissions and never avoid the fierce yet self-induced impacts of climate change; 2) is designed to achieve long-term results; 3) is ecologically effective but balances environmental protection and economic prosperity; 4) supports the development and deployment of low emissions technology; and 5) includes measures to address the vital need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

It is clear that if we want to achieve success in Copenhagen in 2009 we cannot continue with more of the same. We must all be prepared to demonstrate flexibility, compromise, hope, commitment and vision. In short we must, all of us, but particularly major emitters, be prepared to show leadership. The world is watching, we must all do our part.

Thank you.

Monsieur le Président,

Je tiens d'abord à vous remercier d'avoir organisé ce débat, en votre qualité de Président de l'Assemblée générale. Permettez-moi également de remercier le Secrétaire général pour son action résolue visant à mieux faire connaître les enjeux liés aux changements climatiques, et à s'y attaquer, à l'échelle internationale. Nul doute qu'il s'agit de l'un des enjeux les plus complexes, les plus évolutifs et les plus inquiétants de notre époque.

Le Canada se réjouit d'avoir participé au débat thématique sur les changements climatiques tenu l'été dernier, au cours duquel nous avons souligné notre détermination à lutter contre ce problème aux niveaux national et international. Comme pour les discussions de l'an dernier, le Canada se félicite de l'occasion qui lui est donnée de prendre la parole aujourd'hui et de montrer l'importance que son gouvernement attache à cette problématique.

Au cours de la dernière année, les changements climatiques ont donné lieu à une mobilisation internationale remarquable. Il convient ici de citer le débat au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies sur les liens entre les changements climatiques et la sécurité; le Sommet du G8, à Heiligendamm, en Allemagne; la rencontre de haut niveau sous l'égide du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, en septembre dernier, à New York; la publication du quatrième rapport d'évaluation du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC) – document qui fera date et montre clairement que les changements climatiques induits par l'homme sont indiscutables et qu'ils s'accélèrent; et, bien sûr, la Conférence de Bali sur les changements climatiques.

Ces initiatives, conjuguées aux autres efforts de la communauté internationale, témoignent du sentiment qu'il est de plus en plus urgent d'agir. Elles montrent aussi que, face aux conséquences des gaz à effet de serre dans nombre de secteurs et de régions, les tendances actuelles ne font que conforter ce sentiment d'urgence.

Monsieur le Président, nous devons aussi nous rappeler que l'action face à ce problème ne saurait se limiter à la protection de l'environnement. Cette problématique est intimement liée à l'activité économique et politique mondiale. En clair, lutter contre les changements climatiques, c'est aussi s'attaquer aux enjeux de développement et de santé, y compris aux catastrophes naturelles, aux changements démographiques et aux questions de sécurité. Lutter efficacement contre les changements climatiques amènera également des co-bénéfices dans ces domaines.

Nous devons examiner attentivement les mesures que peuvent prendre les membres de la communauté mondiale, dont nous sommes partie prenante, pour mieux remédier aux changements climatiques. En effet, c'est à l'intérieur de nos frontières respectives que la solution à tous les problèmes mondiaux commence. À cet égard, le gouvernement du Canada a présenté en avril 2007 son cadre réglementaire sur les émissions atmosphériques, qui est la pierre angulaire de son plan d'action intégré face à la fois aux gaz à effet de serre et aux polluants atmosphériques. Le Canada a élaboré une stratégie adaptée à sa situation particulière et nous pensons que les principes qui la sous-tendent peuvent aider à dégager un consensus sur un nouveau cadre international.

Plus spécifiquement, le plan d'action national du Canada permettra de réduire de 20% les gaz à effet de serre d'ici 2020, et entre 60 et 70 %, d'ici 2050.

Toutefois, tous ces efforts nationaux doivent se traduire par une action collective à l'échelle internationale. C'est ainsi que, en décembre dernier, le monde entier s'est réuni à Bali et s'est fixé comme objectif de créer un nouvel accord international sur les changements climatiques, qui devrait être élaboré au cours des deux prochaines années.

Monsieur le Président, il s'agit là d'un délai extrêmement court pour rédiger un document aussi complexe qu'un accord international. Toutefois, c'est également l'expression du sentiment d'urgence que nous éprouvons tous face à cette question. Le « Plan d'action de Bali », comme il est convenu de l'appeler, est réalisable. Il permettra en outre la rédaction d'un accord international efficace et complet, y compris sur le plan écologique, qui établira un juste équilibre entre la protection de l'environnement et la prospérité économique.

Pour sa part, le Canada estime que le Plan d'action favorisera l'élaboration d'un accord international efficace et exhaustif. Aussi est-il déterminé à œuvrer en ce sens dans le cadre de l'action des Nations Unies contre les changements climatiques.

L'un des aspects les plus importants de ce document tient au constat qu'aucun pays ne peut s'attaquer seul, et avec efficacité, aux changements climatiques, et que tous les pays qui le peuvent doivent agir.

De même, s'agissant d'un accord international éventuel, le Canada est pleinement conscient de l'importance que tous les principaux émetteurs de la planète prennent des engagements concrets et contraignants pour réduire leurs émissions polluantes. Bien entendu, notre pays estime qu'il fait lui-même partie de ce groupe. Par ailleurs, même si aucun de nous ne peut prévoir l'issue des discussions de Copenhague, le Canada est fermement résolu à réduire ses émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 70 à 60 % d'ici à 2050.

Monsieur le Président, même s'il est clair que tous les grands émetteurs doivent agir, le Canada estime également que la technologie jouera un rôle essentiel, et cela, aussi bien en matière d'atténuation que d'adaptation. Le Plan d'action de Bali plaide en faveur d'un « renforcement du développement et du transfert des technologies à l'appui des mesures d'atténuation et d'adaptation », étant entendu qu'il s'agit là d'un élément fondamental de tout accord ultérieur.

Nous devons aussi disposer, dès maintenant, de technologies de transition : d'une part, pour réduire la demande d'énergie et, d'autre part, pour augmenter la disponibilité des combustibles fossiles moins polluants. Sur le long terme, les technologies propres, tant nouvelles qu'existantes, doivent être largement déployées dans les pays en développement. Cela vaut tout particulièrement pour les puissances économiques émergentes, qui connaissent une augmentation rapide des émissions, et où celles-ci augmenteront le plus à l'avenir. Le Canada est conscient, tout particulièrement, du rôle



des partenariats public-privé dans la mise au point et le déploiement de ces technologies, y compris la réduction de leur coût.

Monsieur le Président, la réduction des gaz à effet de serre par des mesures d'atténuation et l'utilisation d'une technologie propre n'est qu'une partie de la solution. Si les discussions se concentrent le plus souvent sur les mesures d'atténuation, en revanche il est clair que le débat sur l'adaptation est celui qui suscite les passions les plus vives. L'adaptation nous concerne tous, autant les petits États insulaires et en développement les plus exposés qu'un pays comme le Canada, où se trouve une région arctique à la fois vaste et extrêmement vulnérable.

Même si nous pouvions arrêter dès aujourd'hui toutes les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, les conséquences des changements climatiques continueraient de figurer au rang de nos préoccupations pendant encore des décennies, voire des siècles. Ce phénomène aura de graves conséquences pour les ressources en eau, les écosystèmes, l'agriculture, les forêts, les zones côtières, la santé humaine et la sécurité.

En dernière analyse, ce sont nos citoyens qui seront les premiers touchés par la gravité de ces changements. Ce seront souvent les populations les plus vulnérables, et les moins responsables de ce phénomène, qui subiront le plus gros des conséquences. C'est pourquoi il est essentiel d'adopter dès maintenant des mesures d'adaptation judicieuses, non seulement dans le cadre d'un accord éventuel, mais aussi pour assurer la sécurité et le bien-être de milliards de gens, y compris protéger leur mode de subsistance même.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Canada continuera à participer activement au Programme de travail de Nairobi sur les impacts, la vulnérabilité et l'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

Le Canada continue également d'insister sur l'importance que les pays vulnérables intègrent, à leurs stratégies nationales de développement durable et de réduction de la pauvreté, les considérations liées à l'adaptation.

Enfin, dans le Plan d'action de Bali, il est reconnu que l'adaptation doit figurer en bonne place dans un accord pour l'après-2012. Le Canada est entièrement d'accord et, à ce titre, veillera à ce que tout accord ultérieur renferme des dispositions strictes en faveur de mesures d'adaptation efficaces, au bénéfice de tous les pays.

Le Canada accueille favorablement le rapport produit par le Secrétaire Général « Aperçu des activités menées par le système des Nations Unies concernant les changements climatiques ». Il démontre qu'un grand nombre d'instances onusiennes mènent un important travail dans un grand nombre de secteurs pour la mise en oeuvre des mandats existants. Ce travail devrait compléter et appuyer les résultats négociés sous l'égide de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC).

Le Canada félicite le Secrétaire Général pour son leadership dans l'enclenchement d'un processus au sein du Comité de haut niveau afin d'améliorer la coordination des activités pour les changements climatiques. Nous nous réjouissons plus particulièrement de

l'insistance et du pragmatisme qui ont été manifestés concernant la nécessité de rendre le système onusien davantage axé sur les résultats, plus efficace et plus responsable.

Le Canada est déterminé à œuvrer en faveur du Plan d'action de Bali et à s'acquitter de ses obligations, tout en s'attachant à trouver une solution globale face à cet enjeu planétaire, de concert avec la communauté internationale.

Le Canada contribuera à ces efforts en plaidant avec force en faveur d'un accord international qui : 1) renferme des engagements contraignants de réduction des émissions, auxquels souscrivent tous les principaux émetteurs – car sans la participation de tous les gros émetteurs, historiques et émergents, nous ne pourrions jamais nous attaquer véritablement à l'augmentation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, pas plus que nous ne pourrions éviter les graves conséquences des changements climatiques, même si celles-ci découlent de l'activité humaine; 2) vise l'obtention de résultats durables; 3) est efficace sur le plan écologique, mais établit un équilibre entre la protection de l'environnement et la prospérité économique; 4) favorise la mise au point et le déploiement de technologies à faibles émissions; 5) prévoit des mesures face à la nécessité vitale de s'adapter aux effets des changements climatiques.

Il est clair que, pour que les discussions de Copenhague aboutissent en 2009, nous devons rompre avec nos habitudes. Il faudra faire preuve de souplesse, y compris dégager des compromis ainsi qu'agir avec espoir, détermination et clairvoyance. Bref, nous devons, tous autant que nous sommes, mais tout particulièrement les gros émetteurs, montrer la voie à suivre. Le monde entier nous observe, et nous devons tous apporter notre pierre à l'édifice.

Merci.



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

350 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016

**Statement by the Chinese Delegation**  
**At the Thematic Debate of the United Nations**  
**General Assembly on Climate Change**

*H.E. Ambassador Yu Qingtai*

*Special Representative for Climate Change Talks, CHINA*

*12 February 2008, New York*

Mr. President,

The issue of climate change has become a serious challenge in today's world. It affects not only the development of the global economy and prosperity, but also the very existence of mankind. A united front to confront this challenge, and to safeguard the common home of mankind has become the unanimous appeal by all members of the international community.

The United Nations has been playing a unique role with respect to confronting climate change. In September last year, we met in this place for the high-level discussion on climate change under the theme of "future in our hands". That meeting contributed positively to the eventual adoption of the "Bali Road Map" at the Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia toward the end of last year. The meeting today on the same issue serves to emphasize the active support and full affirmation of the leadership role played by the United Nations in responding to climate change.

Mr. President,

The Bali Conference last December was a turning point in the process of negotiations over climate change. It marked the beginning of new historic period of international cooperation in responding to this challenge. Its significance can be summed up as follows:

First of all, an agreement on the Bali Road Map was eventually reached, a road map

that gives direction to the efforts by the international community to confront climate change. Secondly, the Conference in Bali contributed to the acceleration of the negotiating process by confirming the twin-track negotiating process involving the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and by a clear-cut pronouncement on the mechanism and the time-table for the process. Thirdly, the Bali Conference reaffirmed the Convention and the Protocol as the main channel for international response on climate change, and reiterated the fundamental principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, thereby safeguarding the very foundation for international cooperation in this regard. Finally, the Conference incorporated the Annex I party that had not approved the Protocol, thus assuring the comprehensiveness as well as the effectiveness of international cooperation.

It must also be recognized, however, that the Bali Road Map is only a beginning. The international community must continue with the task of conducting substantive consultations and negotiations, so as to insure a final agreement on the post-2012 international cooperation on climate change within the next two years. In this connection, I wish to emphasize the following three points:

1. the principles established by the Framework Convention and its Protocol, particularly the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, represent the consensus of the international community, and constitute the essential foundation for international cooperation to respond to climate change. Any framework for future arrangements must be firmly based on these principles.
2. the four building-blocks, i.e. mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing, are all important components for developing an effective framework for responding to climate change, and as such, should be given equal attention, and none of them should be neglected. The policies and measures by the developed countries aimed at emission reduction should be further strengthened. At the same time, the concerns by the developing countries over adaptation, technology transfer and financial resources should be addressed in real earnest, so that they will have the capacity to make greater contributions to confronting the challenge from climate change.
3. an effective response to climate change requires broad participation from the

international community. But the effectiveness of participation by the developing countries will, to a significant extent, depend on whether the developed countries will take substantive actions on financial and technological assistance. Effective mechanisms should be set up as soon as possible, to insure that measurable, reportable and verifiable assistance be provided to the developing countries with regard to financial resources, technology and capacity building, to facilitate their achievement of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

China welcomes the United Nations, as the most broad-based inter-governmental organization, to play a positive role with respect to responding to climate change, particularly with regard to promoting international cooperation in the interests of achieving sustainable development. China supports the United Nations in performing its mandates, focusing on following aspects:

-- Political mobilization. The United Nations should make full use of its General Assembly and other relevant platforms to conduct dialogue on all major issues related to climate change, with the objective of raising the level of understanding on this challenge, and facilitating the achievement of sustainable development.

-- Promoting partnership. The United Nations should make full use of such channels as the Commission on Sustainable Development to encourage the establishment of partnership between governments and business community, the academic community and non-governmental organizations, so as to make joint efforts in responding to climate change.

-- Providing pragmatic support. The United Nations should utilize available new resources to promote flows of financial resources and the transfer of technology, to support the developing countries in the formulation and implementation of their national climate change strategies.

Mr. President,

China takes climate change very seriously. We have adopted a significant number of policies and measures within our capacity to respond to the challenge from climate

change, with noticeable success. In the years to come, China will continue to shoulder its share of responsibilities in accordance with the Framework Convention and its Protocol, and the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". While making our own due contribution, we will also help other developing countries to enhance their ability to adapt to climate change. We are confident that through the joint efforts, we will certainly be successful in overcoming the challenges from climate change, and leave behind us a world characterized by harmonious, clean and sustainable development, in the interests of future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

# COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

140 EAST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Statement by H.E. Jairo Montoya  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

Thematic Debate:  
“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”

UN General Assembly

New York, 13 February 2008

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Colombia recognizes positively the initiative of having this debate, which, certainly, will contribute to preserve the high priority that climate change must be given within the multilateral agenda.

It is relevant to exchange viewpoints on the way in which the UN system can enhance its contribution to address climate change. Likewise, we value the Report of the Secretary-General and its inputs for the debate.

Allow me, Mr. President, to present the considerations and ideas of Colombia on the substance of our discussion:

1. It is evident that the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol constitute the primary framework for intergovernmental decisions on this issue within the Organization. Deliberation of the General Assembly should reaffirm such prevalence, as well as recognizing the integrity and autonomy of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

2. The UN system can and should focus its efforts on the promotion of and support for the effective implementation of the intergovernmental decisions agreed in the context of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.
3. The Report of the Secretary-General describes the mandates of and assigns possible actions to different organizations of the system with regards to climate change. It is essential to analyze the capacities of those organizations for undertaking such actions.
4. For instances, it is worth examining the role of groups such as UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans, as well as its real possibilities for addressing intergovernmental issues to contribute to the climate change debate.
5. Colombia recognizes, in any case, the importance of identifying additional opportunities for further commitments and contributions from the system in this field.
6. In this regard, UN organizations must observe five basic conditions:
  - To ensure consistency with the general orientation given within the framework of the Convention.
  - To limit their activities to their respective thematic mandates.
  - To make their contribution taking into account their real capacities and comparative advantages.
  - To avoid competition for resources.
  - And, above all, to be driven by a development-based approach.
7. From this perspective, we highlight the urgency of taking into account the multiple dimensions derived from the relation between development and climate change, which are not necessarily covered by the thematic agenda for negotiations under the Convention. The UNDP Human Development Report 2007 acknowledges several of those dimensions and emphasizes the negative effects of climate change on the advancement in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the MDGs.
8. It is therefore necessary that the UN system's actions to address climate change ensure coherence with the actions for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. This also implies that any strategy in the area of climate change must be compatible with the priorities of developing countries related to economic growth and social welfare. Accordingly, the system must intensify efforts to assist in closing the gap between the implementation of commitments and real advancement towards the development goals.
9. Various UN agencies, funds and programmes have relevant mandates in order to support efforts made by developing countries with a view to implement their own national sustainable development policies. UNEP, UNDP, FAO and UNIDO come to mind in this regard.
10. Support should focus on national capacity building in the field. This is needed, mostly, in relation to adaptation activities. UNDP and UNEP can highly contribute on this matter.



11. Capacity building is also relevant in specific areas such as: implementation of strategies for climate monitoring, disaster reduction and early warning systems; enhanced possibilities to access funds and mechanisms such as the GEF and the CDM; creation and exchange of scientific knowledge; and development of South-South cooperation initiatives supported through triangular schemes.
12. Equally important is the promotion of favorable international conditions for the implementation of measures by developing countries. Among this conditions we underline: the accomplishment of emission-reduction commitments by developed countries; adequate flow of international resources to finance adaptation activities and encourage voluntary mitigation measures; transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in favorable terms; and dissemination of objective and comprehensive information on the implications of climate change.
13. Colombia underscores, in this regard, the central role of the IPCC as the organ responsible for producing the scientific, technical and socio-economic information to understand the phenomenon.
14. In the promotion of favorable international conditions it is also important an enhanced cooperation among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and between them and UNEP. We also believe in the need to increase the efficiency of the latter.
15. With regards to partnerships, Colombia highlights the potential of the UN Global Compact as a platform to promote corporate social responsibility in the environmental field.

Mr. President,

My delegation has consciously eluded the discussion on the architecture of the system. This issue could deviate the attention from the real potential of the Organization to address climate change. Beyond the coherence agenda and the debates on the institutional framework for UN environmental activities, the important point here is to identify new opportunities to effectively contribute in this area.

From the approach that we propose, the only way to truly “deliver as one”, when dealing with climate change, consist in sharing the strategic objective of tackling the central issues that the development challenge entails. After all, it would be an act of fairness to those who despite bearing minimal historic responsibility for the problem, face the environmental, economic and social consequences with more severity.

Thank you.

**Allocution de son Excellence Monsieur Mohamed Tohiri  
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de l'Union des Comores  
(New York 11 -12 février 2008)**

**à la Réunion ministérielle sur le Changement climatique.....**

- Excellence Monsieur le Président  
Excellences, **Mesdames** et Messieurs les Ministres,  
Excellences **Mesdames** et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs  
Mesdames et Messieurs

Cette rencontre, s'inscrit manifestement, dans le cadre de la sensibilisation sur les enjeux du changement climatique. C est surtout un appel pour les pays, pour tous les pays, sans exception, pour instaurer de nouvelles actions et adopter de nouvelles attitudes, pour renforcer la coopération et pour lutter contre ce phénomène qui suscite de plus en plus d'inquiétudes partout dans le monde.

C'est ainsi que les pays pauvres et en particulier ceux d'Afrique ont apparu aux yeux du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC), comme faisant partie des pays les plus menacés par le réchauffement de la planète.

Monsieur le Président

Venant d'un pays insulaire en développement, dans la région de l'Océan indien occidental et regroupé au sein de la Commission de l'Océan Indien, nous mesurons plus que tout autre, le degré de vulnérabilité des pays face à ces menaces et a ces coups portés sur l'environnement

Si pour certains pays les modifications de notre planète dues au changement climatique restent encore des concepts théoriques, chez nous dans la zone de l'océan indien, nous en voyons les cruelles manifestations au quotidien : depuis le tsunami qui a horrifié la planète toute entière, il y a déjà eu encore 2 mini-tsunamis aux Comores qui ont fait des dégâts non négligeables ; le volcan Karthala, qui auparavant, ne se manifestait qu'une fois tous les 10 ans, a pris l'habitude ces dernières années de manifester bruyamment sa présence, avec toutes les conséquences humaines et matérielles qui en découlent. Des torrents jamais détectés auparavant ont surgi de nulle part et ont dévasté cultures, routes et habitations.

Paradoxalement, dans les autres îles, les quelques rivières qui existaient ont été desséchées, laissant la nature, les bêtes et les hommes complètement désemparés. La mer, de son côté fait des ravages. Des études de vulnérabilité ont conclu à une menace sur les cultures de rente et l'économie en général, de par l'intrusion de la mer en profondeur et en surface.

Monsieur le Président,

Des études d'impact ont montré la très grande vulnérabilité de l'Archipel des Comores aux changements climatiques. En effet les principales villes du pays sont situées dans les zones côtières où vit la majorité de la population. La quasi totalité des infrastructures est située à moins de 6 mètres au dessus du niveau de la mer.

Et selon des projections, la part de la population côtière qui sera affectée par les changements climatiques, représentera **65% de la population totale** de mon pays en l'an 2050, et les pertes subies dans la zone côtière, s'élèveront à **400 millions de dollars**, en cette année, soit environ **deux fois le PIB de 2001**.

Excellences,

Comme l'a rappelé à juste titre notre président de la République, à cette même tribune, lors du sommet sur le Climat, le coût du changement climatique ne peut être imputé uniquement aux pays les plus démunis, ceux-là même qui en subissent le plus les conséquences.

C'est pourquoi, à l'instar de l'esprit de Bali, nous appelons donc à la mutualisation universelle des connaissances technologiques, à la mutualisation des systèmes d'alerte, à la mutualisation du financement de la prévention et bien entendu à la mutualisation de la gestion des catastrophes.

Tirant ces leçons, notre pays qui n'avait pas encore adhéré au Protocole de Kyoto, vient le **16 janvier de cette année de prendre la décision de le ratifier**.

Par ailleurs, mon pays avec ceux de la Commission de l'Océan-Indien soutient le principe de l'établissement d'une Agence des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, construite à partir du PNUE, avec un mandat actualisé et renforcé, basé sur des contributions financières stables, et opérant sur le même pied d'égalité avec les autres agences spécialisées des Nations Unies.

Je ne saurais terminer mon propos Monsieur le Président sans rappeler que si une véritable solidarité internationale ne se manifeste pas dès aujourd'hui, d'ici 50, 40,30 voire 20 ans, certains pays, surtout certaines îles, ne seront que de vieux souvenirs dans la mémoire des hommes car elles auront été effacées de la surface du globe. Alors la, nous communauté internationale auront échoué.

Je vous remercie



# CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

*Check against delivery*

Statement by

**NIKOLA RUŽINSKI, Ph.D.**

**STATE SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND  
CONSTRUCTION**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Sixty-second session  
THEMATIC DEBATE  
„ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD  
AT WORK“**

United Nations, New York  
12 February 2008

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Mister President, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Global warming is unquestionable fact, as it concludes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The impact of climate change affects us all, and today this is a common understanding.

As the first generation facing the serious consequences of climate change, we all have an obligation to confront these consequences in order to mitigate the damage done, but also to prevent future harmful impacts.

Croatia firmly believes that fighting against climate change demands urgent international efforts by developed and developing countries. Recently adopted Bali Road Map and Action Plan provide framework for the formal negotiations to reach a comprehensive and strong international climate change agreement for the period beyond 2012. This action should be based on equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Croatia is ready to actively participate in the post-Kyoto process

In facing today's climate change challenges we are of the opinion that fulfilling commitments on national level is crucial, but it also needs to be supplemented by cooperation and synergy at international level.

Croatia has developed a National climate change strategy and action plan, which set up objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average 5 % relative to 1990, in the period 2008-2012. The Strategy goals are planned to be incorporated in all sectoral policies taking into consideration the cost-effectiveness of the reduction measures.

Main categories of mitigation include: promotion and increased usage of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels; improvement of energy efficiency in energy production, supply and consumption; reduction measures in industrial processes and waste management. Increasing attention is being paid to education and raising the public awareness. In order to effectively address climate change mitigation issues, we are also revising national Energy Strategy.

The reductions required for stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in atmosphere to the level which will not endanger the climate system cannot be achieved with the currently applied measures and procedures. What is required is the enhanced use of new, advanced technologies, and additional investments into future low carbon technologies supporting sustainable development.

The vulnerability of the situation, due to unpredictability of the climate itself, and increasing frequency of extreme atmospheric conditions throughout the Planet, requires further scientific research in this sense.

Climate change in our part of the world might affect the Adriatic sea level, change the hydrological situation, and in turn jeopardize Croatian main branch of economy – tourism as well as agriculture. They might also have a significant effect on forests, on biological diversity and eco-systems. Therefore, our next step is the preparation of Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategy, followed by definition of measures to be taken in all relevant sectors in order to mitigate, adapt to expected harmful effects.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA, AMBASSADOR  
RODRIGO MALMIERCA DIAZ**

**Informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on climatic change**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

Mr. President,

We associate ourselves with the statements made by AOSIS and by the G-77 and China.

To Cuba, this is a very timely discussion, after the World Conference in Bali, where the Cuban delegation participated with a mixture of concern, optimism and trust.

Concern because Cuban President Fidel Castro's statement in 1992 becomes increasingly more evident when he said that "An important biological species is at risk of disappearing due to the rapid and progressive elimination of its natural habitat: man."

Undisputable scientific evidence proves the perspective of devastating climatic changes. The last ten years were warmer. The arctic ice is thawing. Glaciers are receding. The sea level is rising. The frequency and intensity of hurricanes are increasing and 30% of all species will disappear if global temperature increases by 1.5 to 2.5 degrees Celsius. Small island states run the risk of disappearing under the waters, despite being, along with other very vulnerable and endangered countries, those which have caused the least global warming.

However, we stand optimistic and confident because the majority of countries have a clear political will to contribute, in accordance with their respective responsibilities and capacities, to the implementation of an international framework capable of addressing this issue.

The Intergovernmental Panel of Climatic Change urges us to make a deep reflection and to take the action. However it is really disappointing and negative that the country that contaminates the most and is responsible for more than 25% of the total GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions of the planet, with only 4.7% of the world population, has disregarded the Kyoto Protocol and remains impassive as more than 190 nations debate and make an effort to update it.

Moreover, industrialized countries are not accomplishing the almost symbolic goals of the first period of commitments of Kyoto, nor they are meeting the objectives of the convention and the protocol regarding sufficient and predictable financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building.

We have agreed to implement strategies such as mitigation or reduction and absorption of the emissions; and adaptation or actions aimed at reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. However, this dramatic situation will not be tackled unless there is a shift in the current unbridled production and consumption patterns, furthered by worldwide advertising amounting for as much as a trillion dollars every year.

We have common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries, responsible for 76% of the emissions of greenhouse gases accumulated since 1850, have to bear the brunt of mitigation and must set the example. What is even worse is that their emissions increased by more than 12% between 1990 and 2003, and those of the United States in particular grew by more than 20%.

On the other hand, the fight against climate change cannot be an obstacle hindering the development of the more than 100 countries that have yet to attain it and which, by the way, are not the historic culprits of what has happened. We reject the pressures directed to the underdeveloped countries so that these enter into binding commitments to reduce emissions.

The developed countries monopolize patents, technologies and money, and are, therefore, responsible for the Third World to gain access to substantial amounts of fresh funding above the current insufficient Official Development Assistance levels, to receive free technologies and training of its human resources.

Mr. President,

Cuba has been carrying out enormous efforts to implement programs and measures on adaptation, on the basis of the existence of strong scientific community, efficient systems for disaster prevention and coordinated actions at the national and local levels, despite the fact Cuba's emissions of greenhouse gases are insignificant.

Cuba also contributes to the mitigation of the climate change, through a group of national programs, in what we call the "energy revolution", based on energy saving, energy efficiency, and the development of renewable sources of energy.

In the last 3 years, Cuba has replaced more than 9 million incandescent bulbs and more than 3 million high consuming domestic appliances. This has brought about a decrease of about 360 mw of peak electric demand, which is tantamount to saving almost 400 million dollars and stopping burning around 680 thousand tons of oil per year, an approximate reduction of emissions of 1.2 million tons of Co2 per year.

Also in this direction, intense works are being done in the national development and application of renewable sources of energy and Cuba participates in regional actions in the Caribbean to face vulnerability to climatic change and to strengthen adaptation capacities through collaboration on early warning and disaster prevention.

In the pursuing our purposes, we have had to face the constant effects of a criminal blockade that, for almost half a century, the main military and economic power of the planet imposed on us, causing severe consequences for our development goals.

Mr. President,

In order to address climatic change, the following actions are paramount:

1. Developed countries must express a clear determination to carry forward concrete actions regarding the fulfillment of their commitments made under the Kyoto protocol.
2. These countries must take up firm commitments to reduce emissions of about 40% for 2020 and not less than 60-70% by 2050, regarding the 1990 emission levels.
3. Renewable sources of energy must be used, with a significant increase of them in the world energy matrix by 2025.
4. New, additional and sufficient financial resources to satisfy the needs of adaptation in developing countries must be assigned. There is an imperative necessity to render the adaptation fund fully operational.
5. Effective transfer of clean technologies that take into account the particular needs of developing countries is required.

Mr. President,

Climatic change demands that, beyond scientific and technological issues and an important reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, we entirely change the economic and social development paradigm.

It is a daunting task, but we still have the opportunity to bequeath to our descendants not only a cleaner planet, but also a more just and equitable one in the distribution of wealth.

Thank you.







**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Andreas D. Mavroyiannis  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus,  
At the  
High-level Thematic Debate  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”  
13 February 2008**

Mr. President,

Cyprus has fully aligned itself with the statement of Slovenia who spoke yesterday on behalf of the EU. I will therefore limit my remarks to those of specific national significance.

Situated in one of the most precarious geographical regions, expected to be gravely affected by both rising temperatures and rising sea levels, with all the consequences that those entail, my country has already been experiencing the effects of climate change for some time. We are cognizant, as I am certain others in this room are as well, of the impact that this can have on the everyday lives of people, affecting their health and general well-being and forcing them to adjust their way of life to prevalent climatic phenomena.

The consequences of our vulnerability are by no means easy to predict; the extent to which the economy will be harmed, the magnitude of a possible natural disaster and its human and material damage, the impact on human life and activity and on our ecosystems in general. Climate change constitutes also a threat not only to development but also towards global peace and security. Scarcity of resources including water, food and fertile land can be a contributing or even an instigating factor in fuelling conflict or accentuating phenomena like famine, disease, migration, regional instability, social and political unrest, rejection of the other and an even more unequal distribution of wealth.. Also conjectural at this stage is any prediction as to the extent to which existing damage can be reversed and how we can best, and to what extent, adapt in order to avoid becoming hostages to climatic conditions.

Our collective thinking on this issue must at least lead to the prevalence of the vital realization that we do share the same environment and the damage sustained by it anywhere in the world has a global impact. We can observe that vulnerable states –in particular small island developing states- that have contributed very little to environmental damage are impacted the most and have the fewest means of defense. Many countries, usually small, poor or vulnerable ones, require support in adaptation and mitigation strategies and should be given qualified priority in the area of use of new technologies and financing.

Mr. President,

We are not here to assess the existence or the magnitude of the threat posed by human activity induced climate change; this has been verified by scientific and empirical data, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The High Level Event of this past September and the Conference at Bali generated a wide and clear commitment towards concerted action in an integrated manner in order to tackle climate change and do so within the appropriate multilateral framework for action, which is the United Nations.

As such, we consider that meetings like these serve to focus this commitment and make it more concrete rather than merely reaffirm it. Our collective thinking to distill concrete measures on the basis of scientific recommendations must start without delay. This applies to the establishment of a post-2012 climate regime but also to action that can be taken in the meantime.

In this respect we welcome the report of the Secretary General "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change" and in particular his recommendations on the way forward. We also welcome the document prepared by the Chief Executives Board in defining key areas of action and an effective coordination structure for the United Nations system as well as its contribution in supporting global, regional, and national action within the four key areas of mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. But we must move from generic discussions to action and to focused and measurable progress.

Cyprus as a member of the European Union, participates in the policies and decisions of the Union on this crucial issue and is ready to play fully its role both within the EU and on the international front. A global challenge of this scale should give rise to a sustained and multidimensional effort encompassing short- medium and long-term goals. The Bali road map that leads towards achieving a new global climate agreement in Copenhagen is a significant step, yet one among many that will be required, in the efforts of the international community to ensure that current and future generations can live in a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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Statement by

Mr. Jan Dusík, M.Sc.,  
First Deputy Minister of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

Thematic Debate  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”

United Nations, New York, 12 February 2008

Excellency, Mr. President,

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my deep appreciation to Mr. President, Srgjan Kerim, for the possibility to contribute to this important debate addressing a worldwide issue of climate change.

The Czech Republic participating in the EU activities and sharing the EU commitments for climate change mitigation fully supports the statement by Slovenia made on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The Bali conference demonstrated that cooperation, partnership and dialogue are crucial aspects in tackling climate change. The Bali Action Plan and important building blocks - shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and financial flows - were successfully reached. Furthermore, the time frame for completion of an agreement for the post 2012 period was launched. All of those partial steps towards the final agreement are necessary in the whole process of finding solution to the complex topic of climate change. As Bali showed, future agreement on the post-Kyoto regime is very challenging but nevertheless reachable in 2009 in Copenhagen.

The Czech Republic is ready to take an active part in the forthcoming international negotiations as the EU member state and one of the EU countries having the EU presidency in the decisive negotiation period. We expect that all main building blocks will be deliberated and covered by the post-2012 agreement. In the mitigation agenda, the important scientific evidence from the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC should be reflected and information should be promoted in order to provide fair sharing of mitigation efforts in the Copenhagen agreement. The role of the Carbon Market as a main mitigation and financial tool ought to be enhanced. A lot of work needs to be done in preparation and implementation of the adaptation policies and measures especially in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Less Developed Countries (LDCs) which are most vulnerable to the climate change impacts. Enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to support action on mitigation and adaptation is crucial. In this context all financial instruments established under the Convention should be made operational as soon as possible.

The Czech Republic supports the effort of the United Nations and calls on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which represents the only forum where legally binding decisions are taken. We recognize the importance of the whole UN system. At the global, regional and national level many United Nations organizations are currently undertaking climate change activities which include inter alia monitoring, scientific research, reporting, capacity building, technology transfer or financing. Furthermore, UNEP which is expected to set combating climate change as one of the priorities within the Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013 even devoted the 10th special session of the UNEP GC/GMEF to the thematic discussion on "Mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge". However, we are of the view that in order to ensure complementation rather than duplication of

the UN activities the development of an effective framework for greater coherence and coordination of the work of the UN system is needed.

Let me recall that many of the UNFCCC Parties are at the same time Parties to other global Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol. Promotion of a synergistic approach in the MEAs implementation as well as in facilitation of activities undertaken by the relevant secretariats, could be seen as a new challenge for the UN system which is needed for the achievement of the MDGs.

The Czech Republic fully subscribes to the Millennium Development Goals and is prepared to contribute towards their achievements within its capacities, starting from consultations, exchange of experience through assistance in drafting environmental legislation to providing environmental assistance in kind according to the Strategy of the Czech Development Assistance.

International cooperation is required to put ourselves on a path to slow, stop and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Donor and recipient countries and institutions should follow an integrated approach and promote synergies amongst all financial instruments (e.g. special funds and programmes under the GEF, World Bank, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, specific activities under different MEAs) in order to secure most efficient implementation of the effort to combat climate change.

We strongly believe that co-ordinated actions at the UN level will promote more coherent and systematic work at the national level. These both together are the preconditions for our common goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the negative impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur  
Permanent Representative of Denmark



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**United Nations General Assembly**  
**Informal Thematic Debate on Climate Change**

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New York  
13 February 2008

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

I welcome this opportunity to address the General Assembly, and shall at the very outset align myself with the statement made by Slovenia as President of the European Union.

Climate change is a tremendous challenge for the international community, for all member states and for every one of us as individuals. The fourth report of the IPCC last fall was important in raising international awareness prior to COP 13 in Bali. The report showed that climate change is happening more rapidly than previously assumed. The need for action has become even more imperative.

The successful outcome of Bali marks an important turn in our common efforts to address climate change. In Bali we not only agreed that there is a global need for addressing climate change. We also agreed on the need for targets aimed at reducing global carbon emissions, responding to scientifically proven needs. And we agreed on a coherent framework for negotiations including all countries, based on two main tracks: adaptation and mitigation supported by efforts on technology, financing and capacity building. Finally, we managed to agree to an accelerated negotiation process for 2008 leading towards COP 14 in Poznan as an important benchmark in the UNFCCC negotiating process. It is vital that a good platform is agreed upon in Poznan for continued negotiations in the course of 2009.

The UN plays the pivotal role by providing the framework for negotiations on a new climate agreement through the UNFCCC. The UN system, however, also has an essential role to play through broader supportive action. Climate change is a complex development issue. Addressing climate change is a prerequisite for reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, Denmark very much welcomes the report of the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board prepared for this meeting. We encourage the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board to continue to play a leading role in ensuring a coordinated and effective UN response to the challenges of climate change.

Let me outline five strategic objectives, which we find warrant special priority at this juncture:



First of all, the UN system should seize the challenge of climate change as an opportunity to demonstrate that the UN system is not only committed but also able to *Deliver as One*. The UN must not only act coherently as a system, and must not only align fully with national priorities in partner countries. It must also ensure coordination of operational activities on adaptation or mitigation of climate change with other global actors such as the World Bank and WTO, so that the division of labor between the various actors is clearly delineated.

Secondly, the UN should continue to facilitate the flow of knowledge and data necessary for sound decision making on climate change.

Thirdly, the UN should promote integrating climate change considerations in policy formulation and decision-making. At the country level this calls for the integration of these issues in national development strategies.

Fourthly, the UN, and not least UNDP in cooperation with UNEP, has an essential role to play in many countries in capacity building at country level. That means assisting in building capacity for international negotiation processes as well as for domestic policy making and policy implementation with regard to climate change.

Finally, the UN should take the lead in providing a conceptual framework for the integration of climate change concerns into the broader development agenda, including in the context of the upcoming *Financing for Development* dialogue.

In all these areas, Denmark is actively engaged in strengthening the role of the UN.

Mr. President,

The momentum for a new comprehensive international climate agreement is getting ever stronger. As the host of COP 15 in 2009, and member of the COP trojka, Denmark is strongly committed to working closely with all member states with a view to reaching an ambitious agreement, adequately responding to the enormous global challenges arising from climate change. The next two years will require concerted efforts by all parties and stakeholders to reach an agreement in Copenhagen. We stand ready to do our part.

Thank you.



# **DJIBOUTI**

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**Statement by**

**His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
To the United Nations ;**

**Before the Thematic debate  
Of the General Assembly**

**On**

**"Addressing climate change:  
The United Nations and the world at work"**

**Tuesday 12 February 2008**

**Check against delivery**

**Mr. President,**

We thank you, and we thank the Secretary General as well, for initiating and closely coordinating the various conferences, events and thematic debates on climate change since last year. Each passing day brings increased public awareness about the ever pressing and inevitable consequences of climate change, a sustainable development challenge. Last September, the High Level Event underscored Member States' commitment to effectively tackle climate change, leading to the Bali Action Plan in December, which highlighted the crucial mandate to launch negotiations for the achievement of a comprehensive global agreement by the end of 2009; affirming the key areas for action: adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing. This was followed by the Secretary General's comprehensive report in January 2008, entitled "Overview of the United Nations activities in relation to Climate Change". In recognizing, therefore, the central role of this Organization to this global challenge, the theme for this debate: "Addressing climate change: the UN and the world at work" is not only timely but very relevant.

Indeed, our present debate, strives to create conditions for public-private partnership on climate change, with the United Nations at the center of coordinating actions by all stakeholders in advancing global efforts to combat climate change.

**Mr. President,**

Both directly and indirectly, therefore, the United Nations, through its promotions, conferences, conventions, events and debates has become an indispensable major force in highlighting the multifaceted challenge of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has brought inestimable credit to the United Nations, driving home the inescapable truth that global warming, climate change and atmospheric pollution, are upon us, and must be fully addressed toward reversing their negative impact. The more we permit the main pollutant, carbon dioxide, to flow into the atmosphere, the more our air, climate and environment deteriorate. We must rein in the pace of this deterioration; in fact reverse it. Mandatory curbs are required. The United Nations must invariably stress the point that these hazards are the result of human activity, that in fact they are caused by man. Beyond the physical and environmental effects brought on by global warming, climate change will have critical implications for international peace and security, migration, resource shortages and the inevitable humanitarian crises. And, according to the IPCC, the pace of deterioration around the world due to greenhouse gas emissions and resulting climate changes have exceeded predictions --- with the melting of arctic sea ice and glaciers melting faster; and global sea levels rising faster than forecast. As has been consistently noted and underscored by the IPCC, Africa will be the continent hardest hit by climate change by way of water scarcity, crop



# ECUADOR

Misión Permanente ante las Naciones Unidas

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**Intervención del Embajador Rodrigo Riofrío,  
Representante del Ecuador ante las Naciones Unidas**

**Debate Temático: Enfrentar el Cambio Climático**

**Nueva York, 13 de febrero de 2008**

Señor Presidente:

En primer término permítame adherirme a las declaraciones de Antigua y Barbuda en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China. Mi delegación felicita al Presidente de la Asamblea General, por haber convocado a este importante debate sobre cambio climático, que constituye un asunto prioritario para el Ecuador.

Nuestro país resalta la importancia del establecimiento de la “Hoja de Ruta”, como resultado de la Conferencia de Bali, la misma que permitirá a la comunidad internacional la búsqueda de los acuerdos necesarios para enfrentar los efectos del cambio climático, a través de establecer metas en la reducción de la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero e implementar nuevas medidas de mitigación y adaptación al mismo.

La responsabilidad histórica de los países desarrollados en el cambio climático nos preocupa grandemente, en vista que cada vez los fenómenos climatológicos que se producen con mayor intensidad tienen consecuencias desastrosas, sobretudo en los países en desarrollo. Es por esto que solicitamos a los países desarrollados a que asuman su compromiso histórico e implementen medidas que ayuden a países en desarrollo a mitigar los efectos causados.

Señor Presidente

El Ecuador es un país marginal en términos de emisiones, menos del 1% del total mundial, pero en los últimos años, nuestro país ha soportado severos desastres naturales como consecuencia del cambio climático, es así que en este momento varias zonas del país, especialmente en la costa ecuatoriana, se encuentran declaradas en emergencia por las graves inundaciones ocurridas debido a lluvias torrenciales, como efecto del fenómeno de "La "Niña", que han tenido un impacto sin precedente y han causando miles de damnificados.

El Cambio climático es un fenómeno que nos afecta a todos, que no conoce fronteras y que afecta tanto a países desarrollados como a países en desarrollo, por lo que el Ecuador, aceptando el principio de la responsabilidad compartida, ha presentado, hace varios meses ya, una iniciativa a la comunidad internacional que consiste en mantener el crudo del campo petrolero del ITT-Yasuní en el subsuelo.

La explotación petrolera del campo ITT-Yasuni implicaría para el Ecuador la producción de más de cien mil barriles diarios de crudo, con una utilidad anual de 720 millones de dólares. Esta producción duraría aproximadamente 13 años, con una producción estabilizada de 107 mil barriles diarios.

Es así que, la iniciativa propuesta consiste en la obligación del Ecuador de no explotar cerca de los 920 millones de barriles de petróleo existentes en esta zona ecológica y de alta diversidad denominada Yasuní. Como contrapartida a este sacrificio económico, nuestro país solicita la corresponsabilidad de la comunidad internacional y su participación en esta iniciativa, a través de la creación de un Fondo Fiduciario Yasuní-ITT, con el aporte de 5 dólares por cada barril no explotado.

El monto total aportado por la comunidad internacional a este Fondo de compensación sería aproximadamente de 4.600 millones de dólares, el mismo que se utilizará para el cumplimiento del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, que incluye la diversificación de las fuentes de energía, el desarrollo de las capacidades e inversiones en ecoturismo y la aplicación de una agenda integral que comprende salud, educación y remediación ambiental.

Esta es una iniciativa de un país pequeño, donde sus recursos económicos dependen de la explotación del petróleo, pero que conciente de los nefastos efectos del cambio climático, se encuentra dispuesto a realizar los esfuerzos necesarios para mitigarlo, aunque estos impliquen renunciar al ingreso de un importante monto de recursos financieros.

Es por esto señor Presidente, que el Ecuador vuelve a solicitar a la comunidad internacional que apoye su iniciativa de mantener el crudo del campo ITT-Yasuni en el subsuelo, como una propuesta innovadora, creativa y humana para mitigar el cambio climático.

Gracias,

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

بيان  
جمهورية مصر العربية

يلقيه

السيد السفير/ رمزي عز الدين رمزي  
مساعد وزير الخارجية للعلاقات الاقتصادية والتعاون الدولي

في النقاش الموضوعي بالجمعية العامة

بعنوان

"التصدى لتغير المناخ: الأمم المتحدة والعالم في خضم العمل"

السيد الرئيس ،،

يطيب لي في البداية أن أتوجه بالشكر والتحية لرئيس الجمعية العامة والسكرتير العام للأمم المتحدة للاهتمام الكبير الذي يوليانه لموضوع التنمية المستدامة، التي تشمل ضمن ما تشمل موضوع تغير المناخ الذي بات يحتل مرتبة متقدمة في أولويات الأجندة الدولية، وهو ما انعكس في عقد الاجتماع رفيع المستوى الأول حول تغير المناخ في سبتمبر ٢٠٠٧ ويستكمل الآن بالاجتماع الحالي الذي يناقش الدور الذي يمكن أن تلعبه منظومة الأمم المتحدة في إطار الولايات الممنوحة لها من قبل الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة، بما في ذلك دعم المشاركة بين الحكومات والقطاع الخاص.

وينبع موقفنا هذا من إيماننا بخطورة القضية باعتبار أن مصر - خاصة منطقة الدلتا الساحلية المطلّة على المتوسط التي تضم مدينة الإسكندرية - تعتبر من أكثر الدول تهدداً من ظاهرة تغير المناخ بثبوت الأدلة العلمية، ومنها نتائج التقرير الرابع للجنة الحكومية لتغير المناخ .

إننا نرى أن نتائج مؤتمر بالي بما ترتب عليها يجب أن تدرس بعناية، خاصة فيما يتعلق بالمسئولية الطوعية لكافة الدول النامية عن التخفيف التي أضيفت كبعد جديد لأبعاد الاتفاقية الإطارية. وأود في هذا السياق أن أعيد التأكيد على ما سبق وأعلنه الوفد المصري في الجلسة الختامية في بالي، ومؤداه أننا نفسر هذه المسئولية على خلفية تعدد مستويات النمو للدول النامية، وبالتالي تفاوت المسئولية في هذا الصدد، وهو ما يدعونا للمبادرة بالدعوة لادراج مستوى الدخل والنمو في قضية المناخ ببعديها التخفيف والتكيف.

ومن المنطلق المفاهيمي العام للقضية، نعتقد أنه من المفيد تناول المفاوضات الجارية في إطار الاتفاقية الإطارية لتغير المناخ لهذه الظاهرة بشقيها الأساسيين: التكيف والتخفيف من حيث دلالة المعيار والتأثير، وضرورة تناول بعديهما الكمي والكيفي معاً وبشكل متعادل ومتوازن. فمثلاً يتمثل البعد الكمي في مجال التخفيف في حجم الانبعاث، بينما يتمثل في مجال التكيف في حجم السكان المتضررين من تغير المناخ ومساحة الضرر في دولة ما. وعلى الجانب الآخر يتمثل البعد الكيفي في مجال التخفيف في نوع الانبعاثات وكيفية الحد منه والآليات التي من شأنها المساعدة في ذلك منها إنتاج بدائل الوقود الحفري



من طاقة جديدة ومتجددة ودور التكنولوجيا النظيفة والتمويل اللازم للحصول عليها في ضوء امتلاك القطاع الخاص لها، في حين ينعكس في مجال التخفيف في توقيت الضرر (urgency) ومدى التأثر (vulnerability). وأود في هذا السياق أن أعيد ما سبق أن أعلنه السيد أحمد أبو الغيط وزير الخارجية المصري في اجتماع سبتمبر في نيويورك وهو دعوتنا لإعداد قائمة بالدول الأكثر تضرراً من تغير المناخ. ويسعدنا ما علمناه من أن الأمم المتحدة بصدد عقد اجتماع لبحث هذا الموضوع هذا العام، كما أن هذا المقترح قد لاقى صدى من الدول الجزرية حيث أعلنت في بالي ما يؤيد هذا المقترح. وإذا كان لنا أن نضيف إلى ما تقدم فإننا نطالب بالتركيز على الدول ذات الدلتا المهددة من غمر مياه البحار والمحيطات وبشكل عاجل لما لهذا التهديد من تأثير صارخ على التنمية في دول وعلى شعوبها كذلك.

يأخذنا هذا إلى مضمون الوثائق وهدف الاجتماع الحالي وهو سمات التعاون الدولي وأولوياته ودور الأمم المتحدة، والمشاركة بين الحكومات والقطاع الخاص، فالواضح أن التكنولوجيا تعد من أهم الآليات القادرة على إيجاد الحلول ومجابهة الظاهرة سواء التكنولوجيا النظيفة للحد من الانبعاثات، أو تلك الكفيلة بالتصدي لآثار الظاهرة في نطاق التنمية المستدامة فيما يتصل بالموارد المائية، والزراعة، وغيرها. والملاحظ هنا أن الأمم المتحدة وفقاً للولايات الممنوحة لها كمنظومة تغطي كافة مجالات دعم الدول في مسارها للتصدي للظاهرة - مثل وضع خطط واجراءات دعم لبناء القدرات وغيره - بينما تقف مكتوفة الأيدي فيما يتصل بآليات تنفيذ هذا وبالتحديد مجالي التمويل ونقل التكنولوجيا اللذين مازالا في يدى القطاع الخاص أو في منابر غير ملتزمة بقرارات الأمم المتحدة وأهمها البنك الدولي والمرفق العالمي للبيئة وصندوق التكيف المنشأ حديثاً في إطار اتفاقية تغير المناخ. وهو وضع لا يسمح للمنظومة بلعب دور متميز وفعال طالما بقى الوضع على ما هو عليه.

اننا نود أن نؤكد على دعم المشاركات بين الحكومات وكافة أصحاب المصالح في هذا المجال، أخذاً في الاعتبار أهمية هذا الدور كمكمل للتعاون الدولي وليس بديلاً عنه.

وبالنسبة للبعد الإقليمي للتعاون فإننا نؤمن بجدواه وتفعيله، ونقترح النظر في إنشاء آليات للتمويل منها الصناديق الإقليمية للتكيف، ومثلها في مجال نقل التكنولوجيا على أسس تفضيلية خاصة للدول الأكثر تهدداً.

ومن الأهمية بمكان في هذا السياق التذكير بعدد من المبادئ المنصوص عليها في إطار القانون الدولي والتعاون الدولي بشكل عام:

- ١ - مبدأ عدم الإضرار بالدول حال قيام بعضها بتنفيذ مشروعات أو خطط وطنية أو إقليمية أو دولية في مجالي التخفيف والتكيف.
- ٢ - احترام مفهوم سيادة الدول وذلك ارتباطاً بالتوجهات الحالية للدفع بتناول البعد الأمني للقضية
- ٣ - ضرورة إيلاء اهتمام متعادل بكافة الأولويات التسع المنصوص عليها في الاتفاقية الإطارية لتغير المناخ في مجال التكيف.
- ٤ - الاهتمام بالبعد الاقتصادي للتوجهات الحالية الهادفة لاستزراع مساحات شاسعة بالحبوب لاستخدامها كوقود حيوى في ضوء ارتفاع أسعار الحبوب الغذائية عالمياً.
- ٥ - مع تأييدنا لدور متنامى لمنظومة الأمم المتحدة في التصدى لقضية تغير المناخ فإننا ننبه إلى خطورة إغفال الدور المنوط بها في المجالات الأخرى التى تصنع منها منظومة كلية وشاملة الأبعاد.

وأود أن أوجه الشكر للسكترير العام على العرض الذى تضمنه التقرير المبدئى بشأن أنشطة كافة أجهزة الأمم المتحدة المتصلة بتغير المناخ، ونأمل فى استكمالها فى شكله النهائى، حتى يتسنى للدول الأعضاء النظر فى مضمونه وتحديد مواقفها بشأنه.

كما أود أن أؤكد فى الختام على أن الاتفاقية الإطارية لتغير المناخ UNFCCC هى المحفل الوحيد للتفاوض. كما أؤكد أيضاً على أهمية تنسيق الجهود المبذولة فى إطار الأمم المتحدة بشأن ظاهرة تغير المناخ، لتجنب التكرار والازدواجية وإهدار الموارد.

وشكراً سيدى الرئيس ،،



MISION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

## Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas 62º Período de sesiones

Sírvase verificar contra la lectura

### REUNIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL SOBRE CAMBIO CLIMATICO

Intervención de la Embajadora  
Carmen María Gallardo Hernández  
Representante Permanente

Nueva York, 12 de febrero de 2008.

SEÑOR PRESIDENTE:

LA DELEGACION DE EL SALVADOR DESEA EXPRESARLE UN AMPLIO RECONOCIMIENTO POR LA CONVOCATORIA PARA CELEBRAR ESTA REUNIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL, PARTICULARMENTE POR LA ACERTADA DECISION DE INVOLUCRAR EN EL MISMO A DIFERENTES SECTORES GUBERNAMENTALES Y DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL, QUE SON DETERMINANTES DE TOMAR EN CUENTA PARA FORTALECER EL PROCESO DE TOMA DE DECISIONES, EN UN TEMA DE ESPECIAL TRASCENDENCIA PARA NUESTRA COMUNIDAD DE NACIONES, COMO ES LA MANERA EN QUE PODEMOS AFRONTAR LOS DESAFIOS QUE NOS IMPONE LA REALIDAD DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO.

SEÑOR PRESIDENTE:

LA DELEGACION DE EL SALVADOR REITERA LA IMPORTANCIA DE QUE LAS DELIBERACIONES SOBRE ESTE TEMA SE ESTEN DANDO EN EL CONTEXTO MULTILATERAL, ESPECIALMENTE EN EL MARCO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, DEBIDO NO SOLO A QUE LOS EFECTOS DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO HAN ADQUIRIDO UN CARÁCTER GLOBAL, SINO A LA NECESIDAD DE ENFRENTAR ESOS EFECTOS SOBRE LA BASE DE UN CONSENSO UNIVERSAL.

EN ESE SENTIDO, DESEAMOS MANIFESTAR NUESTRA COMPLACENCIA POR LOS RESULTADOS QUE SE OBTUVIERON EN LA REUNIÓN DE BALI EN DICIEMBRE DEL AÑO PASADO, LOS CUALES ESTÁN PERMITTIENDO ABRIR UN ESPACIO DE DIALOGO TENDIENTE A IR AVANZANDO EN LAS NEGOCIACIONES DIRIGIDAS A LOGRAR UN ACUERDO PARA EVITAR LOS PELIGROS QUE ENTRAÑA EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, ASÍ COMO PARA LOGRAR UNA EFECTIVA REDUCCIÓN DE LAS EMISIONES DE GASES DE EFECTO INVERNADERO, ADEMAS DE ABORDAR TEMAS COMO MITIGACION, ADAPTACION, TRANSFERENCIA DE TECNOLOGIA Y FINANCIACION PARA LOS PAÍSES EN DESARROLLO.

EN ESTE ESFUERZO MANCOMUNADO DE NEGOCIACIONES, SE VUELVE IMPERATIVO CONTAR CON LA PARTICIPACION ACTIVA Y EL DECIDIDO COMPROMISO POLITICO, ESPECIALMENTE DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES DESARROLLADOS PARA LOGRAR CONJUNTAMENTE ACUERDOS SUSTANTIVOS EN LA LUCHA CONTRA EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, DADO QUE ESTA LUCHA NO ES DE EXCLUSIVA RESPONSABILIDAD DE DETERMINADOS PAÍSES O GRUPOS DE PAISES, SINO DE TODA LA COMUNIDAD INTERNACIONAL SIN EXCLUSIONES DE NINGUNA NATURALEZA.

PARA NADIE ES DESCONOCIDO, Y TAL COMO LO HAN ASEGUADO LOS EXPERTOS EN EL TEMA, SINO LOGRAMOS REENCAUZAR EL ACTUAL DESEQUILIBRIO AMBIENTAL, ESTAREMOS AL BORDE DE UN CATACLISMO MUNDIAL DE INSOSPECHADAS CONSECUENCIAS QUE, ENTRE OTRAS COSAS,

AFECTARA DE MANERA DRASTICA LA OBTENCION Y UTILIZACION DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES, Y POR ENDE LA ECONOMÍA INTERNACIONAL, Y PEOR AUN AMENAZARA LA EXISTENCIA DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD, INCLUYENDO LA VIDA HUMANA.

EN ESA PERSPECTIVA, ESTIMAMOS QUE EL TEMA DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO REPRESENTA POR SUS MISMOS EFECTOS E IMPLICACIONES MULTIDIMENSIONALES, UNA SERIA AMENAZA A LA SEGURIDAD INTERNACIONAL.

LA DELEGACION DE EL SALVADOR ESTIMA QUE NO PODEMOS CONSIDERAR LAS AMENAZAS A LA SEGURIDAD INTERNACIONAL DESDE UN PUNTO DE VISTA EXCLUSIVAMENTE TRADICIONAL TAL COMO LO HA SIDO DURANTE LOS SESENTA Y DOS AÑOS DE EXISTENCIA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, VINCULANDO ÚNICAMENTE DICHAS AMENAZAS CON LOS PROBLEMAS DE LA GUERRA Y LA PAZ.

DEBEMOS RECORDAR QUE YA EL EX-SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN, KOFI ANNAN, SE REFIRIO A ESTE ENFOQUE EN SU INFORME A LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL, DE 2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2004, TITULADO "UN MUNDO MAS SEGURO: LA RESPONSABILIDAD QUE COMPARTIMOS, EN EL CUAL SE EXPRESA QUE LAS MAYORES AMENAZAS A LA SEGURIDAD HOY EN DÍA VAN MUCHO MAS ALLA DE LAS GUERRAS DE AGRESION ENTRE LOS ESTADOS.

CONSIDERAMOS QUE DESDE QUE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS FUERON CREADAS HASTA AHORA, HAN SURGIDO NUEVAS AMENAZAS A LA SEGURIDAD INTERNACIONAL, LAS CUALES NO PRETENDEMOS ENUNCIAR EN ESTE MOMENTO, PERO ENTRE LAS QUE SIN NINGUNA DUDA SE ENCUENTRA EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, CUYOS EFECTOS COLATERALES POR EJEMPLO, HAN SIDO PUESTOS DE MANIFIESTO POR EL ACTUAL SECRETARIO GENERAL BAN KI-MOON AL EXPRESAR QUE LA ESCASEZ DE AGUA Y DE SUELO CULTIVABLE SE ESTÁN CONVIRTIENDO EN FUENTES DE CONFLICTO EN ALGUNAS PARTES DE AFRICA.

POR ELLO Y TENIENDO ESA NUEVA VISIÓN EN MENTE, TANTO PAÍSES DESARROLLADOS COMO EN DESARROLLO, DEBEMOS DE HACER LOS MAXIMOS ESFUERZOS PARA FRENAR EL IMPACTO DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO Y PRINCIPALMENTE REVERTIR SUS EFECTOS, LOGRANDO QUE LAS TRANSFORMACIONES MUNDIALES EN EL CAMPO ECONOMICO, CIENTIFICO Y TECNOLOGICO SEAN COMPATIBLES CON UN ENTORNO AMBIENTAL QUE A LA VEZ SEA SOSTENIBLE EN EL TIEMPO Y EN EL ESPACIO, PROMOVRIENDO Y FORTALECIENDO CON ELLO LA SEGURIDAD INTERNACIONAL.

SIN EMBARGO, DEBEMOS ESTAR CONSCIENTES QUE ESTE ESFUERZO COLECTIVO SOLO PODRÁ SER VIABLE SI ESTA FUNDAMENTADO EN EL CRITERIO DE LA RESPONSABILIDAD COMÚN PERO DIFERENCIADA, TENIENDO EN CUENTA LAS RESPECTIVAS CAPACIDADES DE ACCIÓN QUE CARACTERIZAN A PAÍSES DESARROLLADOS Y EN DESARROLLO, TAL COMO SE SEÑALO MUY ACERTADAMENTE EN EL INFORME DEL EX-SECRETARIO GENERAL DEL 21 DE MARZO DE 2005, Y QUE HA SIDO REITERADO ULTIMAMENTE POR EL ACTUAL SECRETARIO GENERAL, BAN KI-MOON, EN SU INFORME SOBRE EL PANORAMA GENERAL DE LAS ACTIVIDADES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS RELACIONADAS CON EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO.

EN ESA ORIENTACION, CONSIDERAMOS DE SUMA IMPORTANCIA EL PAPEL QUE PUEDE DESEMPEÑAR EL SECTOR PRIVADO INVOLUCRANDOSE DIRECTAMENTE EN APOYO A LAS POLÍTICAS DE ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA Y COOPERACIÓN DE LOS GOBIERNOS DE LOS PAÍSES DESARROLLADOS HACIA LOS PAÍSES EN DESARROLLO, PRINCIPALMENTE EN CUANTO A CONTRIBUIR CON TRANSFERENCIA DE TECNOLOGIA PARA MODIFICAR LOS PATRONES TRADICIONALES DE CONSUMO ENERGETICO, Y A LA VEZ, AYUDAR A MITIGAR LOS EFECTOS DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO.

FINALMENTE, SOLO QUISIERAMOS EXPRESAR NUESTRO FIRME DESEO DE QUE LAS PALABRAS DE TODAS DELEGACIONES SE CONVIERTAN EN REALIDAD PARA AFRONTAR COLECTIVAMENTE LOS PROBLEMAS COMUNES DEL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, TODO ELLO EN CONCORDANCIA Y SEGUIMIENTO A LOS COMPROMISOS UNANIMES DE LOS JEFES DE ESTADO Y DE GOBIERNO, EXPRESADOS EN LA REUNIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL SOBRE EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO CELEBRADA EN ESTA SEDE EL 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE DEL AÑO RECIENTE PASADO.

MUCHAS GRACIAS

# Responding to a multifaceted challenge: the UN at work

February 11, 2008

## Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities

*Remarks of the Facilitators  
Ambassador Claude Heller, Mexico  
Ambassador Peter Maurer, Switzerland*

- This panel is proof of the lively debate that continues on scientific knowledge and the policies responses to the challenge of climate change.
- We would like to highlight that there is a third dimension of International Environmental Governance in the sense that we have to foresee how to organize ourselves to respond more effectively to the challenges we are facing and we will face in the future.
- The international environmental governance is still a work in progress. We should remember that the common concern for the preservation of the global environment started almost four decades ago.
- As we know, a large number of entities, governmental and non-governmental, have a stake in dealing with environmental issues. The proliferation of international bodies dealing with different facets of the environmental agenda also reflects the rapid evolution of that agenda over the past decades and the proliferation of new entities and structures dealing with it.
- The complexity of this system is a mirror of the complexity and diversity of environmental issues themselves, spanning from clean drinking water, to soils, biodiversity, atmosphere, and, of course, climate change; all of them

dealing with the fundamental, overarching issue of the viability of the ecosystems and the sustainability of life.

- As in a symphonic orchestra, all the elements that are part of the international environmental governance should play together, in a coherent, timely way, in synchrony with what all the others elements are doing, pursuing a common goal.
- But what the experts have found is that such orchestra does not play well all the time. This diagnostic has been recurrent over the last years.
- It is true that the international environmental governance has been successful in mobilizing the politicians, the scientific community, the civil society, the academia, and the business sector for raising the profile of environmental concerns. The diversity of participants to environmental events, like this one, and the sophistication of key reports, like the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a proof of that success.
- But is also true that the current system shows the problems generated by a fast, unplanned growth: lack of coherence and coordination among the different UN bodies dealing with the environment; fragmentation for scientific assessment, policy advice and implementation; a fragmented legal framework; heavy burden on Member States; insufficient capacity building and technical assistance; complex and insufficient funding mechanisms; insufficient use of partnerships, among others..
- Following a decision contained in the World Summit 2005 Outcome Document, States agreed to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework, including a more integrated structure, for environmental activities in the United Nations system. The General Assembly has explored the advantages and disadvantages of the United Nations



activities on the environment.

- In January 2006 the PGA designated two Co-Chairs of the Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' environmental activities. We, the co-chairs of that process, after extensive consultations with the Membership, representatives from the environmental treaties, UN bodies, and civil society, have presented an "Options paper" last June. We have received inputs to that document, highlighting the need to progress in the environmental arena, as well as to have similar progress on issues related to development and social equity.
- We think that we should move forward in that process and reach agreements where consensus exists. In this context, we intend to facilitate a draft resolution for that purpose in a close future, based on the consultations we have been realizing and we expect the support of the Membership in this endeavor.
- The strengthening of the international environmental governance should bring a better performance and accountability of the bodies created by the international community that deal with the environment, including the topic that convenes us today: climate change. That's why we highlight again the importance for reaching decisions in the issue of international environmental governance.

S U O M I



F I N L A N D

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United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate, 11 and 12 February 2008  
"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work"

Statement by

Mr. Markku Niinioja

Ambassador for Climate Change

Finland

New York, 12 February 2008

(check against delivery)

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is now high on the political agenda. Based on the recent findings of scientists and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we now have a better understanding of how multifaceted this problem is and what needs to be done in the short and medium term to address it.

Cooperation is the only solution. We need a common vision. The United Nations climate conference in Bali launched an inclusive negotiating process to be concluded by December 2009 in Copenhagen with a new global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement. For the first time, it has been agreed that all nations must take part in reducing emissions. Contributions expected of countries at different stages of development need to reflect their capabilities.

The United Nations has a decisive role in the response to climate change. The UNFCCC is the primary forum for future action, but the contribution of the entire UN system is required. Therefore, the efforts towards greater coherence and coordination of the UN system will assist us in developing coherent, integrated and holistic responses. The Report of the Secretary General demonstrates that the UN has already done much, but even greater efforts are required. United efforts, partnerships and cooperation between various stakeholders are needed. The new challenges resulting from the Bali Roadmap call for a strengthened international environmental governance. The UN should serve as the key forum bringing together stakeholders from private and public sectors as well as civil society.

Let me now touch upon some issues of particular interest to Finland. Climate change has serious implications on international peace and security. Even if we are successful in our efforts in mitigating climate change and adapting to its consequences, the impact on ecosystems, agriculture, human health and - as we have already seen with rising sea levels in small island states - human security, will have a profound effect on the international security environment. No country can tackle problems of this magnitude alone. Sound environmental policies need to become an essential part of conflict prevention on a global scale. In this respect, Finland is pleased about the ongoing cooperation between UNEP and the Peacebuilding Commission, which will involve environmental advocacy at the political level in New York as well as technical assistance to UN country teams in the pilot countries of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Development is another main field of UN activities where climate change is currently one of the biggest threats. Climate change makes the attainment of Millennium Development Goals more difficult. It is not only an environmental issue; it is a sustainable development challenge. Integration of climate into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies is crucial.

Forests play an important role in sustainable development. However, deforestation and changes in land-use continue at an alarming rate. It is estimated that some 20% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions result from deforestation in tropical forests. If we don't stop this development, the consequences can be grave. Sustainable forest management in all countries can be crucial in reducing greenhouse gases, not only through the sink effect but also by providing a source for renewable energy and material substitution through harvested wood products. I am satisfied to note that the importance of forests is now widely recognised in the international climate policy debate. In Bali, we decided to make the reduction of emissions from deforestation in developing countries one of the building blocks of the future climate change regime. The contribution of various UN institutions and other stakeholders will be needed to cover this new element in climate discussions.

Lastly, Finland welcomes the emergence of the gender perspective in the climate change debate. Impoverished women's disadvantages - their limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and muted voice in shaping decisions - make them highly vulnerable to climate change. However, women are not just helpless victims of climate change. Women are also potentially powerful agents of change through their knowledge and responsibilities in natural resource management. This also relates to children who are closely dependent on women. All aspects connected to climate change - not only mitigation and adaptation, but also policy development and decision making - should include a gender perspective.

Thank You, Mr President



# FRANCE

## ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES

**Débat thématique intitulé  
"Faire face aux changements climatiques :  
Les Nations Unies et le monde au travail"**

**Intervention prononcée par S.E. M. Bernard Kouchner,  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes de la  
République française**

**New York, mardi 12 février 2008**

**(Vérifier au prononcé)**

La France s'associe au discours de la présidence européenne.

Je voudrais tout d'abord saluer l'initiative du Président de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, M. Kerim. Notre réunion d'aujourd'hui est particulièrement opportune, c'est-à-dire qu'elle porte sur le bon sujet, qu'elle se déroule au bon endroit et intervient au bon moment.

Le bon sujet, car que nous savons que le changement climatique est aujourd'hui un enjeu qui nécessite la mobilisation de l'ensemble des Nations unies.

Le bon endroit, car l'Assemblée Générale doit prendre ses responsabilités sur une question si lourde de conséquences en matière économique et de développement.

Le bon moment, enfin, car, après la réunion organisée par le Secrétaire général le 24 septembre, nous partageons les principaux diagnostics et connaissons les directions à emprunter. Après l'accord inespéré sur la feuille de route de Bali, le chemin qui nous mène à Copenhague est court, mais il est semé d'embûches.

Trois principes doivent donc très vite guider l'action de la communauté internationale : la responsabilité, l'équité et le pragmatisme.

La responsabilité. Grâce au travail formidable du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur le climat (GIEC), prix Nobel de la paix, les acteurs économiques et l'opinion mondiale sont désormais conscients des enjeux. Un accord global sur le régime post 2012 est à portée de mains : c'est maintenant aux décideurs politiques du monde entier de s'engager. Comme l'a souligné le rapport Stern, le coût de l'inaction est trop élevé, nous ne pouvons pas l'imposer aux générations futures.

L'Europe connaît son devoir, elle sait ce que l'on attend d'elle et ne s'y dérobera pas. L'Union européenne met aujourd'hui en place des mesures sans équivalent, qui lui permettront de réduire de 20% ses émissions en 2020. La France a quant à elle inscrit dans sa loi l'engagement de réduire ses émissions de 75% d'ici 2050. C'est une volonté partagée par l'ensemble de la société française, consciente de l'importance de ces enjeux.

Second principe : l'équité. L'exemplarité de quelques-uns ne suffira pas ; c'est l'ensemble de la communauté internationale qui doit réagir. Et les Nations Unies sont le seul cadre d'une action universelle. L'ONU seule peut affirmer et réaliser le principe fondateur d'une responsabilité commune et différenciée.

Ici, les pays les moins développés peuvent se faire entendre. C'est dans cette enceinte aussi que ceux qui accèdent enfin à la croissance économique peuvent faire valoir leurs intérêts légitimes. C'est là encore que peuvent peser ceux dont l'existence même est menacée par la montée des océans, la désertification, la raréfaction des ressources naturelles, les risques sanitaires, les catastrophes naturelles – périls comme toujours à la fois universels et inégalitaires, comme toujours à la fois aveugles et tristement ciblés. Et c'est dans ce forum que peut se résorber la contradiction apparente entre développement et défis environnementaux, comme l'esquisse le dernier rapport sur le développement humain du PNUD.

Les liens entre la lutte contre la pauvreté, les impératifs de la croissance économique (notamment la sécurité énergétique) et l'indispensable combat contre le changement climatique peuvent et

doivent être articulés dans une politique innovante qui contribuera, j'en suis convaincu, à la définition d'un nouveau paradigme de sécurité collective et de développement. L'ONU seule est capable de porter cette gigantesque ambition.

Ceci n'empêche pas, bien sûr, que les autres lieux de dialogue ont leur utilité, qu'il s'agisse du G8 ou du dialogue entre les grandes économies (« MEM , major economies meeting »). Mais leur rôle est d'aider à dégager un accord qui ne peut s'inscrire que dans le cadre des Nations Unies.

Troisième principe, le pragmatisme. L'ampleur des enjeux et de la tâche nous interdisent de privilégier tel ou tel moyen d'action. Il n'y a pas de panacée, pas de solution unique. Les progrès, comme souvent, ne viendront qu'en tâtonnant, en essayant, en diversifiant les initiatives et les niveaux d'action.

Si nous devons recourir à des mécanismes de marché pour établir enfin un prix mondial du carbone, il faut peut-être aussi réfléchir à l'idée d'une taxe carbone. Si nous devons développer les transferts de technologie du Nord vers le Sud, il nous faudra aussi favoriser les coopérations Sud-Sud, très prometteuses. Il nous faudra surtout privilégier des accords de coopération concrets basés sur une approche sectorielle, en identifiant les projets adaptés à chaque situation locale.

Responsabilité, équité, pragmatisme : forte de ces trois principes, l'action des Nations unies peut aujourd'hui prendre une dimension nouvelle et nous permettre de faire le pas décisif que les citoyens attendent, que notre devoir nous impose. Le temps presse. La France est déterminée à répondre à cette exigence.

C'est ce que nous avons fait au niveau national, avec le grand moment de débat, de diagnostic et de proposition transversal que fut le Grenelle de l'environnement.

C'est ce que nous ferons ici, avec vous. Comme tous nos partenaires de l'Union européenne, nous voulons que la gouvernance des questions de climat et d'environnement progresse rapidement. Attachés aux valeurs du multilatéralisme, nous soutiendrons donc toutes les initiatives qui permettront d'accroître l'efficacité de l'action des Nations Unies en la matière. Nous voulons que l'« unité d'action » face au changement climatique devienne réalité. Il ne tient qu'à nous d'y parvenir. C'est le sens de ma présence ici.

Mais nous devons nous garder de disperser nos efforts. La prise de conscience nouvelle et salutaire des enjeux environnementaux entraîne une multiplication des initiatives. Elles doivent être mieux coordonnées.

Le système des Nations Unies bénéficie d'ores et déjà d'irremplaçables outils d'expertise scientifique, d'observation, d'alerte et de prévention des catastrophes. Avec une meilleure coordination, nous aurons enfin un outil sans équivalent pour traiter le défi climatique dans toutes ses dimensions.

Modification des équilibres écologiques, désertification, raréfaction des ressources, déplacements de populations : le changement climatique contribue aujourd'hui à exacerber les situations de crises ou de conflits. C'est un défi global, qui impose une réponse des Nations Unies. Le Conseil de sécurité, responsable du maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, doit se doter des outils adaptés à ces nouvelles menaces.

Soyons audacieux, soyons déterminés, soyons unis : nous n'avons pas le choix.



Permanent Mission of Germany  
to the United Nations

Thematic Debate  
of the 62nd session  
of the United Nations General Assembly  
on “Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”

Statement  
by H.E. Ambassador Thomas Matussek  
Permanent Representative of Germany  
to the United Nations

New York, 13 February 2008

*Please check against delivery*





Mister President,

Let me start by thanking you, Mr President, for convening this very timely discussion in the General Assembly. We must keep up the high level of attention and awareness which we managed to build up during the course of last year.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Slovenian Presidency on behalf of the European Union.

2007 was a year of unprecedented political momentum to fight climate change. The IPCC findings have made it crystal clear: the impact will be dramatic, unless we take resolute action. Germany is proud to have taken the lead during our Presidency in Spring 2007 to prepare groundbreaking decisions at the EU level on the reduction of GHG emissions. As host to the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, we set further milestones, in particular the clear commitment to the UN climate process. Our leaders confirmed this almost uniformly at the SG's High-Level Event on 24 September.

And in Bali, we successfully launched a negotiating process to be completed by 2009 with a new global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement. One thing was clear: the UN system is the appropriate multilateral framework through which the necessary future climate change regime can be established.

We, the industrialised countries, have to remain the driving force. This is a question of fairness and of credibility. We, the industrialised countries, have to reduce our GHG emissions between 25 and 40 % (compared to 1990 levels) – as laid down by the IPCC.

The European Union is willing to reduce its GHG emissions by 30% by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels) in the framework of an international agreement. We, Germany, will in this case even commit to a 40% reduction. The German Government has adopted an integrated climate and energy policy plan in 2007. The key elements are energy efficiency and renewables. Let me just highlight the following aspects.

- We will massively expand renewable energies. In the electricity sector we will double the share of renewables by 2020 (from the current level of 14%). We are aiming at a 14% share in the heat sector.
- We will raise standards for energy efficiency in buildings by 30% by 2009 and by another 30% after 2012.
- More than 2.3 billion USD per year will be made available for the modernisation of energy systems in buildings.

We remain convinced: A climate-friendly restructuring of our economies is both possible and affordable. Ambitious climate policy does not constitute an obstacle to economic and sustainable growth. On the contrary: climate protection makes sound economic sense. It is a driving force for innovation and employment. In Germany, every billion Euro spent on energy-saving modernisation of existing buildings secures or creates some 25.000 jobs in the building and crafts sector. Some 214.000 have been created in the renewables sector over the past ten years, 60.000 only in the wind energy sector.

The role of the private sector as part of the global efforts to address climate change is universally recognised. The question of public-private-partnerships which has been raised in our panel discussions is crucial. Global action makes climate efforts more cost-efficient, and more can be achieved with the same level of investment.

Climate Change is first and foremost a sustainable development challenge. Without a stable climate and without adequate knowledge of future climate change trends, we may not achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

But Climate Change is even more than that: it is the most universal and most comprehensive of problems. For some countries – as we have heard – it is a matter of sheer existence: it affects areas like health, security, migration, nutrition. Germany will continue to support all international efforts to counter the adverse effects of climate change and to reach a global agreement. But only a UN based framework implies that all countries' voices can be heard and considered. Only the UN system can address the complementary challenges of development and climate change in a coherent manner.

The UN system needs to respond on the basis of a coherent strategic vision, setting out common goals and priorities, showing clearly the comparative advantage of UN entities in tackling climate change. The report of the SG is a useful start of this process.

It clearly states that the UN needs to be more than merely the sum of its parts. The real challenge is to develop and implement effectively integrated policies. The whole UN system has to strengthen its answer to global challenges and ensure that the answer comes in a united voice.

In the future, financing of mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as technology transfer will be the key issues. They require new and innovative concepts. As the interactive panel discussions have shown: the UN should serve as the key forum by bringing together various stakeholders from private and public sectors. The UN system needs to enhance the networking capacities and the coordination for international joint action.

So if the United Nations is best suited to tackle the pressing issue of climate change, it must step up cooperation across the system to meet the challenge.

As Chancellor Merkel pointed out here in New York last September: Climate change will be the litmus test of the international community's ability to act effectively in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The UN is at the heart of this process. Germany is willing to do its share. We are looking forward to cooperating with all partners within the United Nations.

Thank you.

# GHANA



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## STATEMENT

BY

**HONOURABLE KWADWO ADJEI-DARKO**  
**MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

DELIVERED

AT

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**THEMATIC DEBATE ON "ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK"**

NEW YORK, 12 FEBRUARY 2008

The President of the General Assembly,  
The UN Secretary General,  
Your Excellencies,

The year 2007 has gone <sup>down</sup> ~~done~~ into history as the year that has seen unprecedented attention on the issue of climate change. Several high level meetings, including that which was organised by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, and the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Bali, Indonesia, which led to agreement of the Bali Action Plan, are worth mentioning. This week's meeting should further help to maintain the momentum that was generated in 2007.

Mr President, the Bali Action Plan identifies four main building blocks that need to be considered in any future international agreement on climate change namely:

- (1) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change
- (2) Enhanced action on adaptation
- (3) Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation
- (4) Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investments to support actions on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation

It has become increasingly apparent that multilateralism, with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the forefront, is the surest way to addressing the climate change challenge which has such a global dimension.

The UN system should therefore developed strategic objectives to promote the development of national and international policies that support the effective implementation of these four building blocks for future agreement on climate change.

The UN Agencies can work with national governments in mainstreaming climate change into development planning as well as into national decentralization processes.

Mr. President, currently the UNDP Office in Ghana, as part of its annual work programme for 2008, is working with the Ghana Government to disseminate the Human Development Report 2007/2008 which has climate change as its

theme, with the view to, inter alia, raising awareness both at the community and the highest political levels and also to support Ghana Government in implementing concrete adaptation programmes in seven selected pilot districts in the country. This is a concrete example that demonstrates how the UN system including its Agencies can assist Member States in addressing mitigation actions and policies and scaling up support for adaptation efforts at the national levels

The UN system could take concrete action in moving from "talk about technology" to actual deployment and transfer of climate friendly technologies to developing countries by initiating an international agreement on the development and transfer of technology under the existing UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to ensure, among others;

- (i) the implementation of technology needs identified through country driven processes;
- (ii) the implementation of joint research and development programmes and activities in the development of new technologies;
- (iii) the implementation of technology development and transfer demonstration projects;
- (iv) the creation of enabling environment for technology development and transfer and
- (v) the promotion of North-South and South-south cooperation

The Government of Ghana stands ready to actively engage in the discussion of future international agreements to address the threats climate change has on sustainable development including the divesting impacts of climate change on Governments efforts on reducing poverty.

I thank you.





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**Sixty-second Session  
of the United Nations' General Assembly**

**Thematic Debate  
“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”**

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**Statement by  
Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis  
Secretary-General  
for International Economic Relations and Development Co-operation &  
Special Representative of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Climate Change**

**NEW YORK  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

*Check against delivery*

**Address by the Secretary-General for International Economic Relations and Development Co-operation and Special Representative of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs on climate change, Mr. Theodore Skylakakis**

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Mr. President,

Congratulations for organizing this important debate on climate change.

Climate change is one of the greatest and certainly most complex challenges that the international community is dealing with today and has to address in the years to come. Climate change is already an environmental, social and economic reality. And most of its consequences within the next few decades will occur no matter what we decide to do today to mitigate the problem of emissions. There are two time lags involved here. One is the time lag between policy decisions and policy implementation. The second time lag is inherent to the phenomenon itself.

Climate change is a global problem and can not be addressed by the efforts of any single country or group of countries. Everyone's emissions are influencing everybody else on this planet. This means that any individual, organization, or country that is not participating in our common effort to meet this challenge, is at the same moment both taking advantage of and undermining this global endeavour.

Our task becomes all the more difficult since we need to find a global compromise that takes into consideration the various perspectives of all stakeholders. The different contribution to the problem between developed, developing and least developed countries, the different historic emissions contributions between countries, the different priorities and attitudes, the different economic, social and environmental impacts, the different adaptation capacities, and keep, at the same time, the growth rates and the increase in development assistance and cooperation needed, to achieve the MDG's.

In Bali a positive step was taken. We agreed to launch formal negotiations on a global agreement for the period after 2012 and to end these negotiations in 2009.

How can we achieve this monumental task. Developed countries bear most of the responsibility. Fast growing economies in the developing world, where most of the world development will occur in the next decades, have to do their part. And the rest of the developing world, especially the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island States, has also to be actively involved in the negotiation.

The Least Developed Countries, lacking the capacity to deal with the negative effects of climate change, are and will be affected the worst, although they have played a minor role in the creation of the problem. These countries can morally play a catalyst's role to the successful outcome of our negotiation.

Coming now to the specific vehicles that we can use, I would like to briefly refer to Public Private Partnerships, which can be a very useful tool for implementing our efforts to address climate change, especially in the areas of mitigation and technology transfer. Involving the private sector in this way permits us to share with him goals, resources, knowledge and expertise, while it greatly diminishes the political risks involved in the huge -trillion dollar- investments that have to be made to move towards a carbon free global economy. Investments that can be paid back only in the

long run and thus need the reassurance of a stable political environment and of the contractual obligations of the states involved, created within the PPP context.

Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities in relation to climate change. The UN system can and should play a pivotal role in addressing this challenge. But it is also crucial for member states to do their share both at the domestic and the international level.

For Greece's government, environmental policy is central in our efforts. We believe that growth and the environment can never be treated as two separate, unrelated fields. So we have revised our National Programme for the reduction of greenhouse gases to absolutely ensure the achievement of our European Union and international obligations. Greece is fully consistent with its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, and the government will further intensify its efforts -not just complying with Kyoto and EU policies- but because we consider it as our moral obligation. Renewable energy is also crucial for Greece and towards this a special spatial planning law will help raise the production of alternative 'green' energy to 20% in 2010 and 30% in 2020. Also recycling has increased from 6% of all waste to 24% in the last three years.

As far as the efforts at the international level we believe that the United Nations system, apart from its crucial role towards achieving and implementing a new global agreement for the post 2012 period, should also continue to be actively involved in assisting member states in the promotion of their climate change policies and the implementation of any relevant initiatives at the regional or international level.

Greece is active at that level too. The current Greek Chairmanship of Human Security Network has adopted as its main priority the impact of climate change on human security and in particular on vulnerable population groups, such as women, children and people fleeing their homes due to climate change. Relevant policy papers and initiatives are being prepared in cooperation with UNICEF, the United Nations University, the International Organization for Migration and other international partners.

Our priority has also a regional dimension. We intend to concentrate on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, where significant resources into financing adaptation efforts should be committed. In this respect and believing in the importance of enhancing regional cooperation on adaptation, we have already earmarked funds, in order to finance adaptation projects in the LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, in cooperation with and through relevant regional organizations.

Mr. President,

The challenge of climate change is the historic challenge of our generation. We must meet it working together, with common purpose and determination.

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DISCURSO DE GUATEMALA  
DEBATE TEMÁTICO SOBRE CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO  
NUEVA YORK, 11 Y 12 DE FEBRERO 2008

Señor Presidente,

Mi delegación aprovecha la oportunidad que nos brinda de nuevamente ahondar en el tema del cambio climático, específicamente en su relación con el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y el mundo. Antes de pasar a hacer unas reflexiones de carácter nacional, Guatemala se asocia a la intervención realizada por el Embajador Ashe de Antigua y Barbuda, a nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China.

Más que volver a resaltar lo que Guatemala y la sub-región centroamericana han sufrido por los efectos nefastos de este fenómeno, mi delegación desea reflexionar sobre el horizonte que como país latinoamericano vemos ante nosotros en nuestra lucha por hacer frente a este problema.

La región de América Latina y el Caribe, como un todo, tan sólo emite el 5% de los gases de efecto de invernadero en el mundo, y sin embargo enfrenta, de manera desproporcionada, serias amenazas por los efectos adversos del cambio climático y el calentamiento global, como lo indica un reciente estudio del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA). En los últimos 12 años la región ha sufrido las temperaturas más altas de su historia, desastres naturales y desertificación que afectan y atrasan nuestro desarrollo económico y social. La lucha por erradicar la pobreza que emprendemos se hace aún más cuesta arriba.

Señor Presidente,

Ciertamente el trabajo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y cualquier asociación con el sector privado o con la sociedad civil que se implemente a nivel local o nacional, debe apoyar el trabajo de la Convención. Buscar cómo brindar un apoyo más efectivo a la UNFCCC, es el sentido en el cual cobra valor este debate temático. El día de hoy, nos reunimos a enfocarnos sobre el sistema de Naciones Unidas y el

cambio climático, las asociaciones y el cambio climático, no podemos olvidar que los Estados Miembros tienen una tarea ardua frente a ellos.

Efectivamente, tenemos buenas noticias ahora que recién terminamos la 13ª COP. Podemos mencionar, como ejemplo, la Hoja de Ruta de Bali, las decisiones tomadas sobre el tema de deforestación y la operacionalización del Fondo de Adaptación de la UNFCCC. Sin embargo, las negociaciones no fueron sencillas y estos acuerdos son simplemente el inicio de un proceso más exigente de negociación, pero más aún, un proceso que exige verdadero compromiso y búsqueda de soluciones serias.

Señor Presidente,

no + genuino político

La UNFCCC es el foro donde se debe discutir el cambio climático. El lanzamiento del proceso conocido ahora como la "Hoja de Ruta de Bali" es únicamente una decisión valiente de iniciar un proceso complicado. A finales de abril, ~~principios de marzo~~, empiezan los Grupos de Trabajo recién lanzados. La batalla por vencer el cambio climático apenas comienza. Esto no lo debemos olvidar.

En este sentido, mi delegación quiere resaltar, por ejemplo, la importancia que por fin se empiece a abordar el tema de la deforestación de una forma más completa dentro del marco de la Convención. En general, han habido muchos esfuerzos encaminados a dar tratamiento a este tema, pero no debemos olvidar que la protección de los bosques debe representar un beneficio para todos los involucrados: los que nos beneficiaremos de su conservación y las poblaciones que dependen, para su desarrollo, de los bosques. Encontrar la respuesta a disyuntivas como esta será un reto.

Señor Presidente,

A nivel de países en desarrollo, estamos trabajando para adaptarnos a este fenómeno. Como mencionáramos durante el Evento de Alto Nivel de Cambio Climático de septiembre del año pasado, tomando en cuenta la vulnerabilidad especial de Centroamérica frente al cambio climático, celebraremos en abril del 2008, en Honduras, una Cumbre Presidencial Centroamericana sobre cambio climático y medio ambiente. En esta cumbre discutiremos una estrategia centroamericana de cambio climático y medio ambiente que combine los esfuerzos por mejorar la información con un plan regional de

adaptación, y un programa orientado a la promoción de un nuevo sector económico de bienes y servicios amigables con el clima.

A la vez que llevamos a cabo esfuerzos en los países en desarrollo para adaptarnos al cambio climático, los países desarrollados de la lista del Anexo I tienen compromisos ineludibles que deben enfrentar en materia de reducción de emisiones, transferencia de tecnología y financiamiento que deben cumplir y no sólo incorporar en su retórica, intentar matizarlos o renegociarlos cada vez que celebramos debates, dialogamos y negociamos dentro de la Convención.

A nivel global, el camino lo tenemos trazado tras la recién 13ª COP y mi delegación espera ver, en este debate y en las reuniones posteriores sobre cambio climático, un verdadero avance en el cumplimiento de compromisos y en la consecución de acuerdos que realmente representen la realidad de la responsabilidad común pero diferenciada que tenemos frente al cambio climático.

Muchas gracias.

**Deleted:** A nivel latinoamericano, los Ministros de Ambiente en Republica Dominicana acaba de.....¶



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DISCOURS  
DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR ALPHA IBRAHIMA SOW,  
AMBASSADEUR, REPRESENTANT PERMANENT AU DEBAT  
THEMATIQUE DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE INTITULE : "FAIRE  
FACE AUX CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES : LES NATIONS  
UNIES ET LE MONDE AU TRAVAIL"

New York, le 13 février 2008.

S.V.P Vérifier à l'audition

**Monsieur le Président,**

Je voudrais, au nom de la République de Guinée, vous adresser toute notre appréciation pour l'heureuse initiative que vous avez prise de susciter le présent débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale sur les changements climatiques.

Je tiens également à féliciter le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation, Son Excellence Monsieur Ban Ki-Moon pour son rapport, qui présente une vue d'ensemble exhaustive sur les activités menées par le système des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques.

Je m'associe aux discours d'Antigua et Barbuda au nom du Groupe des 77, du Bangladesh au nom des pays les moins avancés et du Cameroun au nom du Groupe Africain.

En plaçant les changements climatiques au centre de l'Agenda politique, la communauté internationale réaffirme sa détermination à relever un défi mondial urgent et critique qui appelle une réponse à la fois individuelle et collective.

Sur la ligne du débat général, de septembre 2007, de la réunion de haut niveau convoquée par le Secrétaire général et confortée par l'élan créé par les objectifs et la Feuille de route de Bali, l'Assemblée générale offre un cadre d'action et de coopération multilatérale irremplaçable pour promouvoir une négociation fructueuse d'un régime international sur les changements climatiques pour l'après 2012.

Mon pays accueille avec encouragement, à cet égard, les résultats louables issus de la conférence de Bali qui a réussi à lancer les négociations sur les changements climatiques, en vue de parvenir à un accord général et mondial d'ici à la fin de 2009.



**Monsieur le Président,**

Pour la République de Guinée, les changements climatiques constituent à la fois un défi pour la paix et la sécurité que pour le développement durable. En marche accélérée, le réchauffement climatique affecte gravement mon pays et la région, avec des conséquences sensibles en termes de dérèglements écologiques, de désertification, de ressources naturelles et hydriques. Sans multiplier les constats alarmistes, unanimement connus et reconnus, je peux souligner que si rien n'est fait dès maintenant, notre région risque d'être condamnée à la misère et à la pauvreté et sans réel espoir d'atteindre à la date envisagée, les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

Dans ce contexte, nous saluons la participation active des pays les moins avancés et du Groupe des 77 aux négociations de Bali et soutenons la concentration de la communauté internationale sur les domaines d'action définis que sont l'adaptation, l'atténuation, le renforcement des capacités, la technologie et le financement, le développement durable etc.

Après Bali, le monde a besoin d'engagements clairs et fermes et surtout d'actes. Car les réalisations ne sont pas à la hauteur des modestes promesses tenues et des enjeux.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Si comme vous l'avez souligné, le débat actuel ne peut remplacer les négociations lancées à Bali, il pourrait néanmoins influencer le processus en impulsant, de manière coordonnée et efficace le partenariat à tous les niveaux national, régional et global entre les Etats membres, le système des Nations Unies et les autres parties prenantes : secteurs privés, société civile, institutions financières, universitaires, scientifiques et de recherche etc.

Mon pays se réjouit de la participation sans exclusive de tous les acteurs du changement climatique et du développement aux présentes interactions.

Il souhaite la mise en place progressive d'un accord global et ce conformément au principe des «responsabilités communes – mais différenciées».

Nous réitérons également la nécessité urgente de mobiliser pleinement les outils financiers, techniques et institutionnels nécessaires prévus dans la «Convention-cadre» de Bali pour renforcer les capacités d'adaptation des pays les plus pauvres et des plus vulnérables aux effets néfastes, souvent catastrophiques et imprévisibles des changements climatiques.

Dans ce cadre, nous devons nous employer à rendre opérationnel le plan-cadre de Nairobi, en vue de faciliter la participation des pays en développement au Mécanisme de développement propre.

Mon pays se félicite du lancement des nombreuses initiatives nationales, bilatérales et multilatérales de nature à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations, réduire la pauvreté et la marginalisation en tenant compte de l'environnement.

Ce faisant, il exprime sa reconnaissance à tous les pays et partenaires qui ont fait des engagements concrets, mesurables et ciblés et singulièrement au Japon, dont le Premier Ministre a fait la promesse solennelle, lors du récent Forum de Davos, d'établir un nouveau mécanisme de financement d'un montant de 10 milliards de dollars américains, appelé «Cool Earth Partnership» pour appuyer concrètement les efforts des pays en développement à faire face au changement climatique.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Permettez-moi, pour conclure, d'évoquer cette belle formule que vous inspire votre engagement résolu, que nous partageons, en faveur de la lutte contre le changement climatique : Citation « Il est nécessaire d'avoir une vision commune, un consensus mondial, une alliance mondiale pour agir, partagée par des individus, les médias, des législateurs, des dirigeants du monde des affaires, de la communauté mondiale incarnée par les Nations Unies. Seulement alors, nous aurons une chance de nous attaquer à ce défi énorme pour nos vies » fin de citation.

**Je vous remercie.**



*Mission Permanente de la République d'Haïti  
auprès des Nations Unies*

**INTERVENTION  
DE  
S.E.M. JEAN MARIE CLAUDE GERMAIN,  
MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI**

**Débat thématique intitulé : « Faire face aux changements climatiques :  
Les Nations Unies et le monde au travail »**

**New York, le 12 février 2008**

**Vérifier au prononcé**

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,  
Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée générale  
Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

C'est avec plaisir que je prends la parole à ce débat sur la thématique « *Faire face aux changements climatiques : les Nations Unies et le monde au travail* ». Permettez-moi, d'entrée de jeu, de remercier très sincèrement le Président de l'Assemblée Générale pour cette invitation à participer à cette réunion. Je lui souhaite plein succès dans l'accomplissement de cette noble tâche.

Qu'il me soit permis également de présenter mes plus sincères remerciements au Secrétaire Général pour son rapport dont le contenu informationnel guidera et inspirera nos prochaines délibérations dans la recherche des moyens d'actions qui nous permettront de lutter de façon plus adéquate contre les effets néfastes des changements climatiques.

Monsieur le Président

Haïti se réjouit de l'intérêt nouveau accordé aux problèmes de la planète et se félicite du choix à long terme, de la Communauté Internationale, d'agir à partir de la connaissance des réalités plutôt que sur l'illusion et l'approximation, face à la complexité du binôme causes et effets des changements climatiques, extrêmement convaincue que l'évolution du climat augure déjà une crise planétaire sans précédent.

Les principales observations scientifiques de ces quelques dernières années montrent que les conséquences biophysiques des changements climatiques ne sont plus théoriques. Elles sont au contraire, tout à fait, réelles.

Depuis que la Convention Cadre est entrée en vigueur en 1994, les évaluations scientifiques qui se sont succédées, ont confirmé de manière indiscutable que les activités humaines modifiaient la composition de l'atmosphère, comme l'atteste le quatrième rapport d'évaluation du groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC).

Ainsi, la croissance des populations attendue dans les prochaines décennies et la pression démographique sur certaines régions donnent à la question une

dimension d'autant plus inquiétante que ce sont les populations, notamment des Petits États Insulaires en Développement (PEID), les plus vulnérables et les moins responsables de ces dérives climatiques qui auront à en payer injustement le prix.

Le Monde actuel sait qu'il n'existe pas de décharge pour se débarrasser des gaz à effet de serre. Il sait, tout aussi bien, que dans l'éventualité où il stopperait dès aujourd'hui, les émissions, les impacts des changements climatiques se feraient sentir pendant encore quelques décennies, en raison du temps de résilience décennale du Gaz Carbonique dans l'atmosphère.

La seule voie qui reste à nos sociétés est de réduire, à proportion, les émissions de CO<sub>2</sub>, selon une responsabilité partagée mais différenciée.

Monsieur le Président,

Haïti, aujourd'hui, comme les autres Petits États Insulaires en Développement (PEID), est confronté à un ensemble de défis internes liés aux changements climatiques menaçant dangereusement sa situation économique, sociale, écologique et, conséquemment limitant ses capacités à réduire la pauvreté et à réaliser ses objectifs en matière de développement Durable.

De par sa situation géographique, Haïti, comme beaucoup de pays voisins des Caraïbes, est en proie chaque année, aux cyclones tropicaux, aux menaces météorologiques pouvant s'aggraver dans les prochaines décennies sous l'effet des changements climatiques. Selon la Commission Économique pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes (CEPALC), elle est la plus vulnérable de l'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes et dont la résilience est la plus faible, en relation aux chocs et stress environnementaux issus des risques et désastres naturels et accentués par les changements du climat. Cumulées au long du 20<sup>ème</sup> siècle, les catastrophes naturelles ont occasionné en Haïti, 14 761 victimes et plus de 5 980,983 sinistrés, des milliers de pertes en vies humaines, des millions de dollars en pertes matérielles.

Quasiment tous les Petits États Insulaires en Développement, en particulier la République d'Haïti et la République Dominicaine, formant l'île Quisqueya, deviennent beaucoup plus vulnérables. Tous les ans, les deux États sont frappés par des catastrophes naturelles. Leurs ressources financières au lieu de se consacrer dans la construction d'infrastructures sociales, dans des activités

productives et rentables dans le cadre d'un développement durable, sont plutôt allouées à panser les déchirures environnementales subséquentes.

En cet instant précis, l'un des ports frontaliers entretenant des échanges commerciaux intenses entre Haïti et la République Dominicaine est en passe d'être hors d'usage, l'une des voies de communication internationale mitoyenne en situation de destruction progressive, en raison de la remontée et du débordement de l'eau d'un des plus grands lacs frontaliers, le Lac Azuëi.

Les derniers dégâts occasionnés par la tempête Noël au niveau des deux pays, ont montré clairement comment un événement, même modéré, peut produire des effets macroéconomiques remarquables et constituer un facteur additionnel contribuant au retard dans l'atteinte des Objectifs de Développement pour le Millénaire.

Monsieur le Président,

Comme l'a souligné Son Excellence, le Président René Garcia PREVAL, lors de sa prise de parole à l'occasion de la dernière Réunion des Chefs d'Etats sur les Changements Climatiques à l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies.

***« Aucun dossier n'exige une réponse plus pressante de la communauté internationale que les changements climatiques qui, sans aucun doute, représentent le plus important défi environnemental actuel et l'enjeu de développement mondial le plus préoccupant ».***

Selon cette vision, Haïti après avoir signé et ratifié la Convention sur les changements climatiques, préparé un Plan d'Action National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques assorti d'un ensemble de projets plurisectoriels, élaboré des communications nationales, a enrichi ses engagements vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale, à travers la ratification et la signature d'autres accords Multilatéraux d'intérêt, tels : le Protocole de Kyoto, le Protocole de Montréal sur l'appauvrissement de la couche d'ozone, la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique et la Convention sur la lutte contre la Désertification.

Haïti est en train également, de mettre en place son autorité nationale désignée (AND), comme gage de son attachement au protocole de Kyoto.

Conscient de l'importance déterminante que revêtent la surveillance et la prévision du climat pour la protection des personnes et des biens, Haïti vient de se doter d'un Observatoire National de l'Environnement et de la Vulnérabilité, l'ONEV. Une nouvelle façon pour le pays de disposer de données fiables et pertinentes, de renforcer ses capacités d'adaptation et d'intégrer les informations et les prévisions climatiques aux processus de décision et d'évaluation, de manière à en retirer le plus d'avantages possible sur le plan socioéconomique.

Monsieur le Président,

Haïti est l'un des pays qui croit que les changements climatiques ne sont pas irréversibles, les effets sont gérables. Ils peuvent être surmontés si des comportements, fondés non sur la domination mais sur la vigilance, sont adoptés et si des réponses adéquates de différente nature sont prises en temps utiles et les actions d'atténuation acceptées.

Dans cet ordre d'idées et au nombre des mesures d'adaptation, le gouvernement haïtien vient, entre autre, de promouvoir un accord trilatéral avec Cuba et la République Dominicaine en jetant les bases de la création d'un corridor Biologique sur terre comme sur mer. Cette initiative pionnière dans la Caraïbe fortement soutenue par la branche régionale du programme des nations Unies pour l'Environnement, aura permis de préserver la biodiversité, fournir des biens et services aux trois peuples et garantir la survie des écosystèmes vulnérables, sensibles aux variations climatiques.

Monsieur le Président,

La conscientisation sur les changements climatiques va, aujourd'hui, en grandissant. Le temps a validé les thèses du quatrième rapport du GIEC et nous sommes beaucoup plus nombreux à poser le même diagnostic.

Il nous reste à nous rallier à la grande finalité : Protéger la vie et préserver les vies.

Je persiste à croire que les répercussions de la variabilité du climat et des changements climatiques sur les activités humaines et les écosystèmes posent d'importants défis, pour ce qui est du développement durable.



La situation d'Haïti, comme celle de la grande majorité des Petits États Insulaires en Développement, illustre clairement l'interdépendance entre les Changements Climatiques, la pauvreté, les risques et désastres naturels, la désertification et la perte de la biodiversité.

Je profite pour lancer du haut de cette tribune, un appel à la communauté internationale en vue d'intensifier davantage, et en urgence, son appui aux efforts des Petits États Insulaires en Développement qu'elle reconnaît d'ailleurs comme fragiles et vulnérables aux effets des Changements Climatiques.

Je vous remercie.



# **The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson  
Permanent Representative of Iceland  
to the United Nations**

## **High-level Thematic Debate**

**“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”**

12 February 2008

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**The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations  
800 Third Ave. 36<sup>th</sup> fl. - Tel 212-593-2700. - Fax 212-593-6269**

We thank you for convening this Thematic Debate on one of the major concerns of mankind today; namely "Addressing Climate Change". Last September world leaders sent an unambiguous political message to the delegations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Bali, guiding them to ambitiously seek a common ground to deal with the threats caused by global warming. The Bali Action Plan - with its four equally important building blocks - mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing - must lead to a comprehensive global agreement in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

The difference in views on approaches to the threat of worldwide climate disturbances is understandable. It reflects gaps in social conditions and industrial development between the wealthiest and the poorest nations. The most vulnerable, including the Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries, which will be hardest hit, are least responsible for causing climate change. We must accept the fact that securing a safe future for mankind is the common responsibility of all nations. It is obvious that the economic costs of doing so must be shared according to means.

It is important to note, as others have done, that financing of climate change adaptation and investments in mitigating technologies can not - and must not - in any way undermine development cooperation aimed at obtaining the Millennium Development Goals.

In the Background Paper for this Thematic Discussion you put forward some highly relevant and important questions about the role of the United Nations in addressing climate change.

And the UN has indeed an important role to play, and so have we all, individually and collectively. National governments and local authorities have legislative and enforcement roles and regional groups of states should foster very close cross-border cooperation.

We welcome the initiatives of groups of world leaders, like the G-8 and the Major Economies' Meetings on Energy Security and Climate Change. Their efforts are a valuable contribution towards a common binding United Nations agreement. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only viable forum, both for reaching and enforcing a worldwide consensus on actions for addressing climate change in a comprehensive way. The General Assembly, however, is an appropriate forum for giving political guidance, as this thematic debate should demonstrate.

The role of the United Nations institutions in supporting and financing necessary actions is vital. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation are instrumental in bringing about and supporting partnership actions worldwide and are helpful in designing and implementing innovative financing mechanisms.

The transfer of technology is one of the crucial elements in addressing climate change. Governments should facilitate investments by the private sector in new clean energy technology in developing countries and countries in transition, especially with legislation providing security of investments and by avoiding burdening new technologies with undue taxation.

By encouraging the private sector to invest in clean energy technologies in developing countries, a whole new world of opportunities for future technological innovation may be opened. It is estimated that by the year 2030 up to seven trillion dollars worth of clean energy investments may have been made, paving the way for a carbon neutral future. It is unquestionably the role of the United Nations to ensure that this new industrial revolution does not pass the doors of those countries where new investments and technological knowhow is most needed.

Currently over 80% of all primary energy used in Iceland is renewable, which is the highest ratio of renewable energy use in the world. Iceland is proud to be at the forefront of developing the most advanced technology to harvest one of the cleanest and safest renewable energy resource in the world. Geothermal power is potentially accessible in some ways in over 90 countries in the world. It is estimated that new geothermal power projects could increase installed capacity by 50 percent or more in the next five years worldwide, as the number of countries with geothermal power operations will double to over 40.

For almost 30 years the Icelandic government has operated and funded the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme, training hundreds of young professionals, both men and women from 40 developing countries. These professionals have later become instrumental in the buildup of geothermal energy projects in their home countries. This is one kind of technological transfer that we believe is helpful and which should be expanded in the years to come.



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E.MR. NIRUPAM SEN,  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE THEMATIC DEBATE  
CONVENED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE  
WORLD AT WORK”

AT THE

62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 13, 2008



Mr. President,

At the outset, permit me to express our appreciation of your initiative and leadership on this important issue. We associate ourselves with the statement made yesterday by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) remains the only comprehensive framework to deal with climate change issues, a fact reaffirmed during the recent Bali meeting. Efforts to address climate change, including this thematic debate, must support and feed into the ongoing processes under the UNFCCC rather than create parallel processes. Such efforts should also be based on the provisions and principles of UNFCCC, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Other UN system entities can assist, as per their mandates, in the effective implementation of the provisions, commitments and action plans of the UNFCCC. Bertolt Brecht once said that it is sometimes “a crime to talk about a tree because it implies a silence about injustice”. For developing countries, the imperative therefore is poverty eradication and development. The UN is best placed to ensure that addressing climate change does not impede this objective.

I may also add that despite the comprehensive nature of the UNFCCC, background documents for this thematic debate have erroneously referred to ‘framework’ / ‘comprehensive global agreement’ while referring to the agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan. Other mechanisms of the UNFCCC, like the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol for GHG reduction commitments for Annex I Parties post-2012 have also been ignored.

Mr. President,

For developing countries, the issue of adaptation is of crucial importance. They have not contributed to causing climate change, yet will be most adversely affected by it. Further, they also lack adequate means and sufficient capacities for effective adaptation actions. The UN can play a role in this area by assisting national

adaptation strategies through the UN's operational activities, particularly in capacity building, financial and technical support, as well as knowledge sharing. Ultimately, the UN's most effective role in adaptation is to accelerate development, which is the best form of adaptation.

The issues of technology and financing are vital for effectively addressing climate change. We would have liked to see a detailed coverage of these issues in the background documents provided for this debate. Current mechanisms to promote cost-effective and affordable access to advanced clean technologies for developing countries have not been very successful. The UN must play a leading role in this area by promoting joint research; country-driven approaches incorporating existing capacities; adoption and diffusion of technology; greater focus on adaptation technologies; and most important of all, a facilitative IPR regime that balances rewards for innovators with the common good of humankind. The issue may be difficult: the UN must grasp the nettle and not bypass it in background documents.

Similarly, there is an urgent need to provide new and additional financial resources to developing countries for addressing climate change, without diverting resources meant for development. The role of the UN cannot merely be limited to assisting developing countries in formulating policies to enhance climate change related investment flows. It would be myopic to believe that such national efforts would be sufficient to raise the large resource flows required. Instead, the UN must assist in the development of financial mechanisms and funds for effective resource flows into developing countries.

On mitigation, rather than identifying mitigation strategies by developing countries, the UN should focus on how developed countries can sharply reduce their GHG emissions. In this regard, the UN should play an active role in advocacy by urging developed countries to meet their commitments, and to take further ambitious GHG reduction commitments. The UN should also identify various ways and means by which developed countries can take action in mitigation. The developed countries must reduce their emissions so that the developing countries can breathe and grow. In the gospel

of Saint Thomas, discovered and authenticated not so long ago, it is stated that blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. In terms of climate change, one can add that blessed are the poor for they have saved the earth. Perhaps it would now be time for the rich to do something in the same direction.

Mr. President,

Climate Change must be addressed in the context of sustainable development, rather than attempting to integrate it with trade, social, economic, security, migration or humanitarian issues. We would also caution against using discussions on climate change to influence other ongoing UN processes like the System-wide coherence or the International Environment Governance. While the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination can play a role in coordinating UN system efforts, we would like to see much greater member state oversight.

Mr. President,

Partnerships will play an important role in efforts to address climate change through adaptation, mitigation, financing, technology transfer and sustainable forest management and conservation. The UN should foster and promote creative models of partnership, which can assist national efforts. We should not equate this with the commitments of developed countries to provide financing and technology. Also partnerships alone will not be able to combat climate change.

Greater emphasis on South-South cooperation in areas like adaptation would be useful. India would be happy to share with our friends in the developing world, the S&T expertise and capacities that India has built over the years.

Mr. President,

India is very conscious of the challenge of climate change and the serious impact it will have on all of us. Yet, like other developing countries, we have to ensure accelerated and sustained development so that millions of poor people can secure a better



life. This will inevitably require increased energy consumption. Nevertheless, we have stated that even as we pursue development, our per capita GHG emissions would at no stage exceed the per capita GHG emissions of developed countries. Our per capita emissions of 1 ton per annum are only a fourth of the world average, and our cumulative historical emissions of 23 tons is a fraction compared to the 1100 tons emitted by many developed countries.

At the inauguration on 11 February 2008, Mayor Bloomberg asked China and India to accept world energy efficiency standards and said that in future New York taxis would be flexi fuel. All polluting factories around Delhi have been closed down and all Delhi buses and taxis have switched to using Compressed Natural Gas. Thus, we have done what New York still has to do. As for energy efficiency, a recently released World Bank study shows that India's fossil fuel related carbon dioxide emission per dollar of GDP is the same as that of Japan and Germany and newer Indian plants in steel, cement, aluminium and paper have energy efficiencies at the global frontier. Recently India's Ministry of Science and Technology has introduced a technology based on ocean thermal energy conversion that provides clean drinking water from seawater at affordable prices.

India is also entirely sensitive to the concerns of Small Island Developing States that arise out of climate change and will join vigorously in efforts to assist them.

Actions by developed countries to sharply reduce their emissions, and assist developing countries with financial and technical resources, holds the key to successfully combating climate change. We look forward to the United Nations and the world working meaningfully towards this goal.

Thank you, Mr. President



**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar  
Minister of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia**

**Before the General Assembly Plenary on  
Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to thank you for convening this important event to address one of the major challenges to humanity – climate change. I sincerely commend the initiative to keep this issue as a top priority in this year's UN General Assembly agenda. In recognizing the central role of the United Nations in responding to this global challenge, the theme "Addressing Climate Change: the United Nations and the World at Work" is both timely and relevant.

I align my statement with the representative of Antigua and Barbuda speaking on behalf of the Group - 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Just a few months ago, the Climate Change Conference in Bali agreed on the Bali Action Plan. The Plan was a strategic and important milestone. It marked a crucial turning point not only in the area of climate change, but also for humanity. The political commitment was unprecedented and we must continue on that path.

The exceptional feature about the Bali Action Plan is that it reflects a common understanding that no country is immune to climate change. Responding to it certainly requires the effort of developed and developing countries. Developed countries should take the lead, but the success of the Bali Action Plan also requires wider participation around the globe. More action can be expected to take place in the developing world with more ambitious commitments by developed countries.

But let us bear in mind that the window of opportunity is short with only 2008 and 2009 to detail the four building blocks - mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, and financing, including within them, the adaptation fund and deforestation. This short time frame is what compels us all to work harder and together, to have concerted and concrete actions on what we all have committed in Bali. Based on our success in Bali, we are convinced that political partnership must be nurtured, and it should continue to guide and imbue the negotiation process in the two years ahead.

Mr. President,

While political partnerships are essential, the next question is what kind of partnership will contribute to more effective implementation?

In my view, a genuine partnership involves all stakeholders who recognize their "*common but differentiated responsibilities*". This implies that we must muster our sense of urgency to make the necessary choices to curb global warming. There is no other way to do this, but for us to begin thinking outside the box. All of us must dare to recalibrate our new perspective and introduce fresh approaches to our problem. It is important for all of us to do more and do things differently in our own entire life-sphere. All of us can and must contribute in completing our hard work in safeguarding our planet.

Indonesia firmly believes that our attempt to cope with the climate change problems requires the active involvement of all nations—developed and developing, large and small, the north and south—as well as the active engagement of the private sector, civil society and every human being of different generations and backgrounds. Partnership, within and across nations, is the key to our global environmental and climatic concerns.

For this reason Indonesia as the President of COP-13, will continue to play its role in ensuring these commitments by working together with all stakeholders. Together with next President of COP-14 and President of COP-15, we will ensure the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the climate change in 2009.

I am also pleased to inform you that as part of Indonesia's commitment to participate with all nations to address climate change, we launched the National Action Plan for Climate Change. The National Action plan serves as an implementation guide for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by all stakeholders in Indonesia.

The Indonesian Center for Climate Change is being established as a focal point to implement the national action plan for climate change and facilitate and monitor technical assistance and cooperation with the international community in the area of mitigation, adaptation, Reduced Emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) and technology transfer.

Let me also emphasize that Indonesia welcomes and recognizes all initiatives and discussions within various international processes. They all serve to provide valuable input to the process under the UNFCCC, including the recent outcomes of the Major Economic Meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii which strengthened the success of the Bali Roadmap and promoted energy efficiency. It is essential, however, that existing and new commitments post-2012 are deliberated within the UNFCCC as the key instrument and the proper forum to address climate change.

Mr. President,

It is pertinent to underline that the UN carries a legitimate role in bridging development and climate change concerns with all stakeholders. The United Nations should therefore be well equipped to address the challenge of development and climate change in a more coherent and focused manner. *particularly on focusing MDGs.*

The UN's effort to bolster cooperation within the Secretariat as well as with the broader UN system is a step in the right direction. To this end, the UN may consider on the need to integrate all existing and relevant frameworks in order to create an effective umbrella and mechanism to respond to climate change in the future. All UN activities related to climate change; scientific, economic, political, social and humanitarian affairs as well as development, should be delivered in a coherent package.

Mr. President,

Responding to climate change will require humanity's total capacity. Let us build togetherness and global ownership at all levels and all sectors to battle a common enemy.

The panel discussions conducted yesterday clearly indicated—and as a matter of fact, reaffirmed—our conviction on the growing strategic importance of building partnerships. We have attained ample political commitments from governments, private sector and NGOs around the world; and hence we at the United Nations must cultivate the political momentum and global call, and translate them into policy, action plans, and consistent implementation. After all, that is the main message of our theme today: The UN and the World at Work.

Thank you.



# Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

## Statement by

**H. E. Mr. Mohammad Khazaei**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**  
**of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**During the Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly**

**on**  
**"Addressing Climate Change:**  
**The United Nations and the World at Work"**

**13 February, 2008**  
**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for holding the second round of thematic debates on the important issue of climate change. I also would like to associate myself with the statement made yesterday by Ambassador John Ashe, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

In our view, the first round of deliberations on climate change in early August as well as the high level event of 24 September last year was fruitful in terms of raising public awareness and enhancing political will of the governments, as a part of





preparations for the negotiations in COP-13 of UNFCCC, held in last December in Bali. The outcomes of the conference, particularly the Bali Action Plan, clearly illustrate a road map for a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term and concerted actions before and after 2012. Therefore, the second round of the thematic debates, here in the General Assembly, should in no way substitute or undermine that process. We hope these deliberations will result in enhancing the international cooperation and further implementation of the commitments made under the Convention.

Now, I would like to touch upon several important points which, in our view, should be seriously taken into account in this process.

Climate change should not and could not be considered in isolation and regardless of the other environmental issues, such as desertification and loss of biodiversity. Nor should it be discussed irrespective of the developmental components of sustainable development. The relationship between climate change and sustained economic growth and their mutual impacts are well recognized world-wide. I believe the envisaged international process on climate change must be conducted in a manner which will lead to the enhancement of the compliance with the provisions of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol as well as further commitments of the Annex I countries in terms of reducing green house gas emissions, provision of additional and predictable financial resources and transfer of advanced and appropriate technologies.

Mr. President,

Historical responsibility of the developed countries for the release of GHG emissions should be taken into consideration and the internationally agreed principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be counted as a basis for this process. Therefore, the developed countries must take the lead and make significant contributions in achieving the present and future global policies on mitigation and adaptation.

Due to severe impacts of the climate change, the developing countries in general, and the countries and areas identified in Article 4.8 of the Convention in

particular, should enjoy more support from the international community, especially from the relevant Funds.

With regard to the arrangements for the negotiations, my delegation reiterates the need for the process envisaged in the Bali Action Plan, to be transparent and inclusive so as to ensure the full and active participation of the developing country parties to the Convention.

While preparing ourselves to participate in the process, we are concerned about the possible consequences of the response measures on the developing countries. Thus, during the forthcoming negotiations, care should be taken to avoid any decision or measure that may lead to further sufferings of the most affected countries. In addition, due to time constraints, we should stick to the elaboration of four issues of financing, technology transfer, adaptation and mitigation as well as their implementations before 2012 and in post Kyoto era.

We believe that the contributions by countries to the relevant global funds, including the Adaptation Fund, are of utmost importance. The level of these contributions, particularly from the developed countries, are clear indication of their commitments to the international actions on mitigation and adaptation in order to combat climate change and minimize its impacts at national, regional and global levels.

Mr. President,

I wish to assure this august meeting of our resolve to participate actively in and contribute to the process as envisaged in the Bali Action Plan. We hope the process will enjoy the international support and cooperation. The success of this process, in our opinion, greatly rests on the true implementation of the agreed commitments made especially by the developed countries as regards the emission reduction and their contributions to national efforts of developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.

I thank you Mr. President.

# ISRAEL

62nd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Statement by**  
**Ambassador Dan Gillerman**  
**Permanent Representative**

United Nations, New York  
13 February 2008

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your able stewardship of this Assembly, and thank you for convening this important thematic debate entitled “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”.

My delegation wishes to thank you for organizing the interesting and important panels held on Monday. We heard a great deal about the complexity of issues and the importance of uniting the efforts of the United Nations system to address climate change with the goal of receiving clear guidance and a mandate from this Assembly and its Member States. We must create a common agenda and a common vision, and the United Nations is the appropriate forum for coordinating these efforts. Hence, my delegation welcomes the call for an inclusive and coherent approach to enable the United Nations system to work together through partnership.

The global resolve to address climate change, as seen in the past few months, has led us to the Bali Road Map and Action Plan. Yet Bali only provided a framework. It remains up to the Member States to reach an agreement by the end of 2009. Hence, all parties, both developed and developing nations, must do their part. The Bali process must also develop as a basis for action to effectively adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change and to successfully mitigate its causes. In this respect, financial and technological tools that provide essential catalysts are crucial.

Israel also wishes to underscore that the resource and capacity gaps among States means that we must agree on a differentiated time table for Member States to adjust their national policies and implement their commitments, though all States should take part and mitigate. Similarly, we should welcome and support those who seek to expedite their timetables and implementation goals.

Mr. President,

Partnership is the key ingredient to finding a common way forward on climate change. Israel is interested in learning from the international community, and is also poised to share, where relevant, its own experience, technologies, best practices, and know-how. We are committed to advancing cooperation through various avenues, particularly through the United Nations system, building on national strategies and enhancing international cooperation.

As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1996 and the Kyoto Protocol since 2004, Israel has pledged its commitment to work on all fronts to combat climate change. The flexibility mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol have proven effective for providing incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and Israel’s national policies are tailored to attract projects in sustainable fields.

As the discussions Monday reiterated the linkage between climate change and sustainable development, and in particular forestation, I wish to highlight an impressive example of

afforestation activities in Israel: the Yatir Forest, located on the edge of the Negev Desert, which comprises approximately half of Israel's land area. Planting began forty years ago, and it is now the largest forest in the country. It has completely changed the arid landscape, as research shows that this desert forest absorbs carbon dioxide just as efficiently as forests in wet areas. This is an example of the implementation of a national dimension we heard in the context of cities and UN organizations two days ago.

Israel also recently participated in the International Conference to Combat Desertification, in Beijing, which was cosponsored by the Chinese government and UN-DESA. Israel has also hosted a number of workshops on combating desertification with DESA and UNFCCC, particularly for developing African nations. These forums give Israel the opportunity to share some of the highly resourceful and developed tools for turning the desert into productive and habitable land.

In addition to mitigation efforts, Israel is already adapting to the existing effects of climate change. Climate change in our region has affected the problem of water deficiency. Hence, Israeli experts are pioneering water management and cutting-edge technologies in drip irrigation, recycling and purifying wastewater, water desalination, and desert agriculture. These technologies, particularly in the area of combating desertification, are shared with like-minded and interested partners, through the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' MASHAV – Centre for International Cooperation – with an emphasis on technology transfer, capacity building and training.

Similarly, Israel serves as a vice-chair on the bureau of the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. During the current Assembly session, Israel introduced a resolution on "Agricultural technologies for development", which calls on Member States to commit themselves to supporting the use of local know-how and technology and promote agricultural research, productivity and food security in poor rural areas.

Looking towards the future, Israel seeks to increase partnerships within the United Nations system and other international bodies on issues like water, agriculture, land management and afforestation. Last year, Israel signed a memorandum of understanding with UNEP. To date, more than 30 projects have been submitted to our Designated National Authority for approval and seven have been registered by the Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board. We strongly support ensuring the stability and continuity of the CDM, through integration into the provisions of a post-Kyoto agreement. Lastly, our growing relationship and cooperation with DESA helps to lay the foundation for partnerships and international, regional, national, and local activities.

Monday's sessions also reinforced upon us the importance and urgency of translating words into action. With the recognition that every bit counts, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently unveiled a new initiative to upgrade all its diplomatic vehicles in North America to hybrid cars, as just one of the many examples, across the spectrum and sectors, where Israel is working to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, allow me to illustrate how a willingness to form partnerships has shown that the challenge of climate change can be transformed into an opportunity for cooperation, even amidst political difference.

In 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty – in a region where water sources are already scarce – containing a water sharing provision, reputed to be “one of the most creative water treaties on record”. Cooperation between Israel and her neighbours has also produced agreements like the Upper Gulf of Aqaba Oil Spill Contingency Project, the Desertification Initiative, and an Environmental Code of Conduct for the Middle East.

Civil society and academic institutions have long pioneered efforts in the environmental field, and they are supported by a vocal and dedicated Israeli NGO community. The Israeli private sector has also contributed to partnership and exchange of ideas on environmental and technological issue, and those efforts will be expanded with the launching of the UN Global Compact in Israel later this year. The Israeli Compact has strong participation from the environmental elements.

Israel, for its part, supports these initiatives and our deliberations, and looks forward to seeing the cultivation of new and enriching partnerships to boost achievement of our shared objectives. We stand ready to share our expertise and experience with our neighbors and other interested States in order to assure a better, safer, and cleaner region – and world – for all our children and grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. President.



# ITALIE

## DISCOURS DU SECRETAIRE D'ETAT AUX AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

M. VITTORIO CRAXI

### STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Débat de Haut Niveau  
à l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies

High-Level Debate in  
The United Nations General Assembly

**“Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the  
World at work”**

( New York, 12 Février 2008 )

Monsieur le Président,  
Chers Ministres et Collègues,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

je désire avant tout souscrire le discours prononcé par la Présidence slovène au nom de l'Union Européenne.

Permettez-moi également de remercier le Président Kerim pour avoir promu ce débat qui justement met en valeur le rôle de l'Assemblée Générale, organe du plus haut niveau représentatif de la communauté des Etats, pour contrecarrer les changements climatiques. La protection de la planète du réchauffement représente un défi que les Nations Unies doivent affronter avec l'urgence, la cohésion et l'efficacité qui s'impose.

A ce propos, je considère d'une extrême importance l'action que le Secrétaire Général Ban Ki-moon est en train de mener comme personnelle *advocacy*, dans le but d'accélérer les négociations et de favoriser une approche transversale à la question climatique dans le système opératif de l'ONU. Le débat de Haut Niveau du 24 septembre de l'année dernière en est un exemple significatif.

Nous sommes désormais passés de la phase – importante – de la prise de conscience et de l'analyse scientifique des risques que court la planète, à la phase - urgente - de la définition et de l'adoption de règles communes, de politiques et d'instruments inspirés des principes de l'efficacité et de la solidarité, à l'échelle mondiale.

L'ONU doit être le siège privilégié pour atteindre cet objectif.

Certes, toutes les plateformes nationales et régionales – susceptibles d'accélérer la mise en commun des politiques appropriées - pourront utilement concourir dans ce but. Mais la centralité de l'ONU en tant que siège multilatéral pour définir le futur régime de réduction des émissions doit être préservée, bien au contraire renforcée.

La récente réunion du *Chief Executives Board* de l'ONU et le Rapport du Secrétaire Général sur les activités des Nations Unies concernant les changements climatiques vont, à mon avis, dans la bonne direction. La question climatique peut représenter une *best practice* de coordination au sein des Nations Unies, dans le sens de cette approche que nous partageons tous désormais sous la formule du "*deliver as one*". La création d'une structure de coordination, avec la définition des secteurs-clés dans la lutte aux changements climatiques et d'une Agence leader pour chaque secteur, constitue un choix qui pourra porter d'excellents fruits.

L'Italie considère importante la participation effective des Institutions Financières Internationales dans les programmes visant la lutte au changement climatique.

Cette implication doit surtout viser à amplifier les opportunités offertes par des politiques adéquates de protection de l'environnement et du climat comme moteur du développement durable: preuve en est le fonds alloué aux forêts de la Banque Mondiale qui prévoit un schéma financier innovateur pour les pays qui protègent leur patrimoine forestier.

La réponse collective au défi des changements climatiques doit être renforcée, selon l'Italie et l'Union Européenne, avec une attention particulière à la gouvernance de



Mr. President,  
Distinguished Ministers and Ambassadors  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to begin by endorsing the statement delivered by the Slovenian Presidency on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me also to thank President Kerim for promoting today's event, which rightly highlights the role in the fight against climate change played by the General Assembly as the supreme representative body of the international community.

Protecting the planet from global warming is a challenge that the United Nations has to address in a cohesive, timely, and effective manner.

The action of personal advocacy being conducted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is, I believe, extremely important in helping to accelerate negotiations and in mainstreaming climate issues in the UN system. The high-level debate on September 24 of last year was a clear example of this.

We have now moved from the important phase of public awareness and scientific analysis of the risks being run by the planet to the urgent phase of defining and adopting common regulations, policies and instruments inspired by the principles of efficiency and world-wide solidarity.

The UN should be the primary forum for achieving this goal. All the national and regional fora equipped to finding common ground for appropriate policies have a useful contribution to make. But the central position of the UN as the multilateral seat for defining the future regime of emissions reduction should be preserved and indeed strengthened.

The recent meeting of the UN Chief Executives Board and the Secretary-General's report on the UN's climate change activities are, in my opinion, steps in the right direction. The climate change issue can represent a best practice for coordination within the United Nations system along the lines that we all embrace under the formula "deliver as one." The creation of a coordination structure, through the definition of key sectors in the fight against climate change and of a lead agency for each sector would be a very productive choice.

Italy believes in the importance of concretely involving the international financial institutions in programs to fight climate change. Their participation should be targeted mainly at expanding the opportunities offered by appropriate policies to safeguard the environment and the climate as a driver of sustainable development. This has been demonstrated most recently by the World Bank's financial line for the forests, which provides an innovative group of incentives to countries that protect their forest heritage.

The collective response to the challenge of climate change should be strengthened, according to Italy and the European Union, with particular reference to the governance of the environment. This is a major issue that should be concretely addressed by the United Nations system. The idea at the basis of our assessments is that the environmental sector should be equipped with a forum with a solid scientific and financial footing that would mobilize international momentum and provide political

l'environnement. C'est un des thèmes les plus importants que les Nations Unies doivent concrètement affronter. L'idée à la base de nos évaluations est que le secteur de l'environnement doit se pourvoir d'une instance internationale d'impulsion et de guide politique, avec une base solide, tant scientifique que financière, caractéristiques que le Programme pour l'Environnement de l'ONU ne possède aujourd'hui que partiellement.

L'Italie considère aussi cruciale la fonction de la Commission pour le Développement Durable qui, à côté de l'Assemblée Générale, représente le principal véhicule pour promouvoir des *policies* de développement durable, considéré sous tous ses aspects. Notre pays a promu au sein de l'Union Européenne une réflexion sur le renforcement de cette Commission. Comme le souligne le Rapport du Secrétaire Général, la lutte aux changements climatiques fait partie intégrante de la lutte contre la pauvreté, compte tenu des effets dramatiques que le réchauffement de la planète provoque dans le parcours des Objectifs du Millénaire.

A cet égard et considérant le deuxième thème du débat de ce jour, je désire rappeler que l'Italie a financé une étude de l'OCDE sur l'évaluation de l'efficacité et de l'efficacité des partenariats pour le développement durable, qui représentent un complément fondamental aux approches gouvernementales traditionnelles de protection de l'environnement. Par ailleurs, les partenariats revêtent un rôle important pour rassembler des ressources financières provenant de différentes sources, en favorisant la diffusion de technologies et l'échange d'expériences entre les gouvernements, les universités, les entreprises et les ONG environnementales.

Parmi les partenariats lancés par l'Italie – je cite à titre d'exemple – le projet MEDREP, qui vise à fournir des services modernes énergétiques et à mitiger le changement climatique moyennant une augmentation du quota des énergies renouvelables dans la composition énergétique de la région de la Méditerranée.

Les partenariats sont fondamentaux pour impliquer les autorités locales dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques, c'est-à-dire ce niveau qui est le plus proche des citoyens dont le style de vie doit nécessairement être modifié, si nous considérons que les émissions domestiques sont responsables pour 24% du total des gaz à effet de serre.

De nombreuses administrations locales italiennes se sont distinguées par des exemples d'excellence dans le domaine du développement durable. Nous pouvons citer le programme «Rome pour Kyoto», tout comme la Ville de Milan – représentée hier ici par son Maire – qui a privilégié la question de l'environnement lors de la présentation de sa candidature à l'Expo Universelle 2015 avec le thème «Nourrir la planète, énergie pour la vie».

Crucial est le rôle des entreprises, acteurs fondamentaux pour atteindre les objectifs que la communauté internationale se pose en cette matière.

Les entreprises ont toutefois besoin d'un cadre régulateur clair afin de fournir leur pleine contribution. Il appartient donc aux gouvernements, au sein de l'ONU, d'établir les règles de base. La définition d'un objectif visant la réduction des émissions à effet de serre, à moyen et long terme, constitue le meilleur moyen pour stimuler les entreprises à investir dans les technologies environnementales et à s'orienter vers une croissance à moindre teneur en carbone.

leadership, characteristics that the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) possesses today only in part.

Italy feels that the function performed by the Commission on Sustainable Development is crucial. Together with the General Assembly, it represents the main vehicle for promoting sustainable development policies in their various components. Within the European Union my Country has promoted ideas on how to strengthen the Commission. As the Secretary-General's report underlines, the fight against climate change is an integral component of the fight against poverty, all the more so given the grave consequences that global warming is having on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard and in connection with the second theme of today's debate, I wish to recall that Italy has financed an OECD study to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of sustainable development partnerships, which represent a fundamental complement to traditional governmental approach to environmental protection. Moreover, the partnerships have an important role in mobilizing financial resources from various sources and in promoting the spread of technologies and sharing of experiences between governments, universities, businesses, and environmental NGOs.

The partnerships initiated by Italy include, for example, the MEDREP project, which aims to provide modern energy services and to help mitigate climate change by developing a larger share of renewable sources in the energy mix of the Mediterranean region.

Partnerships are also fundamental in soliciting the involvement of local authorities in the fight against climate change, the level of government that is closest to the citizens, whose lifestyles will have to be modified when we consider the fact that domestic emissions account for 24% of all greenhouse gases.

Many local Italian administrations stand out as examples of excellence in the field of sustainable development. We can cite the "Rome for Kyoto" programme as well as the city of Milan – represented here yesterday by its mayor – which has prioritized the environmental issue in proposing its candidature for the Universal Exposition of 2015 with the theme, "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life."

A crucial role is played by business, which is a key actor for achieving the objectives set by the international community in this area. Businesses, however, need a clear regulatory framework to be able to make their full contribution. It is therefore up to the governments, within the UN, to establish the rules. Defining mid- and long-term goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions is the best means for encouraging business to invest in environmental technology and orient themselves toward low-carbon growth.

In this framework flexible mechanisms, such as those provided for by the Kyoto Protocol, contribute to spreading new technologies in developing countries, fostering both the internationalization of businesses and the promotion of sustainable development. These instruments should thus be strengthened, with a more equitable geographic distribution of the same, through the right incentives and capacity-building activities in favor of the most vulnerable countries.

Dans ce contexte, les mécanismes flexibles, tels ceux prévus par le Protocole de Kyoto, contribuent à diffuser les nouvelles technologies dans les pays en voie de développement en favorisant tant l'internationalisation des entreprises que la promotion du développement durable.

Il faut donc renforcer de tels instruments tout en favorisant leur distribution géographique de manière plus équitable, moyennant des incitations et des activités de *capacity building* pour les pays les plus vulnérables.

En conclusion, nous sommes face à une menace globale qui ne fait aucune distinction entre les différents pays ou entre les différents niveaux de bien-être: ce défi doit être gagné ensemble sous peine d'en subir collectivement les graves conséquences – y compris morales – face aux futures générations, si nous n'affrontons pas la question de manière adéquate au niveau politique, social, économique et technologique.

Les réflexions de ces deux derniers jours font apparaître – j'en suis convaincu - un sens partagé des responsabilités et un conséquent engagement concret.

Je renouvelle ainsi mes remerciements au Président Kerim et aux Collègues ici présents pour cette importante occasion d'échange d'idées et d'expériences.

In conclusion, we are facing a global threat that makes no distinction between different countries or different levels of affluence. Either we win this challenge all together or – if there is an inadequate response at the political, social, and economic levels – we will suffer together the grave consequences, moral and otherwise, for future generations. Our reflections over these two days are accompanied – I am convinced – by a growing sense of shared responsibility and a concrete, consistent commitment.

In this spirit I renew my thanks to President Kerim and to my Colleagues who have spoken here.





PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY RAYMOND O. WOLFE  
AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**New York, February 12, 2008**

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## **Introduction**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this thematic debate on Climate Change. Jamaica aligns itself with the Statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Barbados on behalf of CARICOM. We also welcome the statements delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Mayor Bloomberg which confirm the need for urgent and decisive action on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

Earlier reports have now become undisputable; the evidence irrefutable. Climate change is a fact which we cannot continue to deny and together we must act, as failure to do so will ultimately result in our demise. Last year, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that climate change is likely to significantly undermine the efforts of developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development and the achievement of global development benchmarks such as the Millennium Development Goals.

## **National impact and response**

Mr. President,

The vast majority of us agree that climate change poses a clear and present danger to development prospects and the territorial existence of small island developing states (SIDS) such as Jamaica. The adverse effects of climate change with which we continue to grapple such as beach erosion, sea-level rise as well as the alarming frequency and intensity of severe weather patterns and events such as hurricanes and floods, have caused us to shift focus from our development agenda to relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation. During the last three years alone, Jamaica and other CARICOM countries have been hit by five major hurricanes resulting in significant loss of lives and livelihood, damage to property and infrastructure and to major productive sectors such as agriculture and tourism, as well as the evacuation and relocation of several affected communities.

Mr. President,

The implementation of appropriate adaptation strategies has now become crucial as we seek to confront some of the challenges posed by climate change. To this extent, Jamaica has launched a programme to increase the use of renewable energy to 10% of total energy by 2010 as part of the effort to reduce our total dependence on fossil fuels for energy production.

I am pleased to note, Mr. President that during the recently concluded meeting in Bali, Jamaica was appointed to the Board of the Adaptation Fund. I should hasten to add that Jamaica is also one of ten countries in which a community-based adaptation project is soon to be implemented under the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme to reduce vulnerability and enhance the capacity of selected communities to adapt to Climate change.

Jamaica has embarked on an ambitious programme of achieving developed country status by the year 2030 and in order to accomplish this, the Government firmly believes that the development, diffusion and transfer of clean, less carbon intensive technologies along with the building of institutional and human capacities will be critical to this process.

### **Towards a post-2012 Framework**

Mr. President,

The Jamaican delegation fully supports calls made in other quarters for Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in keeping with the longstanding principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We support the urgent pursuit of a second commitment period whereby Annex I Parties would undertake significant reductions in GHGs and are of the view that negotiations to this end must be concluded by the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP-15) in Copenhagen in 2009, thus ensuring that there are no gaps between the end of the first commitment period and the commencement of the second.

The potential for technologies to play key roles in domestic and global climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation strategies is enormous and therefore, the transfer of climate-friendly technologies as well as the provision of new and additional financial resources should be given high priority on the international agenda taking into account the needs of developing countries.

### **Report of the SG: The UN at Work**

Mr. President,

We note the Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/644) on UN Activities in Climate Change, that the various Agencies and Programmes of the UN in collaboration with Member States at the national and global levels have taken a collaborative approach to address this multidimensional challenge. Mr. President, several years ago, upon testing a new breed of horses in Canada, researchers found that one horse could pull an eight-ton load. When they teamed two horses together, they anticipated that the horses would pull 16 or 18 tons. To their overwhelming surprise, they pulled a 30-ton load. This simple illustration of synergism, Mr. President, drives home the point that by working together in a broad global alliance, we can confront and overcome our greatest challenges.

My delegation sincerely hopes that this thematic debate and other such deliberative fora will serve to add political impetus to the existing framework for addressing climate change within the context of the UNFCCC and not diverge into a parallel process. It is also my hope that it will spur the international community to urgent and concrete action NOW. We owe it to ourselves, but more so to future generations.

I thank you, Mr. President.



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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Statement by Ambassador Yukio Takasu  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
At the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”

February 13, 2008

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

All the nations of the world recognize that climate change is the most serious and urgent challenge in human history. In reaching agreement in Bali on the post-2012 framework negotiation process we have arrived at a common understanding about how to address this vital problem. Japan will make every possible effort to ensure that the Bali Roadmap produces the most effective framework by the time of COP15 in Copenhagen.

### Cool Earth Promotion Programme

At the recent World Economic Forum Meeting in Davos, Prime Minister Fukuda presented his proposal called a “Cool Earth Promotion Programme.” He expressed his firm determination that Japan will, along with other major emitters, set a quantified national target for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. In order to realize a drastic reduction in such gases worldwide, it is imperative that there be equity in the shouldering of this obligation.

Prime Minister Fukuda also announced that Japan will take action in the area of international environmental cooperation by engaging in technology transfer and establishing financial mechanism.

Japan succeeded in its pursuit of economic growth and environmental protection by striving to conserve energy. It is willing to share this experience by transferring high-quality environmental technology to other countries. For example, if the level of efficiency in Japan's power plant is achieved in the United States, India, and China, the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions would amount to 1.3 billion tons—the

equivalent of Japan's annual total emissions. In this context, Japan proposes to set a global target of 30% improvement of energy efficiency by 2020.

### Financial Mechanism

Japan launches the Cool Earth Partnership, to provide assistance amounting US\$10 billion in 5 years to developing countries making efforts to reduce emissions and struggling against the severe adverse impact of climate change. Assistance will be provided in the area of mitigation, adaptation, and access to clean energy. Special attention will be paid to SIDS and LLDCs, which are exposed to dangers such as submersion of land and desertification as a result of emissions from other countries. Japan also aims to create a new multilateral fund together with the United States and the United Kingdom, and we invite other donors to participate.

The importance of innovation, such as the development of new technologies and the creation of low-carbon societies, must also be stressed. Technological breakthroughs are critical if greenhouse gas emissions are to be cut in half by 2050. Japan is accelerating the development of technology, such as zero CO<sub>2</sub> emission coal-fired power plants, low-cost, high-efficiency solar power generation technology and Green IT. Japan will be emphasizing investment in research and development in the fields of the environment and energy, and over the next five years, will be investing approximately US\$30 billion in this effort. We propose to formulate an international framework, through which we can collaborate closely with international agencies, such as IEA to accelerate technology development and share the fruits of such efforts.

### Partnership with the Private Sector

In order to address climate change, it is essential to raise awareness of eco-lifestyles and mobilize all available resources--not only from public but also from the private sector. In this context, the UN Global Compact can be most useful.

The private sector has the most important role to play in the development, deployment and transfer of technology. In the effort to achieve a low-carbon society, private investment must also be promoted. To attract such investment and encourage the private sector to be active, it is necessary to improve the investment environment, for example, with respect to the protection of intellectual property rights and the development of human resources.

## UN's Central Role

Japan expects the United Nations system to play an active part in the orchestration of such global efforts, and it appreciates the leadership the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly have provided in generating the political momentum necessary to advance the international negotiation process.

The fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC has made a substantial contribution to the progress of those negotiations by putting an end to the dispute concerning what causes climate change and clarifying in a scientific manner the serious impact climate change is having. The UNFCCC should play the pivotal role in the negotiation, with support from other UN agencies, as reported by the Secretary-General. It is important to promote coherence and coordination among UN agencies in order to address the issue in an effective and efficient manner without any duplication of effort.

As the 2009 deadline for the negotiations approaches, international debate is likely to intensify. Japan, as President of the G8 this year, will strive to make positive contributions to the negotiation process.

## Promotion of Eco-Lifestyles

At the same time as we look to the future, we must recognize that there are things we can do right now, and get to work on them. Most importantly, we should promote eco-lifestyles—*Mottainai* (not wasteful) lifestyle. For example, recycling should be encouraged, and our homes and offices could be maintained in an energy-efficient manner.

Japan calls on all actors to bring to bear on this problem the wisdom of humankind, so that we may create a low-carbon society and win the battle against climate change.



# KAZAKHSTAN

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## STATEMENT

**BY H.E. MRS. BYRGANYM AITIMOVA**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**«ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK»**

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**New York, 12 February 2008**

Mr. President,

The evidence of the recent research allows us to assume that apart from nuclear danger, Today's world encounters another challenge, arising from climate change. Climate change on Earth does not recognize state borders, nor is it dependent on national, political or religious factors.

Kazakhstan acclaims the leading role of the United Nations in dealing with the issues of global environment and climate change. A series of high-level events on climate change held in 2007 indicates the resolve of the world community to undertake measures to tackle and reduce the consequences of this current humankind's challenge, which is proved by deliberations of the Member States on "Road Map" in Bali. We express our hope that parties will reach compromise on all disputes and conclude in due time international agreement on effective framework programme for the post-2012 period.

Let me express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report A/62/644, which contains comprehensive assessment of the situation, overview of the most important initiatives and contribution of almost all organizations and agencies of the UN system to fighting against climate change.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Kazakhstan welcomes Yesterday's proposal of the Secretary-General on adopting decisive measures, aimed at taking an advantage of the climate change fighting in the interest of sustainable development. In this regard, we believe the UN should be a mediator in bringing essential assistance to developing countries in the field of transfers of innovative technologies, through such world financial institutions as the World Bank, Asian Bank of development etc. Such measures would stimulate development of "clean" technologies and creation of new jobs.

Despite the fact that Kazakhstan has not yet concluded the process of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, on the national level our country greatly contributes to the global fighting against climate change. In his annual address the President of Kazakhstan stated that the country will concentrate its efforts on introducing energy saving and environmentally clean technologies, and appealed to the citizens and enterprises to countrywide saving of electricity.

In spite of the growing industries, greenhouse emissions made by the enterprises have decreased from 4.7 million tons in 1990 to 3 million in 2006. By 2024 we are planning to cut carbon emissions per unit of GDP to about one third of their current level and increase the share of the alternative energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal) by at least 250 times.

The ecological licenses and regional emission quotas will enter into force in 2008, in accordance with the international practice. Also, in order to cut the emissions of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere the mechanism of quotas trade will be introduced among different businesses.

Delegation of Kazakhstan supports the adopted documents on lowering deforestation and degradation of tropical forests, which bring up to 20% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the world. Head of State's project called "Green Country" has started in Kazakhstan and gained the full support of all levels of the society. Every year millions of trees are planted, the efficient measures on the wild fire protection and to fight illicit deforestation are undertaken.

Distinctive feature of this initiative is the active participation of the youth, aimed at raising the humane attitude to the environment through the national spirit based on the ethic and patriotic education of new generations. In this context, we propose for the UN to call upon the young generation of the world to take the lead in greening their environment, thereby making their own contributions into the tackling climate change.

Mr. President,

We fully support the necessity of building partnerships between state, private sector and the UN in the work to deal with the issue of climate change. During the Council of Foreign Investors meeting in December 2007– the communication platform between state and business – ~~Kazakhstan's leadership recommended the foreign investors to work on~~ the sustainable development programs in Kazakhstan with the implementation of the Clean Production Strategy. A proposal to set up a contest among oil companies to gain the state certificates "Green Oil" for the best achievements in the environmental protection is the first attempt in the world and can become a useful example to follow.

Thank you for your attention.





*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. Z.D.MUBURI-MUITA**  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE THEMATIC DEBATE

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON “ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
THE WORLD AT WORK”,

11<sup>TH</sup> -12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008,

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,

**NEW YORK**

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Please check against delivery

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**Mr. President,**

I take this opportunity to thank you for convening this thematic debate on the subject "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work."

Kenya associates itself with the statements delivered by the Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cameroon on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the African Group respectively.

We further wish to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for the informative Background Paper on key issues, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the report providing an overview of the activities undertaken by the United Nations in relation to climate change.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation underscores the fact that climate change is one of the main challenges facing humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a global issue that requires international collective and collaborative action. Notwithstanding the above, I wish to point out that there exists a framework for addressing climate change issues within the United Nations. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its affiliate bodies and institutions is ably spearheading the efforts to address climate change. Hence, care need to be taken to avoid establishing parallel processes on issues of climate change.

In addition, the focus on climate change should not undermine efforts towards tackling other important issues to developing countries, such as ensuring sustained economic growth, financing for development, implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty eradication. For Kenya and many other developing countries, these are among our priority concerns.

**Mr. President,**

Climate change is already inflicting serious damage to key economic sectors in Kenya. Kenyans have lately witnessed increased floods, frequent devastating droughts, reduced agricultural productivity and increased prevalence of malaria among other climate-induced manifestations. Our road infrastructure has yet to recover from the damage caused by the El Niño rains of late 90's. These extreme events are frustrating efforts towards improving the living standards of our populations.

Overall, the projected impact of unmitigated climate change in Kenya is likely to have major implications on livelihoods, health, water resources, agricultural productivity, food security, ecosystems and dependent tourism sector.

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is very clear on the causes of climate change and the potential environmental hazards likely to affect the global community in the near future as well as the short window of opportunity available to address this issue. We owe it to the future generations to act now if we are to avoid the catastrophes predicted in the report. We, therefore, need to translate decisions reached in various meetings into practical strategies and actions on the ground.

In this regard, all stakeholders should commit themselves to climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in line with the principal of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In particular, Annex II parties should fully embrace their responsibilities under the convention to mitigate climate change and commit more financial and technological resources to support adaptation, mitigation and capacity building activities in developing countries. We believe the question of climate change should not be confined to the domain of abstract international discourse and negotiations but must be brought down to finding simple, common sense solutions and should further respond to real threats facing millions of people all over the world.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya has taken a pragmatic approach by initiating supportive policy and legislative frameworks as well as institutional reforms to rejuvenate and support sustainable management of our natural resources, including forests and water resources. Particular focus is being given to increasing forest cover in the country in order to improve hydrological capacity while also serving as important carbon sinks which also helps in providing livelihood support to forest-adjacent communities. We are encouraged by international efforts through the climate change regime to support our efforts in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. In this regard, we recognize the need for institutional and human capacity support to engage and lead national efforts in addressing climate change issues in developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya recognizes the important role the United Nations System can play in assisting countries, particularly developing countries in their efforts to address climate change. The report by the Secretary-General on the UN activities in relation to climate change highlights a number of ongoing and potential avenues through which the UN can support countries effectively tackle climate change.

Overall, and in addition to those areas highlighted in the report, we believe the UN can assist countries to:

- Build capacity for adaptation and mitigation particularly in developing countries;
- Promote creation of conducive environment for technology development and transfer;
- Create awareness on climate change related issues;
- Ensure political will, support and commitment by leaders;
- Promote resource mobilization;
- Promote sharing of best practices and experience amongst countries and stakeholders; and
- Spearhead the establishment of internationally-binding norms and standards in the area of climate change.

Whereas we recognize the fact that the UN has the network and the will to undertake a wide range of activities in this area, it is important to make our proposals with due attention to the existing technical, financial and human capacities within the UN system. Otherwise, it is possible that this debate could end up raising false hope among Member States and stakeholders, hence ultimately causing undue frustration.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, let me state that it is also noteworthy that climate change being a global challenge and cutting across all sectors of society, no one stakeholder can adequately address its effects single-handedly. It requires concerted, collective action at local, national and international levels. Both individuals, civil society and the business community must work together to meaningfully address climate change. It is on this basis that partnerships at all levels are paramount in endeavours to address climate change. We trust that the UN system with its multidimensional and complex networks has what it takes to initiate, develop and promote partnerships in the area of climate change.

My delegation once again reiterates the importance of this debate that provides an opportunity for an exchange views among member states and partners on climate change. We believe this will not only reinvigorate the UN focus and attention but also galvanize the international efforts towards addressing climate change.

**I thank you.**



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador CHO Hyun**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**Thematic Debate on Climate Change**

**12 February 2008**

**New York**

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President Srgjan Kerim, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. I would first like to express my appreciation to H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, for organizing this thematic debate. I am confident that under your able leadership, today's event will provide greater political energy toward our collective efforts of combating climate change.

**(Evaluation of the Bali Roadmap)**

2. I believe that 2007 has been a year marked by building political momentum in addressing this daunting challenge. The UN High-Level Event on Climate Change brought together the international community to address the subject. This contributed decisively to the adoption of the Bali Roadmap at the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2007. We recognize the Secretary-General's constructive role in contributing to the establishment of the Bali Roadmap.

3. The Korean government appreciates that the Bali Roadmap laid the foundation for a global partnership in establishing a post-2012 framework that could efficiently and effectively address the problem. We also welcome the launch of comprehensive post-2012 negotiations where both developed and developing countries will participate in light of each country's economic and social circumstances.

We hope that the international community will reach a successful conclusion to these negotiations within the limits of the time frame.

**(Global Partnership against Climate Change)**

4. We believe that the solution to the worldwide challenge of climate change requires a long-range planetary perspective that transcends identification with the present generation and any particular nationality. In this way, the international community will exert its best efforts and all its wisdom to effect concrete results in a more coordinated manner.

5. We believe that the UN should play a pivotal role in forging the international resolve to implement the Bali Action Plan. We are confident that the UN will encourage stronger partnerships among stakeholders, including central and local governments, as well as industrial and civil societies. In addition, we believe that partnerships between developed and developing countries will encourage the meaningful participation of developing countries in addressing climate change through adaptation, mitigation, technology transfers, and financing. We expect that the UN, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will continue to play a creative role in developing the common ground for the post-2012 negotiations in the course of 2008-2009.

**(Coordination of UN Activities)**

6. Therefore, we believe that each UN agency should first and foremost place climate change at the top of its agenda and promote mainstreaming of so-called green activities. It is also imperative that UN agencies should coordinate among themselves regarding such climate change activities in order to achieve the most effective results.

7. In this light, the Korean government supports the efforts of the UN's Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB). We expect that the CEB will continue to find a productive way to coordinate UN systems in this field, and the efforts of UN agencies, funds, and programmes will thereby demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency by avoiding duplication and fragmentation.

8. Alongside these UN efforts, we believe that each country must also coordinate efforts by its ministries and departments in order to effectively address climate change. Such efforts by national ministries and departments should correspond to and be coordinated with those of UN agencies, funds, and programmes in order to aim for the best possible results.

**(Korea's Efforts in Addressing Climate Change and Partnerships)**

9. The Republic of Korea is devoted to contributing to the success of the post-2012 negotiations. We have expanded nation-wide efforts to respond to climate change over the past ten years. As a result, we have learned that in order to effectively reduce Green House Gases (GHGs), we must produce a comprehensive mid- and long-term plan with objectives such as improving energy efficiency, developing and disseminating innovative technology, and expanding sources of sustainable energy. We have also learned that the active participation of the private sector and civil society is necessary. Moreover, Korea has reaffirmed the importance of market mechanisms in reducing GHGs and developing innovative technologies.

10. Accordingly, the Korean government launched the "Fourth National Action Plan on Climate Change" in December 2007. Its main agenda included strengthening the capacity building skills of local governments, industries, and civil society in confronting climate change.

11. Korea will continue to engage in the international process to address climate change, including support for the UNFCCC and other fora or initiatives. We are ready to contribute constructively to these efforts and to integrate an environmental perspective into our ODA policies and projects. In addition, in planning for the 2012 Yeosu Expo, my government intends to encourage international efforts for sustainable development that take into account protecting marine and coastal ecosystems against climate change.

11. In conclusion, Mr. President, the Republic of Korea will continue to energetically commit itself to engage in collective international efforts against climate change.

Thank you.







PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**THEMATIC DEBATE:**  
**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK, 12 FEBRUARY 2008**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. President

We thank you for your initiative to convene this thematic debate. We value this opportunity to offer our view on the topic and are grateful for the high-quality and stimulating discussions of yesterday in the framework of the panels organized by you. Clearly, climate change is an exemplary challenge for global cooperation, since the need for multilateral action can hardly ever be more obvious. It therefore constitutes a unique challenge to the United Nations system. The leadership that the Secretary-General has shown on this topic ever since he took office is thus crucial. Tremendous momentum has been created on the issue of climate change over the past months, and the Bali Action Plan was a first step to translate this momentum into concrete action. Of course, more must follow. In tackling climate change, we must realize that this is not merely an environmental issue, but predominantly one of sustainable development. Since climate change can exacerbate existing security threats, it also has a strong security dimension and thus contains elements of the priorities of the United Nations work in general. It is also highly relevant for another priority topic that we will address later this year, our ongoing work on the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President

The report of the Secretary-General before us today illustrates the impressive range of activities related to climate change in which different players within the UN system are already engaged. It also shows that the response to the challenge of International Environmental Governance that is under discussion can make an important contribution to targeting our response to climate change. The key areas for action mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing as well as deforestation

must be carried out in a manner that based on an inclusive and coherent approach, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General. We therefore support the statement made yesterday by the two Co-Chairs in charge of the institutional framework. We also look forward to the continued leadership of the Secretary-General in shaping a coordinated approach of the UN system, in particular the work underway with the Chief Executive Boards.

Mr. President

Financing and technology rightfully occupy a central place in the framework we have agreed on in Bali. Clearly, the resource side is one aspect where much thinking is yet to be done, and we hope for creative proposals on mechanisms for financing. At the same time, we must not be led to believe that there is a technological answer to the complex challenge that climate change poses. An indispensable element of our success is sustained political will as well as the promotion of a global consciousness of the magnitude of the challenge we are facing. In this respect, partnerships between all the stakeholders can have a strong catalytic effect.

I thank you.



**The Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
to the United Nations – New York**

**Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Giadalla A. Ettalhi  
*Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya***

**Delivered before  
The General Assembly**

**On agenda item**

**“Addressing Climate Change:  
the United Nations and the World at Work”.**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

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**In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful,**

**Mr. President,**

**I am honoured to commend your Excellency's effective presidency of the General Assembly and your Excellency's keen desire to strengthen its role in highlighting the most pressing of global challenges, i.e. climate change. I would also like to underline my country's support for the address given by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.**

**Mr. President,**

**There is no doubt that the findings of the scientific studies and research we have available regarding the dangers of climate change, together with those studies and reports regarding its expected socio-economic impact, have spurred the international community into serious thought concerning the drawing up and implementing of further policies and programmes to address these dangers. We are indebted to our scientists and ask for continued support for the efforts they are exerting. In this way we will ensure that we devise an effective response based on objective analysis and assessments of reliable scientific data.**

**In this regard, we highly appreciate the momentum gained through the discussions and meetings organised within the United Nations. This aided mutual understanding, enabling the participants in the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held recently in Bali, Indonesia, to draw up a road map for the start of negotiations which begin in April this year and which will run until the end of 2009. These negotiations aim to draw up a new convention to replace the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012.**

**We are all aware that a successful start to these negotiations will require serious political will and mutual trust between all parties as well as a recognition that addressing the dangers of climate change goes beyond the scope and capacities of local and national measures alone, but will be achieved through concerted and coherent international efforts, on the basis of the principle agreed upon at the 1992 Rio Summit, namely that all countries bear "common but differentiated responsibilities" and**

by bearing in mind that the commitment of the advanced industrialised countries to reduce the levels of their greenhouse gases is the basis of any real progress in mitigating the effects of climate change. We must also bear in mind that, in strengthening measures to deal with this phenomenon, we must not hinder or limit developing countries' aspirations for socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

We recall, in this regard, the principles which must be respected when working together to address climate change. These include the principle that a particular energy source should not be favoured at the expense of another. The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underlines the difficulty of depending on one particular strategy in order to limit the causes of climate change. On this basis, to focus on fossil fuels as the principle cause of the emission of greenhouse gases while paying insufficient attention to what is caused by other sources of greenhouse gases and their resultant economic repercussions and environmental dangers presents a picture which is neither logical nor realistic.

We are all aware of the scope of the contributions made by new, environmentally-friendly, renewable and economically viable energy sources in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and note, in this regard, that most developing countries still make little use of these energy sources, given their high cost and the difficulty these countries have in accessing the relevant technology. Developed countries and international financial institutions should support and encourage policies in developing countries which aim to increase the use of such fuels, and should foster bilateral or multilateral cooperation which will grant training opportunities and provide the available advanced technologies in this field. We hope that, in this context, the International Renewable Energy Conference, to be held in Washington in March 2008, will afford this aspect the attention it deserves and reaffirm it.

Mr. President,

The danger of climate change and its implications, especially for those developing countries which are least able to adapt, requires, more than ever before, that developed industrialised countries first of all abide by

their commitments to achieving the Millennium Development goals, and then accept their historical responsibility for emissions which result in increasing temperatures. It is incumbent on them to offer developing and least developed countries support and financing for policies and adaptation programmes. We wish to stress that solutions offered must be coherent with sustainable development priorities and must realise the development goals agreed upon by the international community, including the Millennium goals.

In this context we wish to underline that many African countries which are threatened with drought need support and encouragement in their short and long-term plans and programmes to implement basic measures, particularly in the field of agricultural development, this being the main source of food for their people. This support requires the strengthening of integrated water source management in order to address shortages, the introduction of appropriate irrigation systems, and empowering them with knowledge of techniques to obtain and cultivate seeds for crops which are able to withstand drought. Most importantly, in this context, there must be coherency between proposed adaptation policies and the goals of both the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, so that they may benefit from the efforts exerted in this regard.

Mr. President,

The international community calls for an intensification of efforts in the field of scientific research, and for monitoring and early warning capacities vis-à-vis the expected dangers of climate change to be strengthened. The international community also calls for international technological cooperation initiatives between developed and developing countries, and for the latter to be given access to advanced technologies to implement policies which mitigate the effects of climate change and cope with its consequences. NGOs, civil society and the media can also contribute to sensitising societies to the dangers of climate change and may increase awareness of possible changes in behaviour and patterns of consumption, and can ensure that these are consistent with the requirements of adaptation strategies. The private sector must also be involved in drawing up and implementing a new approach to planning towns, infrastructure and other facilities in order that these are able to



cope with the effects of climate change such as intense heat waves, droughts, extreme cold, floods and other phenomena.

Libya, as a nation which has ratified the Kyoto Protocol, is eager to contribute to a comprehensive convention for the stage following the Protocol, based on justice and equity. On the national level and within the framework of the execution of the first report on national communication, the General Environment Board organised the first workshop to qualify a national working group which will be charged with limiting environmentally-polluting greenhouse gases. International experts from the United Nations Environment Programme are helping train members of the team regarding how to prepare specific databases in accordance with regulations and guidelines drawn up by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Attention is also being given to the requirements of the second stage of the communication report according to the Libya's obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my speech by underlining the fact that none of us are immune from the dangers of climate change and that, although our capacities to deal with this phenomenon vary, due to geography and differing economic and technical capacities, the extent of the concerns and the socio-economic problems which occur in one country or region is such that they will cast their shadow over other countries, therefore impacting on these countries' socio-economic stability. Many therefore believe that the danger of climate change is a global challenge which, in the long term, threatens international peace and security.

Bearing all this in mind, moral responsibility falls on the international community. This moral responsibility requires joining forces to limit the causes of these changes, so that future generations will be spared the destructive natural disasters which will threaten their lives, their security and their futures. We have no option but to combine our efforts and to work in partnership to find mechanisms which objectively, justly and equitably address this issue. We must not hesitate to extend assistance to those countries in need, enabling them to draw up and implement policies to mitigate the causes of climate change and deal with its consequences. To do so is in everyone's interests, in terms of our peace, our security and our stability. Thank you Mr. President



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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Xhelil Bajrami  
Minister of Environment and Physical Planning  
of the Republic of Macedonia

at the

High Level Thematic Debate  
“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”

New York, 12 February 2008

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of H.E. Mr. Dzelil Bajrami, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning who is unfortunately prevented to do that on his own at this point of time.

At the outset, allow me to express thanks to the President of the General Assembly for convening timely this important event.

The challenge of addressing effectively climate change has been elevated to the forefront of the international community's agenda, transcending borders and nations, demanding coordinated, strong and urgent response.

We welcome the achievements of the last COP/MOP Meeting in Bali and the adoption of the Landmark Bali Roadmap launching an inclusive negotiating process on a new global and comprehensive post 2012 Agreement, by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen. We find all four key building blocks of the Bali Action Plan equally important. We share the view that the United Nations provides the best setting to address this global threat as a matter of urgency, while yet in a comprehensive and coherent manner, in the context of sustainable development. We are fully aware that in order to effectively address climate change risks and to act accordingly at all levels, strong commitment and building of effective partnerships that would create synergy among all relevant national and international stakeholders (governments, local authorities, business community, media, NGO's, etc.) are of crucial importance. Capacity building, increasing knowledge and raising awareness among all involved and relevant partners of the costs of non-action are also of key importance.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia, as a candidate country for EU membership has aligned itself with the statement of the EU presidency delivered this morning. Addressing Climate Change is one of the key driving forces set into our National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, we recognize the merits of achieving sustainable development and advancing transfer of knowledge and technologies through the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol under the UNFCCC, thus contributing to the general commitment of the Government towards attraction of investments, in this case manifested through environmental investments. The Government has established all necessary infrastructure to implement the CDM at strategic, institutional, legislative as well as technical level.

As a non-Annex I Country under the UNFCCC, we contribute towards the common goal to stabilise atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases based on differential responsibilities, and we report on the steps taken on the national level to implement the Convention following the guidelines adopted by the CoP for non-Annex I Countries. The Second National Communication on Climate Change is envisaged to be finalized by April 2008 and to be reported to the UNFCCC Secretariat by September 2008. It is a strategic national document, which will serve as a basis for comprehensive national

actions, including identifying/developing adaptation projects in the most vulnerable areas.

Of particular importance is financing of enhanced mitigation and adaptation efforts, which require new and innovative concepts to cope with climate change, in order to address possible significant damages particularly to agricultural production and food safety, increased water supply needs, human health risks, increased number of forest fires, etc. In achieving these, permanent sources of financing, both from national budget and through bilateral/multilateral agreements, need to be provided. The GEF through its implementing agencies should continue to assist the country in developing integrated approach to climate change response measures and sustainable developing planning.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by expressing confidence that the fruitful discussion we are having these days has shown that, in order to cope successfully with the challenges of climate change, various partnerships have to be built to achieve our common goals. The Republic of Macedonia is ready to contribute to that end.

I thank you.



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**56 UNGA**

**Thematic debate entitled “Addressing climate change:  
The United Nations and the world at work”**

**Statement by Mr. Jeem Lippwe, DPR  
Federated States of Micronesia**

**New York, 13 February 2008**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. President,

I wish to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting to discuss the important issue of climate change. I also like to align myself with the statements delivered by Grenada and Tonga on behalf of AOSIS and the Pacific SIDS.

Mr. President,

This year’s Human Development Report addressed the clear link existing between human development and climate change. In recent years, the people of Micronesia had to witness the consequences associated with it. More intense storms with higher wind speeds, higher tides and wave surges caused damages to our subsistence agriculture and fishing as well as endemic marine and terrestrial species, including coral reefs.

Increasingly extreme weather conditions lead to droughts, destroyed crops, contaminated water wells, eroding beaches and unprecedented land slides. These effects pose a great threat to my country’s culture, livelihood and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

If climate change continues at this pace, we might be forced to abandon our islands. Relocation is already happening in several Pacific Islands, including my own. This clearly shows that small island states who have contributed little to the causes of climate change are the ones now suffering the most. Their inhabitants are strongly affected by climatic disasters and thus victims to the effects created by the intimate relations between poverty and exposure to climate risks.

The latest Human Development Report traces climate related risks to energy consumption patterns and political choices of the major emitters. Therefore we ask those who pollute the most to take responsibility and underwrite the cost of adaptation in developing states, particularly in the small island developing states.

Fighting the consequences of climate change leads to a growing dependence on technical and financial support from partners. How can countries like ours, who are so reliant on the environment, improve their current situation if there exists so little international cooperation on the issues of mitigating and adapting?

Mr. President,

Micronesia has already adopted mitigation and adaptation measures in its infrastructure and strategic development plans, for example initiatives that protect mangrove areas, coastal beaches and climate proofing procedures for infrastructure. But the truth is, this is as much as we can do given our financial resources.

And what opportunities does a small island developing state like Micronesia have? Being a federation of islands, situated only few meters above sea level, how can we defend ourselves against rising sea levels? One possible solution, to build sea walls around every island in Micronesia, would not only mean a huge investment, but it would also be impractical.

Investing in renewable sources of clean energy in vulnerable countries will help us in meeting our energy needs and combat climate change. Support for development, utilization and the distribution of renewable energy technologies to small island developing states is necessary. In order to facilitate this, it is important to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy into all United Nations processes.

Mr. President,

As climate change progresses, basic human rights such as the right to food, the right to safe water, the right to education, health, development and the right to exist are in danger, especially for small-island developing states. The effects of climate change will slowly remove basic human rights from society and the UN must address these interrelations.

Article Three of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights declares that “everyone has a right to life, liberty and security of person.” Not to act on the threats climate change imposes on us would lead to a violation of those universal Human Rights. Forcing inhabitants to leave their ancestral home lands because of changes to the climate caused by other nations would certainly qualify as a violation of Article Three.

Mr. President, I want to emphasize that we are all responsible for the future of our planet Earth. Engaging actively in the prevention of climate change is a moral obligation that we all should be willing to fulfill. The attention paid to climate change worldwide is one step towards the right direction, but what we all need to do is collectively find a way to prevent our planet from further damage for future generations by cooperation and communication. I know this debate is part of this process.

Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

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**Statement by Madam Fatimah Raya Nasron, Head of the Malaysian Delegation  
at the Informal Thematic Debate of the United Nations General Assembly on  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”,  
New York, 12 February 2008**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would firstly like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and secondly associate Malaysia with the earlier statement delivered by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China.

2. The complexity of the climate change challenge is such that no one can alone address it. Partnerships therefore need to be established. Partnerships and cooperative ventures can best be facilitated by the following four measures. First, there must be coordination among the relevant organizations so that synergy can be achieved. Difficulties will arise given conflicting priorities of the many stakeholders involved.

3. Second, environmental ministries must be given significant roles and authority in order to promote coordination among stakeholders.

4. Third, governments must use tax incentives to promote cooperative ventures with insurance companies and banks that have an important role to play in managing risk and financing technology related to climate change.

5. Fourth, the UN should design specific programmes to promote partnerships and cooperative ventures based on successful experiences for countries to emulate.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia continues to hold that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must form the core of measures to address climate change. On this basis, we believe that the following needs to be done as first steps if our aims are to be met:

- 6.1. Developed countries must assume their leadership role based on historical responsibility, technological and financial capacity, including the implementation of quantified targets and limitations;
- 6.2. Supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, developing countries should continue to implement sustainable development policies,
- 6.3. Mechanisms must be established to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and implementation of pilot adaptation projects in developing countries;
- 6.4. Removal of obstacles to transfer of technology, provision of financial and other incentives to promote technology development and transfer;
- 6.5. Increasing funding of various types to developing countries in their development and implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions; and
- 6.6. Measures at the international level to address climate change must be made coherent, lest energies are dissipated and resources wasted.

Mr. President,

7. Malaysia is of the view that adaptation must be considered as important as mitigation. This is due to the fact that climate change is already with us and developing countries are bearing the brunt of its impact when they are least responsible for it. A plan is needed aimed at ensuring that funds are available to developing countries to cope with the diverse adverse effects of climate change such as water supply, ecosystems, floods, coastal erosion and health.

8. We agreed in Bali to establish the Adaptation Fund. However, since this fund is only based on a 2% levy of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), we must work to ensure that it will be able to gain access to other sources of funding in order to stay viable in the long run.

9. As for mitigation, measures presently pursued by developing countries are mainly through the implementation of sustainable development policies. Actual projects carried out in line with these policies and measures can, with assistance from the UN system, be accelerated with technical knowledge, technology and financial assistance. This would enable them to move away from using fossil fuels to using renewable energy, promote energy efficiency and deployment of newer technologies like carbon capture and storage.

Mr. President,

10. The climate change challenge can be met only if it is seen as an issue of development, rather than on its own. Further, it is not realistic to expect developing countries to give exclusive attention to climate change in their national priorities.



Indeed, developing countries must grow economically in order to address climate change. Economic growth must take place alongside environmental objective of reducing greenhouse gases and social objective of employment creation. What developing countries require is the experience of those developed countries that have successfully decoupled their economic development from their carbon emissions. This is another facilitative role that the UN system can play.

11. The transfer of technology is closely tied to the role of the private sector and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). Unless some relaxation of IPRs is allowed, such transfer may prove to be impossible because of the high costs involved. The UN system should explore the use of partnerships to make such transfers possible. Alternatively, the UN may help private sector organisations explore avenues for joint development of clean technology.

12. As the lifetime of capital stock can exceed many decades and new physical assets projected to triple between 2000 and 2030, the UN must make efforts to direct investment and financial flows towards technology that is more environment-friendly. This will ensure that countries do not get locked into unclean technology in the decades to come.

Mr. President,

13. I would like to conclude by reaffirming Malaysia's support for the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, stressing at the same time the importance for Annex I countries to fully implement their targets in the first commitment period. On our own part, Malaysia will continue to address climate change within the context of sustainable development policies.

Thank you.

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# MALDIVES

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**Statement by**  
**His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdullah**  
**Minister of Environment, Energy and Water**  
**of the Republic of Maldives**  
**at the United Nations Thematic Debate**  
**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations**  
**and the World at work”**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**  
**12 February 2008**

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, and friends:

Let me begin by extending to you Mr. President, my gratitude for convening this important debate.

Allow me also to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for the commitment and leadership that he had demonstrated over the past year for ensuring the highest priority to climate change.

Mr. President,

In 1938 a British engineer, Guy Steward Callendar, delivered a speech in London in which he argued that climate was changing and emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by human industry were principally to blame. Scientists of the day were intrigued but unconvinced. In 1987 our President, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, stood before this august Assembly and stated that climate change would result in the death of our nation and others like it if urgent corrective measures are not taken. Yet again, leaders and scientists were intrigued but unconvinced. It has taken seven decades of rigorous debate and dedicated research but today the evidence is clear. Climate change is real, accelerating and human induced. Today we all accept climate change as the biggest global emergency of our times.

Mr. President,

We have taken our time to reach scientific and political consensus on the nature and threat of climate change. As we now begin to focus on solutions to the climate crisis time is a luxury we can no longer afford. We should therefore work to build on our momentum from Bali over the coming year by pursuing the following three strategic objectives. First, we must mobilize popular support for climate protection by stressing human rather than the scientific dimensions of climate change. Second, we must ensure that UN programs promote climate protection as an instrument to support sustainable development. And third, we must initiate a program of governance reform to build adaptive capacity in the most vulnerable states.

Urgent and ambitious action to tackle climate change will require unprecedented public support. If we are to mobilize the people of the world in this global effort then we need to make sure they realize what is really at stake.

When we speak about how climate change will compromise biodiversity let us always remember that hidden behind statistics on species loss is the face of the fisherman who will lose his livelihood as rising ocean temperatures destroy the coral and decimate the fish stocks. When we refer to the alarming decline in food production from increased drought and soil erosion let us remember the farmer who will no longer be able to feed his family. When we consider increased frequency and intensity of storms let us remember the families that will lose their homes and their possessions. And when we speak about sea level rises let us remember the bonds of family, community, and nationhood that will be irreversibly broken.

Last November the Maldives convened a meeting to address these issues which concluded with the adoption of the Male' Declaration on the human dimension of global climate change. We will continue to pursue this approach during the coming years.

When building public support we must be conscious of the need to reconcile climate protection with sustainable development. As concerns grow about the health of the global economy there is an urgent need to demonstrate that investment in clean energy, environmental technologies, innovation, and efficient infrastructure will contribute to climate stabilization, create new and better jobs, and make a lasting impact in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard UN agencies have an important role to play in funding for technology transfer, adaptation, and exchange of best practice.

Finally, the chronic lack of adaptive capacity, including financial, technical, and institutional resources, means that developing countries amongst which the LDCs and low-lying small island states are ill prepared to deal with climate impacts. Operationalizing the adaptation fund in Bali was an important beginning but far more needs to be done.



# REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

## STATEMENT BY MS. RINA TAREO, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE 62<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON "ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK" NEW YORK, 12 FEBRUARY 2008

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands wishes to fully align itself with the statement of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Small Island Developing States, and Grenada on behalf of AOSIS.

Mr. President,

Many of the world's low-lying small island nations – the nations most vulnerable to climate impacts – have spent decades trying to bring the urgency of climate change to the attention of member nations. With an average height of only 3 meters above sea level, the Republic of the Marshall Islands truly values the personal leadership of Secretary-General Ban, as well as the commitment of General Assembly President Kerim, in finally providing climate change its much-deserved attention within the UN system.

However, we must not fool ourselves into thinking that climate change can be addressed only by generalized discussion – instead, the global community needs the help of a more effective and coherent UN system to turn broad hopes for climate change into action-oriented results. Too often, paperwork, studies and well-founded UN agency intentions have failed to translate into real benefits.

Mr. President,

The UN system must recognize that "adaptation" is an inherently limited long-term solution for certain low-lying member nations, such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands. While there are important mid-term adaptation strategies, such as the Micronesia Challenge (which aims to conserve our vulnerable coastal resources by 2020), rising sea levels will likely present questions which are without legal precedent in the global community.

With fragile coastal ecosystems as the basis of our food security, and our traditional land tenure as the foundation of our cultural identity, my nation must ask the global community difficult questions regarding threats to our development, security and fundamental freedom – what becomes of our national boundaries and cultural traditions, our legal identity and our homeland? In what ways might major emitters bear responsibility under international law? The global community cannot continue to avoid these questions. In working to support UNFCCC negotiations, the UN system can also facilitate productive diplomatic discussion on issues of human rights and national sovereignty central to the UN Charter.

### **Key Recommendations for UN System Action:**

- Recognize that adaptation has inherent limitations for certain low-lying nations
- Facilitate diplomatic discussion on difficult issues of climate threats to sovereignty, and international responsibility of major emitters
- Analyze & build national capacity on the ability of existing environmental impact assessment laws to address climate change
- Take a more immediate role in arranging cross-sectoral direct partnerships between key decision-makers (including major cities) and vulnerable populations, such as SIDS
- Analyze the impacts of climate change upon food security gained from fisheries, as well as the potential for coral reefs to act as carbon sinks
- Ensure continued transparency and recipient-nation governance in adaptation funding

Mr. President,

My nation suggests that an important role for the UN system rests in assisting member nations with domestic implementation of the UNFCCC and other climate change goals.

The need for assistance has never been more urgent – major GHG emitters are struggling to integrate climate strategies with economic development goals. Domestic climate change initiatives are time-consuming to develop, are rarely linked with urban or industrial growth programs at the national or local level, and rarely allow for public involvement.

With extreme urgency, the Republic of the Marshall Islands calls attention to the August 2007 plenary statement of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, which called upon the global community to examine the potential interlinkage between climate goals and existing national or local environmental laws, in particular environmental impact assessment (a legal norm unilaterally adopted by over 100 member nations). We urge the UN system, in particular UNDP and UNEP, to carefully study the ability of environmental impact assessment laws to address climate change, and, as appropriate, work closely with national experts to build this capacity.

Mr. President,

Our relationships on climate change with key partners have already allowed my nation to take great strides in further reducing our own small amount GHG emissions (even though we are not an Annex 1 nation). However, those decision-makers who have the greatest opportunity to make an impact on implementing climate change goals – and those populations who are at greatest risk – are too often excluded from meaningful interaction within the UN system.

Innovative cross-sectoral partnerships open up direct lines of communication between populations most affected by climate impacts, and the decision-makers who are able to reduce those impacts (such as major cities). A useful example is the 2007 Statement of Shared Action between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and King County, Washington in the United States (including the City of Seattle). We encourage the UN system to take a more direct role in playing matchmaker and encouraging these direct relationships between key decision-makers and highly-vulnerable populations.

Mr. President,

Oceans and coastal areas are critical for the survival of many small island developing states. We call upon the UN system to address the potential for the conservation of coral reefs to be considered as an eligible carbon sink under the Clean Development Mechanism. In addition, we call upon the UN system to examine the link between climate change impacts (including coral reef bleaching and ocean acidification) and the food security gained from commercial and subsistence fisheries, and to alert decision-makers of its findings.

Mr. President,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is strongly concerned that new global climate change funding mechanisms under discussion with the World Bank may compete with existing and newly-established funding channels for adaptation. It is important that the recipient nations also be afforded an opportunity to participate in governance of these funds, and that the UN system ensures that climate change adaptation funding continues to be addressed with transparency.

Mr. President,

The narrow window for global action is rapidly closing. My nation urges both the UN system, and member nations, to meet this extraordinary challenge by turning rhetoric into results.



# MAURITIUS

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## STATEMENT

by

**Ambassador Somduth Soborun  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations**

at the

**The Thematic Debate  
"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations  
and the World at Work"**

**Sixty Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**13 February 2008  
New York**

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Mr. President,

The journey from Rio to Bali in our quest for a cleaner environment and the preservation of planet earth has taken us over a decade and a half. Although slow in its progress, it has nonetheless been able to generate a consensus that climate change is real and that global warming is caused by human activities.

I should like to commend you Mr. President, for convening this timely thematic debate on a subject of serious concern to all of us. I should also like to commend Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his relentless efforts in giving top priority to the issue of climate change which he has rightly described as the "defining issue of our time". Indeed it is!

I encourage you Mr. President and the UN Secretary-General to remain continuously engaged on the issue of climate change together with other equally important issues confronting us such as the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the Financing for Development and of course the Reform of the United Nations including the Security Council Reform. These are not mutually exclusive.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report which not only provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations in relation to climate change but also sets the guidelines on what could be done to make the UN participation even better. Undoubtedly the United Nations remains the best placed organization to deal with the issue of climate change. However, it is important to stress that all UN strategies and activities on climate change and other issues as well, should be coordinated in a coherent manner as so as to 'deliver as one'.

Mr. President,

We are already late in tackling the problems and adverse effects of climate change. Time is running out and it is imperative that we hammer out an agreement well before 2009 to move the process forward for a comprehensive Post Kyoto agreement. In this context, we should refrain from overloading the agenda of the Bali Plan of Action as rightly pointed out by some of the eminent Panelists at the Working Group on Monday 11 February.

The Bali Plan of Action has called for:

- (i) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change;
- (ii) Enhanced action on adaptation;
- (iii) Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation; and
- (iv) Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation.

Furthermore, it has also called for urgent action *inter alia* on the immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States.

Mr. President,

I should therefore like to lay emphasis on some of the challenges confronting the Small Island Developing States with regard to climate change and global warming. The SIDS are facing severe threats of sea level rise and extreme weather conditions, increasing beach erosion, coral bleaching and sea surges caused by climate change. These seriously undermine tourism and fishing industries which by and large constitute the main economic pillars of most of the Small Island Developing States.

We therefore support the United Nations initiatives to assist developing countries as well as SIDS in the identification and implementation of national mitigation strategies to reduce green house gas emissions while promoting local sustainable development and cleaner economic growth.

We also reiterate our call for the setting up of a special SIDS Fund to enable the development and implementation of adaptation measures in the same manner as the Special Fund for LDCs under the Global Environment Facility. The funding should be based on vulnerability and the level of urgency for adaptation.

Mr. President,

The initial Fund of \$300 million dollars recently set up to start the Adaptation Fund is a drop in the ocean if we consider the magnitude of the problems caused by adverse effects of climate change. We are convinced that the international community can do much more as it has the capabilities and resources to mobilize billions and trillions of dollars for the purpose, given that we now all agree that the costs forgone today to address the challenges of climate change may cost us several times more in the years ahead.

We welcome the recent initiative of the Government of Japan to establish a Financial Mechanism "Cool Earth Partnerships" of US \$10 billion in aggregate over the next five years to assist developing countries that are making efforts to reduce Green House Gas emissions and achieve economic growth in a compatible way, on the basis of policy consultations between Japan and those countries. We hope that this Financial Mechanism will have a special inclination in respect of the Small Island Developing States. We also welcome Japan's intention to set up a Multilateral Fund together with the United States and the United Kingdom and its call for other donors to participate in the Fund.

We also support the Government of India's commitment to focus on areas such as natural disaster preparedness, resilience, capacity building and adaptation and mitigation to climate change with regard to SIDS and express our appreciation to India's committed project aid of US \$70 million to SIDS in addition to US \$350 million in concessional loans and credit lines.

Mr. President,

The Small Island Developing States are deprived of mineral and natural resources such as iron ore, coal, gold, diamond, copper and oil to name but a few. However, nature has been quite generous to provide them with abundance of sunshine year in and year out. It goes without saying therefore that at a time when we are putting all our efforts to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, solar energy should be put to the best and effective use. In this context, transfer of the technology and know-how in the use, application and development of solar energy, free of charge, or at subsidized and affordable rates to the Small Island Developing States could be highly instrumental in helping the SIDS in their path towards cleaner energy as well as achieving a significant reduction in their import bills of fossil fuel and their dependability thereon. In this respect, the establishment of joint ventures between the SIDS and countries with advanced level of technology and know-how in solar energy under the umbrella of one of the United Nations Agencies would be most welcome.

Mr. President,

Coming back to the broader picture of the climate change and global warming and acknowledging that the planet is in peril, let me conclude with a more practical approach. Ask not what others can do; ask what I can contribute towards a cleaner environment. This "I" Mr. President, ranges from the most powerful to the least fortunate, Governments, the most successful business corporations, industries, financial institutions to the street vendors, civil societies, non-governmental organizations and many more individuals and celebrities like Sir Richard Branson and Actress Daryl Hannah who were your chief guests at the luncheon on climate change on Monday at the United Nations. We need to build bridges and partnerships with all the stakeholders. We all have a stake, on the agreed principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in making the world a better, safer and cleaner place for us to live in and for generations to come.

Thank you Mr. President.

# MÉXICO



**Remarks by  
Amb. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs  
and Human Rights of Mexico, to the thematic debate of the General  
Assembly  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”**

New York, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Non-official translation  
Check against delivery

**Remarks by Amb. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, to the thematic debate of the General Assembly “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”**

New York, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Mr. President:

The Government of Mexico welcomes your initiative to convene this meeting, which give us the opportunity to underline the importance of collective action to face climate change and its effects.

The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are conclusive and solid. We have witnessed, and Mexico has not been immune to this, increasing meteorological phenomena and the enormous suffering of populations.

The adoption of the “Bali Roadmap” last December constitutes by itself a remarkable achievement. It shows that, in spite of our differences, the international community knows well that we should move forward in a united way, and under the leadership of the UN, in the design of mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and finance strategies, allowing countries to deal effectively with climate change.

The States have a fundamental responsibility, but other actors have the duty to act as well. Due to its nature, partnerships between the public and private sector, national and international organizations, members of parliaments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific community, media and civil society are essential for the success of climate change policies.

Mexico gives high priority to this issue, and is firmly committed with the adoption of measures for combating climate change. For the sake of time, I will mention only few of the activities that we have done at the national level, convinced that the inaction of some should not be an excuse to justify the inaction of us all:

- We have intensified our mitigation policies through our National Strategy on Climate Change.
- We are preparing a “Special Programme”, jointly with a deep national study that will allow us to identify the economic implications stemmed from climate change, and from adaptation and mitigation measures as well. The target is to safeguard the resources needed for the fulfillment of our planned actions.

- We have a voluntary scheme of corporate emissions reporting, which is a pioneer process in the developing countries.
- In 2007 we reached our goal for planting 250 million trees in our country, a quarter of the world target. This year, our goal is to plant 280 million additional trees.
- For Mexico, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol are the core of our international action. We were the first developing country to present three National Communications and we are preparing the Fourth, with updated inventories of emissions.

It maybe that the greater challenge we face, without moving apart from the principles and the philosophy of the Framework Convention, is to be creative enough and find new ways to respond to the new scientific evidence and the clearly insufficient results achieved so far.

In this endeavor, we must avoid a new North-South divide with their walls of misunderstanding and distrust.

One of the main problems for developing national policies is the high financial cost this requires. For Mexico, just like for many other countries, it is necessary to have the support of international financial mechanisms that allow the building of technical and institutional capacities.

In spite of the recognition of the transfer of technology and financing as key elements in every strategy against global warming, the States in a capacity to help with this transfer have paid much less attention to the matter than is required.

Facing climate change is economically and technologically viable. There are clean technologies whose access to the developing world would allow major advancements in the spheres of mitigation and adaptation. Access to technology is not and should not be interpreted as lifting restrictions on intellectual property rights. This only generates division on a subject of major relevance. For Mexico, this means creative and joint work that recognizes the rights of the developers of technology, but also the facilitation for the access, adaptation and use by developing countries.

Access to sources of financing should allow us an increased participation of the developing countries in the actions to combat climate change. We must develop new mechanisms that go beyond the traditional perspective of official assistance for development. Mexico considers as necessary, and has already proposed, the creation of a Multinational Fund, with clear and inclusive contribution formulas that help to overcome the atomization and their inefficiency of existing funds. We take note with interest that a number of countries also have promoted the creation of funds with different characteristics, but with similar objectives; we express our willingness to work with them, with a view to expand the access of all States to financing.

My Government is working on a proposal which could offer certainty on the contributions to the Fund to be established, and ensure that countries can benefit from the resources of the fund to reach their national targets in accordance with their capacities.

In this regard, I want to highlight the importance of the tenth special session of the Forum of Ministers of Environment / Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which will take into account, among other issues, the subject of mobilization of financing to face the challenge of climate change.

Mr. President,

We will soon initiate, under the aegis of the Bali Action Plan, the negotiations for the new climate regime. This regime should be balanced, fair, without exceptions and consistent with the necessity of the development countries to its economic growth. In our opinion, the elements that should be contained in such regime are sectoral options, intensity indicators and international cooperation mechanisms providing incentives to complement –not substitute- the national efforts of the developing countries.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has the responsibility to make progress in the strengthening of the environmental international governance system and to provide more efficient and coherent answers to the challenges posed by the preservation of the environment. We support the informal consultative process of the General Assembly on the United Nations environmental activities and the prompt adoption of agreements on this matter.

Mexico is ready to work in a responsible and constructive way in the negotiations that lie ahead.

I thank you.



Débat thématique informel de l'Assemblée générale  
« Faire face aux changements climatiques : les Nations Unies et le monde au travail »

Intervention de S.E.M. Gilles Noghès, Ambassadeur,  
Représentant permanent de la Principauté de Monaco auprès des Nations Unies

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais d'abord vous remercier d'avoir organisé ce débat qui, dès la première journée nous a apporté de précieux enseignements concernant la coopération mondiale dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques.

Aujourd'hui, nous avons conscience de l'urgence à relever le défi, sachant que les perspectives pourraient être plus sombres que celles évoquées dans le dernier rapport du GIEC.

Il apparaît clairement que la stratégie à suivre doit traiter de pair les changements climatiques et le développement. C'est non seulement une question de cohérence d'action, mais aussi de responsabilité, d'équité et de solidarité.

En effet, les pays les plus pauvres, les moins émetteurs de gaz à effet de serre, sont malheureusement ceux qui sont les plus sensibles aux effets du réchauffement climatique face auxquels ils sont démunis. Le renforcement de capacité est un levier indispensable pour avoir une action efficace en matière d'atténuation et d'adaptation.

Dans le cadre de sa politique de coopération internationale, Monaco contribue à renforcer les capacités nationales de certains pays en développement, notamment pour la surveillance de la pollution atmosphérique, la lutte contre la désertification, l'adduction d'eau et la conservation des forêts.

Monsieur le Président,

En septembre dernier, Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince Albert II a témoigné de l'engagement qu'Il a insufflé à Son pays, en fixant des objectifs clairs à Son Gouvernement en matière de réduction des émissions de carbone.

En conséquence, des mesures volontaires ont été adoptées dans tous les aspects de la vie urbaine en s'intéressant tout particulièrement au transport et à l'habitat.

Monsieur le Président,

La cohérence et l'efficacité des actions à entreprendre face aux enjeux climatiques exigent comme cela a été maintes fois évoqué, la mise en place de partenariats traditionnels et novateurs.

Nous constatons l'existence d'un potentiel de développement avec les entreprises privées dans le secteur des énergies renouvelables. A Monaco, nous sommes particulièrement attentifs à toutes les innovations et initiatives qui émergent dans ce domaine.

La Fondation du Prince Albert II, qu'Il a présentée personnellement lors de la réunion de haut niveau organisée par le Secrétaire général en septembre dernier, soutient plusieurs projets de ce type notamment en ce qui concerne les biocarburants de 2<sup>ème</sup> génération et la valorisation énergétique du biogaz

A ce propos, il serait opportun que les Nations Unies et les gouvernements stimulent les partenariats avec le secteur de la philanthropie dont le poids économique est considérable mais dont seulement une très faible partie de ses ressources est consacrée à la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le Fonds d'adaptation dont la gestion a été confiée au Fonds de l'environnement mondial doit être soutenu et renforcé. L'utilisation des Mécanismes de Développement Propres doit également être développée, en veillant cependant à ce que la complexité technique et opérationnelle de ces mécanismes ne vienne pas freiner leur mise en œuvre.

Enfin, nous attendons avec intérêt le projet de résolution des Facilitateurs, les Ambassadeurs du Mexique et de la Suisse, sur une nouvelle "Gouvernance écologique internationale". A ce propos, je ne voudrais pas terminer sans mentionner la prochaine organisation à Monaco, du 20 au 22 février, de la dixième session extraordinaire du Conseil d'administration du PNUE. Le Gouvernement Princier se réjouit d'accueillir de nombreux participants au niveau ministériel.



# MONGOLIA

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ENKHTSETSEG OCHIR,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT A THEMATIC DEBATE ENTITLED  
“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
THE WORLD AT WORK”**

New York, 13 February 2008

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset my delegation wishes to commend the important initiative of the President of the General Assembly Mr. Srgjan Kerim to convene this thematic debate on harnessing the work of the United Nations in addressing climate change. I wish to also thank the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for his comprehensive report on overview of the UN activities related to climate change.

Over the last three days we have been actively engaged in exchanging views and ideas on the necessity of taking urgent action, on the importance of forging partnerships and alliances, and on how best to streamline the comparative advantages of various UN entities in our common battle against the formidable challenges of climate change.

It is true that we, the Member States, big and small, affluent and poor, all face a host of different challenges in our home countries and respective regions. Yet, when it comes to climate change we ought to raise above all the differences and put the single most important issue of survival of the human family living in a shared global village at the top of the political agenda. There is ample evidence, both scientific and factual, that climate change is a reality. Our climate is becoming less stable, more volatile and warmer: global mean temperature is rising; it has increased by 0.7 degrees Celsius in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continues on an upward trend. Seasons are arriving at different times as normal variations are increasing; glaciers are receding; sea levels are rising. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe. Droughts, floods and heat waves are already contributing to crop failures, conflicts and a steadily increasing toll of human suffering.

Yet, this dangerous trend is an avoidable catastrophe as the world lacks neither the financial resources nor the technological capabilities to act. What is required is the political will to cooperate. In other words climate change calls for a change in our mindset, doing away with "business as usual" mentality. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to deliver on the commitments under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. Now is the time to display genuine political will necessary for building international consensus for stronger post-2012 action through Poznan and on to Copenhagen.

Mr. President,

It is widely recognized that climate change poses a grave threat to sustainable development. It is also broadly evidenced that the poor are bearing the brunt of climate change today. Wide-spread poverty, under-developed infrastructure, severe financial constraints add to the low capacity of developing countries, especially the most vulnerable ones to be able to adapt to the

devastating effects of climate change despite having contributed the least to causing the problem in the first place. Hence, the continued need to steadfastly adhere to the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Furthermore, ensuring progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals of developing countries, in particular the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs requires full and immediate implementation of the commitments under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, especially those on financing for adaptation, technology transfer and capacity-building.

Even if a comprehensive framework for stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations were adopted tomorrow, a global strategy for adaptation would still be essential as the world today is already engulfed into further warming because of the inertia and the delay between mitigation and outcome. An essential part of any integrated global adaptation strategy needs to focus on increased financing and assistance in capacity-building of developing countries. Here, the financial mechanism of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund ought to be substantially scaled up. The impact of increased climate variability on ecosystems, as well as desertification, drought and food insecurity warrant high priority.

Mongolia, for one, is keen to develop its national adaptation strategy to climate change along with in-depth vulnerability and risk assessment research in collaboration with relevant bilateral and multilateral development partners. Over the last 60 years the mean temperature in Mongolia has risen by almost 2°C; some 85 percent of its land surface has been degraded. Desertification is rampant. Ever more frequent occurrence of natural disasters like droughts and *dzuds* had a severe impact on our economy.

To address the challenges posed by climate change Mongolia launched its National Action Program on Climate Change in 2001 in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and has endeavored to integrate climate change concerns into its national development strategies, including the MDGs-based National Development Strategy up to 2021, recently approved by the Parliament.

In conclusion, Mr. President, may I reiterate my delegation's full concurrence that in order to effectively address climate change we need to forge effective partnerships with all stakeholders. Such a partnership has to be built at local, national, regional and international levels. In this regard, I am pleased to inform this august body that Mongolia has offered to host a Northeast Asian Summit on Climate Change later this year in Ulaanbaatar. We do hope that such a high level event would help forge regional partnership on climate change thus serving to the global efforts.

Thank you for your attention.



**STALNA MISIJA CRNE GORE PRI UJEDINJENIM NACIJAMA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Nebojsa Kaludjerovic**

**Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations  
at the General Assembly Thematic Debate**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”  
(New York, 11 - 13 February 2008)**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate the President of the GA for organizing this relevant and timely meeting. Montenegro fully aligned itself with the statement made by the Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. Now I would like to focus on the Montenegrin perspective in addressing the challenges of climate change in the light of this thematic debate.

Scientific data as well as the Fourth IPCC Assessment report have clearly demonstrated the importance of climate change and illustrated the responsibility to react timely and adequately to the challenge. As a comprehensive response, both developed and developing countries have to conduct appropriate activities in order to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Since regaining its independence, Montenegro has invested significant effort in the area of environmentally sound social and economic development. The country is located in Southern Europe, the region that could be considerably affected by climate change, as scientists say. The negative effects can therefore hamper economic and social development of the country as well as inhibit our prospects for tourism and long-term sustainable development.

After resolving the issue of our status in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, my country, in partnership with the GEF, has intensified the activities related to the drafting of the First National Communication within the implementation of the Convention. We have recently conducted activities towards establishment of the Designated National Authority for Clean Development Mechanism projects, and have prepared a number of Feasibility Studies for the implementation of CDM projects in the field of energy, agriculture, and transportation.

We strongly believe that the partnerships among stakeholders to deal with climate change, in the area of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology are of utmost importance. The private sector, civil society, media, parliaments, the scientific community, and United Nations systems collectively have the responsibility to address the climate change challenge.

We believe that broader cooperation between the Member States and the UN agencies, funds, and programs can foster national, regional, and global efforts toward the effective and efficient response. The United Nations has a unique know-how and expertise to assist Member States in developing integrated policies on mitigating and adapting to climate change and can be a unique catalyst for the dissemination of good practices globally. The UN system can strengthen an effective private sector engagement and can support the development of national capacities to access and utilize resources needed to implement an appropriate mix of policy instruments for achieving sustainable growth and development.

Based on the fact that Montenegro is defined by its Constitution as an ecological state, we have recently adopted several strategic documents: National Strategy for Sustainable Development, Energy Development Strategy of Montenegro by 2025, Economic Reforms Agenda, National Program for the EU Integration of Montenegro aimed to create favorable investment climate, to build strong institutions, and to define proper incentives for a long term climate change friendly development path. In that sense, however, several issues pose a challenge. Determining the effect of global warming on the overall climate on the territory of Montenegro is one of them. The ability to respond to climate change impacts will depend upon the ability to access economic resources, technology, information, skills and infrastructure appropriate for the specific context of the country. Partnerships among national and international institutions are of particular importance for the scientific technical and human capacity building.

Following the Bali Roadmap adopted during the recent 13<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Parties to the UNFCCC and according to the findings of the High Level Meeting held in the UN Headquarter in September 2007, Montenegro will host a Regional Conference on climate change in the second half of 2008. This Conference, among other goals, will be aimed at fostering the implementation of CDM mechanisms in Mediterranean region, promoting willingness of national authorities to realize CDM projects in different areas.

Montenegro believes that for developing countries CDM is the key instrument for confronting the challenges of climate change. Thus we find that the Adaptation Fund established recently in Bali in order to finance developing countries in drafting and implementing their climate change adaptation strategies and its appropriate connection with other GEF areas of action can provide additional momentum in creating more efficient implementation of Kyoto Protocol.

The strategic objective of the UN family to deal with climate change is multifold. It is a common responsibility of the international community to urgently respond to this issue, and Montenegro is willing to contribute to the efforts of the UN system and build partnerships to successfully address the climate change challenge.

Thank you Mr. President.

*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

كلمة السيد عبد الكبير زهود، كاتب الدولة المكلف بالماء والبيئة

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حوار على مستوى رفيع حول التغييرات المناخية

\*\*\*\*

نيويورك 11-12 فبراير 2008

مقر الأمم المتحدة



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

سيدي الرئيس،

سيدي الأمين العام

سيدي سادتي،

اسمحوا لي في البداية باسم حكومة المملكة المغربية ونيابة عن الوفد المصاحب لي وباسمي الشخصي بان اعبر عن أحر شكري لرئيس الجمعية العامة على دعوتنا للمشاركة في هذا الحوار الرفيع المستوى حول التغيرات المناخية.

إن الدعوة إلى هذا الاجتماع بعد شهرين فقط من انعقاد مناظرة الدول الأطراف في بالي يعد دليلا على عزم وإرادة الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة للمشاركة في تفعيل خارطة طريق بالي.

سيدي الرئيس،

لقد أكد التقرير الرابع للمجموعة الحكومية لخبراء التغيرات المناخية أن هذه التغيرات المناخية أصبحت جزءا من الواقع اليومي المحسوس.

إن الحدة والوثيرة المتصاعدة لبعض الظواهر الطقسية والمناخية القصوى، خصوصا الجفاف والفيضانات، تستدعي إعطائها العناية اللازمة.

وإذا كانت آثار التغيرات المناخية تهم مجموعة الدول على الصعيد العالمي، فإن وقعها على القارة الإفريقية اشد واكبر.

لهذا سيدي الرئيس، يجب الأخذ بعين الاعتبار الحاجيات الخاصة للقارة الإفريقية وبلورة خطط عمل واقعية للتأقلم (Adaptation)، مع التركيز على تقويم القدرات وتبادل التكنولوجيات مع إيجاد الموارد المالية الكافية.

إن مجال التأقلم (Adaptation) بصفة عامة، وبالنسبة لجهتنا على الخصوص، يستدعي إنشاء منظومات إعلامية وتجهيزات اقتصادية وحملات إعلامية وتحسيسية من شأنها تهيئ بلداننا للتدبير السريع للظواهر القصوى كالفيضانات والجفاف من أجل تأهيل هذه الدول لمواجهة الأخطار وتدبير الأزمات.

ومن بين التدابير التي من شأنها تهيئ دول القارة الإفريقية نذكر ما يلي:

أولاً، إنشاء و تقوية وسائل الملاحظة والتتبع المناخي، بالإضافة إلى وسائل التوقع على مختلف المجالات الزمنية (اليومي، الشهري الموسمي والبعيد المدى) من أجل تقوية قدرات الاستباق (Anticipation).

ثانياً، بلورة استراتيجية التحول إلى طرق ومناهج سوسيو اقتصادية أكثر تأقلماً وتجانساً، طرق زراعة وفلاحة متأقلمة ، طرق جديدة في ميدان الطاقة وطرق متطورة لتدبير الموارد المائية.

ثالثاً، اتخاذ تدابير لمعالجة النقص وحماية الموارد الطبيعية بدءاً بنهج سياسة التقشف وعقلنة تدبير الموارد الحالية ومحاربة التلوث، إلى جانب البحث عن موارد جديدة وذلك بما تسمح به الإمكانيات المالية وما تقتضيه حاجيات التنمية المستدامة .

سيدي الرئيس،

من بين الأهداف المتبعة والتي تنتظر منها دول المنطقة الإفريقية مساندة الأمم المتحدة يمكن اقتراح ما يلي:

## • في ما يخص مجال التأقلم والتخفيف:

إن التأقلم مع تأثيرات التغيرات المناخية يتطلب تكاليف إضافية تثقل كاهل الدول ذات المنظومات الايكولوجية الهشة على غرار المغرب.

ففي هذا الإطار، يمكن لهذه الدول تسيير برامج وطنية في مجال التشجير ومكافحة التعرية بالإضافة إلى التنمية في مجال الطاقات المتجددة وخاصة بالنسبة للدول التي تعرف خصاصا في موارد الطاقة، وذلك بإعطاء الأولوية للطاقة الفعالة.

ومن اجل هذا، نوصي بتفعيل القرارات المتخذة من طرف الإتفاقية لإطار الأمم المتحدة والتي تخص التأقلم مع التغيرات المناخية، مع الأخذ بعين الاعتبار التوازن في الجهود الدولية المتعلقة بالتخفيف من تأثير هذه التغيرات.

## • على مستوى مؤسسات ووكالات الأمم المتحدة :

ندعو هاته المؤسسات لإعطاء الأولوية لجميع البرامج والمشاريع التي من شأنها الحد من تأثيرات التغيرات المناخية. كما يجب على كل وكالة وحسب تخصصها أن تتكفل بالمجال الذي يخصها في ميدان الملاحظة والمتابعة المندمجة، والاستباق والتخطيط، وكذا تحديد إستراتيجية التأقلم مع تشجيع وتسهيل وسائل التخفيف.

و من المستحسن تجهيز ودعم هذه المؤسسات بالوسائل اللازمة التي تمكنها من لعب دور المؤطر في مجال التغيرات المناخية.

## • فيما يتعلق بجانب الدعم وتكوين القدرات

يجب تضافر الجهود لتوفير الموارد المالية اللازمة لضمان مشاركة فعالة للدول النامية حتى تتمكن من الاستفادة القصوى من الترتيبات الموضوعية رهنا الإشارة من طرف الأمم وباعتماد أبسط وأخف المساطر الإدارية.

## • في مجال تبادل التقنيات:

فإن الأمم المتحدة يمكنها أن تلعب دورا إيجابيا في نقل التكنولوجيات النظيفة وخاصة العمل من أجل نظام خاص بالملكية الفكرية يسهل نقل هذه التكنولوجيات إلى دول الجنوب و تشجيع أنشطة يمكن أن تبلور على شكل إجراءات عملية لمشاريع استثمار تمكن من تنمية مستدامة متجانسة مع أهداف الألفية. وفي هذا الصدد، فإن إحداث صندوق متعدد الأطراف (Fond Multilateral) من أجل تبادل التقنيات لصالح الدول النامية على الخصوص يعتبر الإطار الناجع لهذا الغرض. كما يجب على منظومة الأمم المتحدة تحديد التدابير المناسبة المقبولة من لدن الدول التي تتجاوز إشكالية تداخل القطاعين الخاص والعام.

وفي هذا الاتجاه، يمكن إدراج الأفكار المستتبطة من الميكانزمات التسهيلية الموجودة (مكاييزات التنمية النظيفة MDP). فعلى سبيل المثال يجب معادلة بعض عمليات تبادل الخبرات الدقيقة وذات القيمة العالية الموجهة لخدمة الدول النامية بحصة مناسبة من حجم ثاني أكسيد الكربون لفائدة الدول المانحة للتقنية.

• في مجال التمويل وتجنييد الموارد :

يجب توجيه مجهودات الأمم المتحدة لضمان التأطير الضروري للاستفادة من هذه الموارد، وذلك من أجل تحديد متطلبات التكوين والمواكبة بهدف بناء مشروع ينال الاستحقاق والدعم الكافي لإنجاحه.

ونظرا للمجهود الكبير الذي يجب بذله اتجاه البلدان النامية من أجل خلق توازن من حيث المشاريع المخصصة للتنمية النظيفة فإننا نرى انه أصبح ضروريا إعادة فحص شروط استحقاق المشاريع تحت آلية التنمية في المجالات النظيفة، ومن جهة أخرى نرى كذلك انه يجب تسريع تطبيق إطار نايروبي لوضع المشاريع الصغيرة للتنمية في المجالات النظيفة ذات الطابع الجماعي كتدبير النفايات، النقل العمومي، التشجير وتدبير الغابات، وكذا كهربة العالم القروي.

سيدي الرئيس،

إن التحدي المناخي الذي أصبح يكتسي طابعا عالميا لا يختلف اثنان حوله ليحتم علينا جميعا اغتنام هذه الفرصة لبناء مجتمع أكثر تضامنا فيما بين الأقطار و فيما بين الأجيال.

وشكرا على حسن إصغائكم.

**Your Excellency the President of the General Assembly,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To begin with my statement I would like to congratulate, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and personally, in my name, the President of the General Assembly for holding this relevant debate on "Climate Change". Allow me also to express our appreciation for the Secretary General endeavours to keep the issue of climate change at the top of the international political agenda.

We associate ourselves with the statements made by the delegations of Antigua and Barbados on behalf of the Group 77 and China, Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of the Least Developed Countries and the Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.

This debate is taking place at a crucial time. Just two months ago the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Kyoto Protocol adopted the Bali Action Plan, which will serve as a basis to identify long term cooperation initiatives for an effective and sustainable implementation of the Convention.

This demonstrates that the climate change is a global issue whose solution requires the strengthening of the international cooperation programmes, with a view to fulfill the needs for adaptation and mitigation, development and technology transfer and for mobilization of the necessary and sufficient

funding for the implementation of capacity building programmes designed to deal with the consequences of global warming.

Mozambique sees this debate as a way to fulfill the pledge of the United Nations to encourage its member States to keep the kind of political momentum reached in Bali, in order to accelerate the process of negotiations taking place within the framework of the Convention and its Protocol, in order to reach concrete results within the agreed upon timeframe, that is by 2009.

**Mr. President,**

We already have the available information and the required means to jointly face the challenge of mitigation of the consequences of climate change. The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is very detailed in that respect, it indicates the levels of emissions that can be adopted and the corresponding increase in temperature for each level of reduction to be adopted, as well as the resulting consequences.

Every year Mozambique is hit by the draught, floods and tropical cyclones. As we speak, the central region of the country is being devastated by flooding and as a result, and as of January 31 there were: 8 fatalities and approximately 95 thousands people were affected, totaling 20 259 families, in addition to the loss of 290 acres of several crops, and the destruction of 21,326 homes, 468 school rooms, 119 springs.

These figures are relative to this year alone. In addition to that we have the sequels of last year's floods, with ongoing process of recovery and resettlement of the affected communities. And, as one can assess, the occurrence of these cyclic incidents in Mozambique have hampered the Government in its efforts toward the social and economic development of the country and poverty reduction, consequently putting constraints to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Mozambique has made efforts to approach these disaster situations by integrating the issue of climate change into its national development policies, strategies and programmes with the collaboration of its partners. Mozambique adopted relevant related strategic work instruments, such as: a Land Reform Policy and Law, a Master Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, an Sustainable Development Environmental Strategy, an Integrated Management Strategy for Water Resources and a National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate change, commonly known as NAPA. Also under way is the preparation of a National Strategy for New and Renewable Energy Sources, a Biofuels and an Environmental Action Plan, under the NEPAD framework.

**Mr. President,**

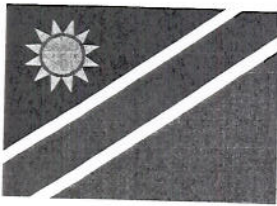
The drafting of these and other documents involved Government research institutions, the private sector and civil society and, therefore, it creates expectations, because we believe that the implementation of such



instruments shall contribute to capacity building for the improvement of the quality of life of the Mozambican people.

To conclude, we reiterate our commitment to the United Nations Global Agenda, in particular to the Bali Action Plan. We believe that only by joining efforts and showing our willingness we will be able to minimize the impact of climate change and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. The world will never win this battle if we lose this opportunity.

I thank you!



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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Dr. Kaire Munionganda Mbuende  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations**

**At the**

**THEMATIC DEBATE**

**On**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and  
the World at Work”**

**NEW YORK  
12 February 2008**



Mr. President

Allow me at the outset to express the appreciation of my delegation for the opportunity to participate in this important thematic debate and also to thank the Secretary-General for an informative report on the activities of the United Nations in relation to climate change. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Climate Change represents a classical case of interdependence where the welfare of some spells disaster others. My delegation is pleased with the action that the UN has undertaken to create greater awareness about climate change. Today farmers in Africa are aware of the connection between crop failure due to drought and the loss of life because floods on the one hand and the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in industrialist countries on the other. My delegation has asserted time and again that the United Nations provide the appropriate framework for discussions on climate change and accounting on compliance with the international commitments under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Koyoto Protocol.

Mr. President

The need for partnership to address the challenge of climate cannot be overemphasized. Governments have a critical role to play to ensure compliance with set targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Local authorities also have a critical role to play in ensuring that all activities within their area conform to high environmental standards that are climate friendly.

The private sector as the engine of growth and development has a responsibility to ensure that growth is not at the expense of the climate. This calls for investments in new cleaner energy technologies that are climate friendly. In this regard a partnership between industry, government and the scientific community is necessary.

Mr. President

The United Nations has an important role to play in ensuring greater international cooperation in the transfer, deployment and diffusion of technologies in order to help developing countries cope with mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Equally important is the adequate capitalization of the adaptation fund as well as other flows of financial resources.

I would like to underscore that climate change is not an isolated environmental issue. It has serious implications for economic growth and sustainable development and has a negative impact on the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a global challenge, climate change requires the United Nations to ensure that its activities at the country level are

well coordinated and aligned with development plans and strategies of programme countries cognizant of the fact that the eradication of extreme poverty remains the centre of development activities. The inter-linkage between climate change, desertification, land degradation and loss of biological diversity needs also to be fully recognized when addressing climate change as these are mutually reinforcing.

In conclusion I would like to reassure you of Namibia's commitment to the Bali Road Map and Action Plan. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that a comprehensive global agreement is reached by the end of 2009.

I thank you.



## NEPAL

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*Please check against delivery*

Statement delivered by Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on "Addressing climate change: The United Nations and the world at work"  
New York, 13 February 2008

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, allow me to begin by appreciating you, Mr. President, for convening this significant debate on addressing climate change. We also thank the Secretary General for his useful reports. My delegation is confident that this debate would help accelerate the constructive momentum generated by the Bali roadmap agreed last December.
2. Let me also associate myself with the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Mr. President,

3. It is an irony that the LDCs and Small Island States, which are least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, are bearing the brunt of the effects of global climate change.
4. At a time when these countries are struggling in poverty trap, their scarce resources meant for development are drying up while unforeseen expenditures and climatic calamities are rising unabated along the way.

Mr. President,

5. We cannot emphasize more on the importance of partnership and cooperation among government authorities, the UN and development agencies, non-government organizations, civil society and the business community in creating a sustainable climate future.
6. We need to galvanize common efforts under the UN frameworks – specifically the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), by sincerely fulfilling the obligations and commitments made in accordance with the principles of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities’.

Mr. President,

7. Nepal is serious towards addressing climate change. We have promoted climate change perspective into our national development strategies and country specific priorities.
8. Expansion of alternate and renewable energy sources has been encouraged. We have successful examples from the community forestry development programmes as well as from the household biogas plants for cleaner domestic lighting and cooking being installed in cooperation of non-governmental organizations. These initiatives have brought social and environmental benefits to the rural areas. This has effectively contributed to environmental sustainability by showing cleaner energy path, ending deforestation, encouraging afforestation, and preserving bio-diversity. We need to foster such local environmental efforts by increased technical support.
9. As a country with snow-capped mountains and over 2,300 glacial lakes in the Himalayan region, Nepal is dangerously exposed to glacial lake outburst floods due to snow melting and unforeseen consequences to the people living downstream.
10. Depletion of Himalayan glaciers means reduced water resources for one fifth of the humanity. It will have detrimental effect on our hydropower potentials and agricultural production. And, it will fail efforts of sustainable mountain tourism.
11. Urgent adaptation needs of poor yet vulnerable countries like Nepal should be addressed before it would be too late to avert irreversible damages to human development potentials.

12. We underscore the importance of scientific information and public awareness to improve early warning capacity as well as to build resilience and preparedness of the vulnerable communities. And, in this regard, we urge the international community to support in establishing a research centre in Nepal with a view to facilitating scientific assessment of, and adaptation to climate change in the Himalayas.

Mr. President,

13. Nepal appreciates the effective role of the United Nations for adaptation and mitigation efforts at the country level. We emphasize that greater attention should be given towards providing sustained, swift and substantial financial and technical assistance to the LDCs, poor mountainous countries and SIDS.

14. Equally imperative is that the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies be more proactive in operationalising technical and funding resources, including the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDC Fund). Procedural aspects or any other technicalities should be simplified so as to ensure efficient implementation of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA).

15. Similarly, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol should be made more inclusive covering also small scale environmental conservation projects at the local level as they would bring social and environmental benefits to the poor people and promote low-carbon investments.

Mr. President,

16. Thanks to the scientific evidence presented by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and recent studies on the economics of climate change; and thanks to the efficient positioning of climate change as a top global agenda by the United Nations, we all are aware that we cannot afford the cost of inaction.

17. The international community should stay focused linking climate change issue to sustainable development agenda with special attention to creating overall human development opportunities for the poor countries and vulnerable communities.

18. In closing, Mr. President, let me reiterate that there can be no option but to draw up immediate and concrete multilateral action plan with binding targets on greenhouse gas emissions and built-in monitoring mechanism. The need for making



technological solutions affordable and readily available from advanced world to the developing world is as pressing as never before. So is the need for generating new, additional and predictable financial and technical resources for immediate adaptation and investment for sustainable development infrastructure.

19. My delegation is committed to working together in concert to timely achieve an ambitious framework for a post-2012 Kyoto world.

I thank you Mr. President.



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**Statement by**

**H.E. Mrs. Jacqueline Cramer,**

**Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment**

**of**

**the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**GA thematic debate “Addressing Climate Change: the United  
Nations and the World at Work”.**

**62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

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Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Mr. President, just over a month ago the world gathered in Indonesia to agree on much needed further steps in the global fight against climate change. That meeting was a turning point in our efforts to address climate change.

Now is the time to start implementing the Bali Action Plan without delay. In that effort, the United Nations will have to play a leading role.

I therefore warmly welcome the leadership of the Secretary General in this regard, and applaud his decision to make the fight against climate change such a high priority for the United Nations.

The report of the Secretary General on the UN activities on climate change makes it clear that the wider UN family is already significantly contributing. But further steps are needed now. I would therefore strongly invite the Secretary General to make further recommendations on the specific role of the different parts of the UN system to ensure a coordinated response to climate change.

With that in mind, I would like to focus on one topic. The global fight against climate change requires us to mobilize resources on a nearly unprecedented scale. Not only human and political resources, but also financial flows. We will need to find billions of dollars over the next 20 years to place the world on a low-carbon, sustainable energy path, to take measures to protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of climate change and to tackle the issue of deforestation effectively.

The bulk of the extra financial flows will have to come from the private sector. In seeking market opportunities and pursuing innovation, they will have to scale up climate friendly and energy related investments. To make this happen, Governments should create a favorable investment climate, provide the right incentives, as well as work towards a long-term international framework. Today, such incentives are often lacking. So, let us engage industry and the private sector more actively in the discussion on how to formulate a post-2012 arrangement that is cost-effective, flexible and fair.

But, Mr. President, of course – public funding remains an important source as well. Industrialized countries should, at the national level, support and stimulate climate change initiatives of the private sector, of NGOs, and of society at large. Moreover, additional public funding should be mobilized to assist developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation actions. This will also help to achieve the ‘Millennium Development Goals’.

Like I have said on earlier occasions: the industrialized countries have caused the main part of the climate change problem, it is therefore up to the industrialized world to provide the main part of the solution. We will have to lead this effort!

So, we should discuss on what should be done in this regard. Let me highlight two points.

One -- there is already a lot of funding out there. Let us make better use of it, avoid a proliferation of funds, and better harmonize existing resources. The Netherlands has made available 500 million Euros for investment in, and promotion of, renewable energy in developing countries. We will make sure that this funding will fit in well with the many other initiatives currently undertaken, and address the priorities of our partner countries.

And secondly -- there is a need for additional and predictable public finance. The question is which financial mechanisms we put in place to manage these financial resources. Here too, the UN system is uniquely equipped to support us, having in mind especially UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and the IMF.

In closing, Mr. President -- I will use my position as the Dutch Minister of the Environment to further the international discussion of the financing issue and promote partnerships with the private sector. I firmly believe that progress in this area is the key that can unlock the door to solving the problem of climate change.

Thank you, Mr. President.

# **New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**



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### **General Assembly Sixty-second session**

**Thematic debate entitled "Addressing climate change: The United Nations  
and the world at work"**

**Statement by  
H.E. Rosemary Banks  
Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations**

**13 February 2008**

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New Zealand appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this thematic debate. At the outset, my delegation wishes to align with the statement made yesterday by the Kingdom of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

New Zealand was very pleased to see the launch in Bali of a new negotiation on long-term cooperative action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This sits alongside the existing negotiations underway on the future of the Kyoto Protocol. The Bali meetings have demonstrated the willingness of the international community to boost its efforts to combat climate change, through enhancing action on mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfer.

New Zealand appreciates the Secretary-General's report on the climate change activities of the various UN agencies and associated bodies. While we note the broad range of climate change initiatives undertaken by UN agencies, we see the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as the primary UN climate change body for addressing climate change. Over the course of the next two years the UNFCCC will set the agenda and strategic direction for international action on climate change.

New Zealand agrees that climate change and sustainable development are intertwined. The impact of climate change on development is both real and problematic for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The negative impacts will disproportionately affect poor people and poor countries.

Addressing climate change in development will require greater harmonisation of donor effort in alignment with developing country plans and systems as encouraged by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. New Zealand is committed to implementing the Paris Principles. To this end we welcome the efforts of Pacific leaders in prioritising the development of national plans of adaptation and mainstreaming these into national development plans. National development plans are the appropriate focus for all donor alignment and adaptation support.

New Zealand is a small country, contributing only 0.2% of global emissions. While we cannot decrease the world's greenhouse gases by ourselves, we believe we can make a contribution. For example, New Zealand is developing a comprehensive Emissions Trading Scheme covering every sector of our economy and all six gases, not just CO<sub>2</sub>. We are including the challenging sectors of agriculture and forestry. We hope other countries may find this a useful model and we will be happy to share our experiences with it.

We are also committed to helping find solutions to the difficult problem of agricultural livestock emissions, which represent 50% of New Zealand's emissions profile. To this end, New Zealand has played a leading role in the establishment of the Livestock Emission Abatement and Research Network (or LEARN).

LEARN, launched in New Zealand in December last year, is an international collaborative research partnership involving scientists and officials from around the world. The aim of LEARN is to improve understanding of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock and develop cost effective abatement solutions. The technologies developed through LEARN will benefit both developed and developing countries alike. LEARN works as a partnership because of a mutual interest of participants in addressing livestock emissions and because all partners in the network add value.

Partnerships of other forms can provide a means for addressing specific issues in detail and delivering targeted outcomes. Two such initiatives, which New Zealand is involved with, are the International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP), and ICLEI – the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. New Zealand believes that ICAP will play an important role in the development of international carbon markets, while ICLEI is a catalyst for climate change action at crucial local and regional government levels.

New Zealand's involvement in these three different partnerships – one involving scientists and researchers, another policy makers, and the third focused on local government matters – is indicative of the range and diversity of collaborative efforts available and needed for addressing climate change. The UN system and its Members can, and should, look to these types of initiatives to support and complement work through the United Nations.

In closing, while we recognise that there is still much important work to do in the coming years in the context of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol negotiations, we sense there is growing confidence among all stakeholders that we all can contribute to delivering tangible practical action to address the challenges posed by climate change.

Thank you.



Intervención del Representante Permanente Alterno de Nicaragua  
Embajador, Jaime Hermida Castillo  
En el debate temático de la Asamblea General  
“Enfrentando el Cambio Climático: el trabajo de la Naciones Unidas en el Mundo

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente,

En primer lugar, Nicaragua se adhiere plenamente con la declaración realizada por la delegación de Antigua y Barbuda en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China.

Ante el desafío más importante que está enfrentando la humanidad desde el inicio de su historia, ha surgido el clamor de pueblos enteros cuya supervivencia está en juego, para que se ponga fin al sufrimiento de nuestra madre tierra, consecuencia de un modelo económico, cuyos niveles de consumo insostenible e irracional, han puesto el planeta al borde del colapso. Ciertos países industrializados ni siquiera intentan cumplir con su responsabilidad y obligaciones internacionales de reducción de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero.

Señor Presidente,

Al tratar de definir el camino futuro, es imperioso empezar por reafirmar que la Convención sobre Cambio Climático y el Protocolo de Kioto seguirán siendo el marco de todo compromiso futuro. El mismo informe del Secretario General, indica que no estamos negociando un nuevo tratado sino nuevas metas de reducción para el segundo y subsiguientes períodos de compromiso del Protocolo de Kioto.

Tenemos que asegurarnos que las obligaciones existentes en la Convención y el Protocolo de Kioto se cumplan sin condiciones ni artificios y debemos abocarnos a resolver, donde existan, los problemas de sus ejecuciones. El principio de responsabilidad común pero diferenciada seguirá siendo el vector de nuestra acción colectiva. Los países desarrollados tienen y seguirán teniendo la obligación de reducir con creces sus emisiones.

Para nuestros países en desarrollo, la lucha contra el cambio climático es una lucha por un modelo de desarrollo sostenible por nuestra sobrevivencia, eso conlleva nuevamente la necesidad de que los países industrializados cumplan con sus obligaciones, bajo el Protocolo y la Convención, de proveer acceso a nuevas modalidades de financiamiento para la transferencia de tecnología. Tanto desde el punto de vista de la mitigación, como la de adaptación, esa tecnología es la piedra angular de toda política viable de desarrollo sostenible y por lo tanto de la lucha contra el cambio climático.

Sin embargo, a pesar de las promesas, de las obligaciones contraídas bajo la Convención, el Protocolo de Kioto y el famoso consenso de Monterrey, el financiamiento para el desarrollo sigue siendo un ejercicio que nada más retórico. Ha habido muchas obligaciones, compromisos y promesas pero sobre todo muchos engaños. Nicaragua hace un llamamiento a los países desarrollados: es imprescindible que cumplan sin condiciones algunas sus obligaciones, asuman el liderazgo del que hacen tanta gala y pongan a disposición los recursos financieros necesarios.

Cotejar con la lectura

Señor Presidente,

La movilización de los centenares de millones de dólares que se requerirá en las próximas cuatro décadas para la adaptación y la mitigación tiene que darse concretamente. En tal sentido, se ha vuelto imperiosa la necesidad de equilibrar los esfuerzos dirigidos tanto a la mitigación como a la adaptación. De esta última dependen invaluable vidas humanas. Por eso resulta incomprensible para mi delegación que ante tanta urgencia el fondo de adaptación sea financiado únicamente con el 2% de lo que recibe el mecanismo de desarrollo limpio. Es decir que no solamente ese fondo es financiado a través de un mecanismo que les permite a los países desarrollados evadir su obligación de reducción de las emisiones sino que además esos recursos financieros proceden de países en desarrollo y son re-encauzados hacia otros países en desarrollo.

Asimismo, mi delegación quisiera recalcar que la mejor manera para que fracasen nuestros esfuerzos colectivos en la lucha contra el cambio climático, sería establecer como lo sugieren algunos, una suerte de cláusula climática en las relaciones comerciales, o sea otra forma ni siquiera velada de proteccionismo por parte de los países industrializados. Esto ya que además de constituir una violación a las reglas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, nosotros, países en desarrollo no lo aceptaremos. ¡Sería el colmo que los países del norte, no solamente no cumplan con sus obligaciones de reducción de emisiones, sino que también pretendan, tomar medidas unilaterales, ilegales e injustas contra los países en desarrollo!

Señor Presidente,

Como ya lo hemos expresado, los aspectos principales de una respuesta mancomunada al cambio climático radican en el cese de las emisiones, en la tecnología y su transferencia. Para ello será por lo tanto necesario abordar de manera constructiva un replanteamiento de los derechos de propiedad intelectual, con miras a que los países en desarrollo puedan utilizar lo más pronto posible tecnologías ambientales sostenibles. Inclusive, ante la urgencia que nos asecha, declararlas de utilidad pública y reproducir los esquemas que existen a nivel farmacéutico como la producción de medicinas genéricas es una posibilidad que se tiene que estudiar muy seriamente.

Si bien es cierto que para los países en desarrollo no existen obligaciones vinculantes de reducir las emisiones, tenemos el deber moral de incorporar en el centro de nuestras políticas y programas de desarrollo la respuesta al Cambio Climático. Para países como Nicaragua, asediado por calamidades climatológicas desde hace décadas, la adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático, es luchar por la supervivencia de una gran parte de nuestra nación. Por ello, Nicaragua ha formulado y sigue formulando políticas de desarrollo basadas en energía renovable, como son la energía geotérmica aprovechando los numerosos volcanes que existen en mi país, la energía solar, eólica, hidroeléctrica, así como el uso de la biomasa. Inclusive, hemos empezado a estudiar la posibilidad de aprovechar nuestras largas costas de océano para el desarrollo de tecnología mareomotriz y undimotriz.

Señor Presidente, tales son los desafíos. Es necesario enseñar a las generaciones futuras que se debe de actuar de manera responsable. Volvamos a poner en el centro de nuestro desarrollo a la mujer y al hombre en simbiosis con nuestra madre tierra. Sólo así seremos capaces de vencer la adversidad que colectivamente estamos enfrentando, convirtiendo la indiferencia en responsabilidad. En otras palabras, ser capaces de vivir en armonía con este bello y generoso planeta lleno de mucha vida.

Muchas gracias.



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STATEMENT

BY

**BATURE LAWAL**  
MINISTER  
PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

THEMATIC DEBATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**‘ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
THE WORLD AT WORK’**

**NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Nigerian Delegation I wish to commend you for convening this thematic debate once again to address what the Secretary-General aptly described as 'the defining issue of our time'. This debate is indeed timely, as it affords the international community the opportunity to evaluate and keep-up the momentum of the success recorded at Bali. My delegation associates itself with the Statements made by Cameroon and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively.

In addition, my delegation is excited by the fresh ideas eloquently articulated yesterday by Sir Richard Branson on the need for concerted action to address climate change, more so that the global nature of the problem of climate change does not offer any sanctuary for any nation or region. For instance, it is estimated that up to one third of the African continent is threatened by land degradation as a result of escalating soil erosion, declining fertility, salinization, desertification, soil compaction and pollution by agrochemicals. Furthermore, the IPCC's recent findings indicated that water scarcity would increase in several parts of the world, with Africa having 75 million to 250 million people affected by water stress by 2020. In addition, the Arctic region was warming twice as fast as the rest of the globe and crops on which communities depend for livelihood would suffer decline, with concerns over food security.

Mr. President,

In addressing the adverse effects of climate change, Nigeria has actively engaged bilateral and multilateral partners at both regional and national levels. It has equally mainstreamed its mitigation and adaptation strategies with developmental policies aimed at significantly reducing carbon emission and sustaining the campaign against desertification and soil degradation. Furthermore, to underpin the various measures aimed at protecting the environment and enforcing regulations, the Nigerian Government in July 2007 signed into law, the National Environment Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). We continue to draw attention to Lake Chad, which is rapidly drying up due to climate change and to reiterate our call for the international community and particularly, the UN System to complement the efforts of African countries to reverse the trend.

Nigeria welcomes the Bali Roadmap, which has set the stage for launching negotiations on a global climate change agreement with a view to concluding such negotiations by 2009 and put in place a comprehensive and all-inclusive post 2012 climate change regime. The Bali Roadmap, has thus rekindled hope in not only advancing negotiations, but also in implementing action on the key issues of adaptation, mitigation, financing, technology, and deforestation.

Mr. President,

The report of the Secretary-General entitled: 'overview of the United Nations activities in relations to climate change' has offered useful insight on how the United Nations System could assist in addressing climate change. Nigeria, as a strong advocate of global partnership, is convinced that measures to address climate change should be within the United Nations framework. In our view, the daunting challenge for developing countries is how to mainstream measures to address climate change without compromising or impeding their development agenda, particularly the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the MDGs. In this respect measures to address climate change and sustainable development strategies should be mutually re-enforcing.

The UN System is uniquely placed to facilitate the implementation of the existing commitments in the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, particularly the commitment of the developed countries on emission reduction and on supporting developing countries with requisite technology and financing to address climate change.

Similarly, the UN System has the expertise to assist developing countries with the necessary scientific and technical information and capacity building to monitor climate change and employ effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. The UN System could also assist developing countries in sourcing new and renewable energies such as solar power, wind energy, hydropower at affordable cost, and in promoting research on drought-resistant and saline-tolerant crops. We however, caution on the production of biofuels in areas where this could threaten food security.

Mr. President,

Another important flank in addressing climate change is in the promotion of clean energy technology, especially as it relates to carbon market and carbon capture and storage. However, these are highly complex and technical terminologies which are not well understood by the layman. Also, many countries are wary of the safety of the carbon capture and storage technology. It therefore behoves the UN System, using its global outreach to launch a sustained public enlightenment campaign aimed at simplifying these mechanisms as well as allaying fears of some developing countries on the safety and viability of the carbon capture and storage technology.

One serious impediment to the transfer of new and renewable technologies to developing countries is the issue of Intellectual Property Right (IPR). We consider IPR to be the major stumbling block to technology transfer. In this respect, we suggest that, just the same way we have aid-for-trade, we should also have aid-for-technology transfer in form of incentives by developed countries to their multinational companies for developing countries to use patented technologies at affordable cost. The United Nations System could also play a vital role in taking stock of the technologies that are at the public domain free of charge and making such technologies available to developing countries. We also support the idea of setting-up a monitoring mechanism to regularly assess the implementation of the developed countries' obligations on technology transfer.

Mr. President,

On the issue of equitable distribution of adaptation fund and capacity building, we note that Africa is disadvantaged and thus call for concerted efforts to address this through enhancing GEF and the CDM. One important initiative, which could be vigorously promoted by the UN System is the Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (SIP). This initiative is being coordinated by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment. Through this initiative, about \$1billion was to be raised to rehabilitate damaged and degraded lands and to prevent new land degradation. One key aspect of SIP is the provision of fund, expertise and know-how directly to the grassroots, local communities and farmers to combat land degradation. It is pertinent therefore for all the relevant UN agencies, working in a coordinated manner to ensure the success of this

laudable initiative in Africa. In similar vein we call on the United Nations agencies to redouble their efforts in assisting African countries to garner an equitable share of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects through the Nairobi Framework.

Finally, we hope the forthcoming negotiation process in Poland and Copenhagen will be transparent and all-inclusive, devoid of selectiveness, as was occasionally witnessed in Bali; and will, inline with the Bali Roadmap, produce the desired result on the target date of 2009.

I thank you.



# NORWAY

**General Assembly  
62nd Session  
Informal thematic debate**

**Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the World at Work**

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## STATEMENT

By

**Ms Mona Juul  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

*[www.norway-un.org](http://www.norway-un.org)*



Mr President, let me start by thanking you for convening this important debate on climate change.

The IPCC reports have given us the facts, but we can also see them clearly with our own eyes; in the arctic, ice is now melting three times as fast as expected, and the extension of the Arctic Sea Ice was at a record low last year. The same tendencies can be seen in the Himalayas. Since ice reflects heat while water absorbs it, the melting of ice is a self-enforcing process which will further accelerate global warming.

The melting of the Arctic ice cover will have ramifications for the climate in regions thousands of kilometres away. For example, it is likely that the Asian monsoons, crucial for the livelihoods of millions of people, will be affected.

The situation is serious and we need action now. It is positive that we agreed on a Bali Plan of Action, even though we feel we were not ambitious enough. A global agreement on climate change has to have a common vision that meet the scale of the challenge. Norway agrees with the European Union that to avoid dangerous climate change, global temperatures must rise no more than 2 degrees above pre-industrial level. According to IPCC this means that global emissions have to peak no later than 2015 and have to be reduced at least by half no later than 2050 compared to 2000. Industrialised nations, such as Norway and the US, have to cut emissions by 25-40 percent already in 2020. We recognize, however, that what is most important is that we now need to work together and bridge our differences in order to tackle the significant challenges ahead.

The fact that the greatest burden of global warming will be on the poor, who have the least responsibility for the current state of affairs, also makes climate change a central issue of justice and ethics in world politics today. Industrialized countries therefore need to take the lead in this effort (to tackle climate change), but all countries must be on board and do what they can in accordance with their capabilities.

The Norwegian government is ready to play its part, and has therefore decided to cut the global emissions equivalent to 100 percent of our own emissions within 2030. This way, Norway will become a carbon neutral nation.

Norway believes that being a big exporter of oil and gas gives us a particular responsibility to provide a more climate friendly option for using fossil fuels, including coal, during the transition to a low carbon energy system.

According to the International Energy Agency, the use of carbon capture and storage in the industrial, fuel transformation and power generation sectors, can account for 20 to 28% of the CO2 emissions savings.

Norway is therefore strongly committed to develop Carbon Capture and Storage technologies, and hopefully our efforts will contribute to make this technology commercially viable at a global scale.

Furthermore, Norway also recognizes the need for bringing reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to a halt, and has decided to support forestry

efforts in this context with more than USD 500 million per annum. Through effective measures against deforestation we can achieve large cuts in greenhouse gas emissions quickly and at a low cost. We welcome, in this regard, the significant developments at Bali on the need for bringing reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation seriously into the negotiations for a post 2012 agreement.

This is a difficult sector to tackle, and a comprehensive effort with close cooperation between all parties involved will be necessary to meet all the challenges we are facing.

Mr. President,

The world cannot choose between development and environment. We need both. In fact, without tackling the problem of climate change, development will be harder to achieve and definitely more costly. Sustainable development will therefore be a key factor. So will developing mechanisms that reward environmental friendly practices.

We will also need a major push for new technologies. Rapid technological progress, as well as the rapid transfer of this technology, is vital for achieving sustainable development.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the report of the Secretary General. The report gives a useful overview of the activities of the United Nations. I can see from the report that many things are being done both at a local and global level, but the report also underlines the need for the UN to streamline its efforts.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Yvo de Boer has talked about the need for a "Climate Change Marshall Plan". We are in agreement with this idea, and the principles behind it, but in this respect it will be important first that the UN can "deliver as one", and secondly that it can coordinate and cooperate with international financial institutions as well as donor and program countries, so that the "plan" can deliver results effectively.

Thank you, Mr President



# PAKISTAN

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**Statement By**

**Ambassador Farukh Amil,  
Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to  
the United Nations**

**At the**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on  
“Addressing Climate Change: The United  
Nations and the World at Work”**

New York,  
12 February 2008

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FARUKH AMIL, ACTING  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS DURING THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON “ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED  
NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**(New York , February 12, 2008)**

**Mr. President,**

It is my honour to represent Pakistan at this important informal thematic debate on Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work.”

2. We commend you Mr. President for your initiative and leadership in convening this thematic debate, which we welcome and see as very timely and topical.

3. Pakistan wishes to associate with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G-77 and China and would like to make the following additional comments.

**Mr. President,**

4. Climate Change poses serious risks and challenges particularly to the developing countries including Pakistan that have contributed the least to global warming and yet are likely to suffer the most. A series of recent scientific reports and their findings, which paint a rather bleak scenario, have only lent further credence to the seriousness and severity of the crisis.

5. The Bali roadmap, in particular the Bali Plan of Action - the outcome of the Bali Conference on Climate Change - is the most recent manifestation of international community’s resolve to address it through a concerted global action based on the Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

6. Most importantly, the Bali Plan of Action, we believe, promotes an integrated and coordinated approach to address climate change in a manner that enhances and ensures the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

7. Pakistan, with fifth largest population in the world, at only 0.4% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, is 135<sup>th</sup> on the list of global greenhouse gas emitters. Despite such a low contribution, climate change is causing irrevocable damage to Pakistan, with tremendous social, environmental and economic impact including on forest resources and natural ecosystems of the country. Even the glaciers in the Himalayas are receding faster than in any other part of the world. It is feared that many of these glaciers may disappear by 2035 or perhaps sooner if earth keeps warming at the current rate. This will have a serious adverse impact on our agriculture productivity as well as on forest resources and natural ecosystems.

8. In fact South Asia is viewed as a region severely affected by Climate Change by a series of recent research studies and reports. One such study maintains that South Asia and Southern Africa will be hit first and hardest by climate change. The IPCC Reports also point out increased precipitation intensity, rainfall variability, risk of floods, land degradation and water stress among others as the factors that will adversely affect millions in South Asia. In fact the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report notes that the South Asian region will bear the brunt of the consequences of Climate Change in more ways than one.

**Mr. President,**

9. Pakistan remains deeply committed to the global efforts to mitigate Climate Change impacts and has taken the following measures for improvement and protection of environment:

- i. A Prime Minister's Committee on Climate Change has been constituted as a policy and review forum.
- ii. A Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) has been established for undertaking research on Climate Change and suggesting appropriate adaptation measures.
- iii. A Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Cell has been established under the Climate Change Wing of the Ministry of Environment, to facilitate approval of CDM projects in the country.

- iv. Despite resource constraints, a mega forestry project worth US\$ 240 million is being launched by Government of Pakistan for carbon sequestration without financial assistance from international donors.
  - v. Other interventions which also contribute to climate change adaptation include Mountain Areas Conservancy Programme, Pakistan Wetlands Programme and Sustainable Land Management Project.
10. As a developing country, Pakistan needs to undertake the following:
- i. Development of efficient water management systems, so that adverse impacts of climate change may be reduced on our ecosystems and agriculture. In this connection, the increase in glacier melting in the Karakoram, Hindukush and Himalaya ranges in Pakistan need to be arrested by rehabilitation of damaged areas, largely through afforestation and mountain conservancy programmes.
  - ii. Mass awareness campaign sensitizing the general masses to adapt to the changing life-style, change in cropping pattern and change in weather cycles due to Climate Change.
  - iii. Development of a Satellite linked Early Warning System and satellite e-mapping system to comprehensively deal with natural disasters emanating from Climate Change.
11. Clearly the challenge of Climate Change is too big for any one country to tackle single handedly. The United Nations, undoubtedly, has a central role to play in this regard, particularly by advancing the global development agenda, including a concerted global action to meet the challenge of climate change. The United Nations had made an important contribution by building up the political momentum for the successful conclusion of the Bali Conference under UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol - the multilateral framework for cooperative actions to address Climate Change. It should play a similar catalytic role to address all three pillars of Sustainable Development.
12. One important area where United Nations can and must make an important contribution, as part of an integrated approach to sustainable development, is the implementation of the commitments already made to address the challenge of Climate Change including in the four areas of mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. The United Nations through the General Assembly and ECOSOC can devise new mechanisms or use the existing ones to effectively monitor the

implementation of Internationally Agreed Development Goals including MDGs and those commitments made under UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

13. Second, the UN system agencies particularly UNDP, UNEP, UNCTAD and FAO, upon request, by the developing countries may assist them in developing national action plans and strategies to deal with Climate Change particularly adaptation and in identifying their capacity building, technology and financing needs including the capacity to avail of funding opportunities offered by CDM and other available mechanisms.

14. Third, the United Nations particularly DESA as well as UNCTAD can also be helpful in providing information and data to bolster the capacity of the developing countries to meaningfully engage in the complex and serious Climate Change negotiations particularly under the Bali Action Plan.

15. Fourth, the Secretary General's report has made a number of interesting suggestions to enhance the capacity of the UN system to assist countries in meeting the Climate Change challenge. However it is not clear where the resources needed to undertake those steps will come from. We must ensure that the existing resources are not diverted and that adequate provision for additional resources is made to allow the UN system agencies to take on the Climate Change responsibilities as mandated by the intergovernmental decisions.

16. Fifth, the UN system can also be particularly helpful through UNCTAD, UNDP and DESA in developing a climate change vulnerability index or provide more structured information on the vulnerabilities of various countries and regions on account of Climate Change to allow for more effective and equitable allocation of resources.

17. Sixth, UNCTAD and other relevant UN agencies should also carry out a technology needs assessment of the developing countries in close collaboration with the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC to promote a global technology response to Climate Change.

18. Seventh, a comprehensive needs assessment for financing should also be undertaken by DESA in close collaboration with International Financial Institutions and the UNDP to meet the challenges of adaptation, mitigation and technology access and transfer. The UNDP Human Development Report, we believe, is an important first step in this regard.

19. Finally, Pakistan also fully recognizes and greatly appreciates the important role that public-private partnerships can play in preparing an effective response to address the challenge of climate change at the global as well as national level. However, given the magnitude and scale of the challenge involved, the role of the public sector remains paramount. Public private partnerships, we believe can play an important role in this regard.

20. Pakistan will continue to play its rightful role as a concerned and active member of the international community in addressing the challenge that we collectively face.

**I thank you Mr. President**

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**PALAU**



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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Mr. Stuart Beck  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/  
Permanent Representative**

**At the Thematic Debate**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at  
Work”**

**13 February 2008**

**New York**



Mr. President, esteemed colleagues, friends

The waters continue to rise in Palau, and everywhere else. Salinization of fresh water and formerly productive lands continues apace. The reefs, the foundation of our food chain, experience periodic bleaching and death. Throughout the Pacific, sea level rise has not only generated plans for the relocation of populations, but such relocations are actually in progress. Though this litany of disasters has become well known in these halls, no action with remedial consequences has been taken. Larger countries can build dikes, and move to higher ground. This is not feasible for the small island states who must simply stand by and watch their cultures vanish.

Is the United Nations simply powerless to act in the face of this threat to the very existence of many of its member states? We suggest that it is not.

Last April, under the Presidency of the United Kingdom, the Security Council took up the issue of climate change. At that time, while there were some expressions of discomfort with the venue of the debate, a discomfort which we decidedly did not share, there was general agreement with the notion expressed by the President of the Security Council, UK Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett that climate change is a threat to "our collective security in a fragile and increasingly interdependent world".

Islands are not the only countries whose existence is threatened. Ambassador Kaire Mbuende of Namibia characterized climate change as a "a matter of life or death" for his country, observing that "the developing countries in particular, have been subjected to what could be described as low-intensity biological or chemical warfare. Greenhouse gases are slowly destroying plants, animals and human beings."

Speaking on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum at last years Security Council debate Ambassador Robert Aisi, of Papua New Guinea observed that climate change is no less a threat to small island states than the dangers of guns and bombs to larger countries. Pacific Island countries are likely to face massive dislocations of people, similar to flows sparked by conflict, and such circumstances will generate as much resentment, hatred and alienation as any refugee crisis.

Ambassador Aisi observed then, and we reiterate now, that it is the Security Council which is charged with protecting human rights and the integrity and security of States. The Security Council is empowered to make decisions on behalf of all States to take action on threats to international peace and security. While we applaud the efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General to shine a light on this awful problem, we take this opportunity to respectfully call upon the Security Council to react to the threat which we describe. Would any nation facing an invading army not do the same?

Under Article 39 of the Charter, the Security Council “shall determine the existence of any threat to peace...and shall make recommendations...to maintain or restore international peace or security”. We call upon the Security Council to do this in the context of climate change.

Under Articles 40 and 41 of the Charter, it is the obligation of the Security Council to “prevent an aggravation of the situation” and to devise appropriate measures to be carried out by all States to do this. While we Small Island states do not have all the answers, we are not unmindful of the scientific certainty that excessive greenhouse gas emissions by states are the cause of this threat to international security and the existence of our countries. We therefore suggest that the Security Council should consider the imposition of mandatory emission caps on all states and use its power to sanction in order to encourage compliance.

We further propose that under Article 11 of the Charter, the General Assembly is empowered to call to the attention of the Security Council “situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security” and, at the appropriate time, we will call upon this body to do so. In the event that the General Assembly chooses not to avail itself of this right, then we will call upon the countries whose very existence is threatened to utilize Article 34 of the Charter, which empowers each Member State to bring to the attention of the Security Council any issue which “might lead to international friction”. I think we can all agree that international friction is a mild term to describe the terrible plight in which the island nations now find themselves.

Our Charter provides a way forward. Our Security Council has the wisdom and the tools to address this situation. And while we debate, the waters are rising.

Thank you.



## **PALABRAS PARA LA REUNIÓN DE TRABAJO**

### **“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UN AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

El cambio climático es un hecho, así como nuestra vulnerabilidad y la necesidad de adaptarnos. En nuestros países ya se han registrado eventos climáticos extremos con pérdidas de vidas humanas y serios daños materiales que reproducen y profundizan las condiciones de pobreza, que requieren respuestas inmediatas con alternativas de vida digna.

Hoy estamos sufriendo por la inacción de nuestros antepasados, por su desconocimiento de la existencia del cambio climático. Pero resulta que hoy NOSOTROS somos conscientes de lo que está sucediendo, y por esto la urgencia de pasar del “diálogo a la acción” para garantizar que las futuras generaciones no sufran el costo de que hoy dejemos de actuar, sabiendo que ese cambio existe.

¿Que somos vulnerables? Si, ¡ya lo sabemos!

¿Que hay que planificar el desarrollo de forma sustentable? ¡También lo sabemos!

¿Que debemos adaptarnos porque no podemos detener el Cambio Climático? ¡Eso también lo sabemos!

¿Qué debemos mitigar los gases efectos invernaderos? ¡No hay la menor duda!

Pero todo eso tiene un costo, que es asimismo mayor para los países en desarrollo. Nuestra vulnerabilidad aumenta más rápidamente que nuestra capacidad de adaptación.

Es por eso que este debate es clave, pues ya es hora que se definan las acciones que podrán cambiar los comportamientos de nuestras sociedades que nos llevaron a las actuales condiciones climáticas. Para ello se necesita más que voluntad política de los gobiernos, se necesita concientizar a la empresa privada, a las organizaciones gremiales y a los partidos políticos, para que entiendan que, si cumplen la normativa ambiental en cada país y se invierten en nuevas tecnologías limpias y eficientes, al fin comenzaremos a construir, en una alianza compartida con el ~~junto~~ resto de la sociedad, el desarrollo sostenible en nuestros países.

Deseamos recalcar la responsabilidad de los países desarrollados, que en virtud del principio de las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, deben incrementar sus acciones y políticas responsables para mitigar la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero, considerando las oportunidades existentes en el Protocolo de Kyoto. Este es el primer paso acordado por la comunidad internacional para disminuir las concentraciones de gases de efecto invernadero en la atmósfera. Igualmente, deben respaldar las iniciativas que se presentan en el marco de la convención para atender el tema de la adaptación.

El mercado internacional del carbono ha creado grandes expectativas para los países en desarrollo, y Panamá apuesta a este mercado para lograr flujos financieros orientados a aliviar el problema de la pobreza extrema, analizando el problema de forma integral desde un punto de vista social, económico y cultural. ¿Cómo? A través de la inversión directa, en las comunidades aledañas a los proyectos, del 30% de los ingresos provenientes de los créditos de carbono recibidos para inversiones sociales y ambientales, tal como en cada caso lo deciden las comunidades con los gobiernos locales.

Además, hemos creado un Fondo de 5 mil dólares anuales por cada MW instalado proveniente de las plantas generadoras para suministrar servicios de agua potable, energía, mejora de viviendas, letración con biodigestores que les permiten cocinar y no usar leña, así como otros tipos de infraestructura social necesaria.

Las Naciones Unidas y sus países miembros deben dinamizar el flujo financiero para hacer frente a un cambio climático inequívoco, para apoyar a cada una de las acciones que, como países, venimos desarrollando para mitigarlo, tanto en la transferencia de tecnología como la promoción de las energías renovables y la eficiencia energética. Siendo un país pequeño, hacemos un gran esfuerzo, pero necesitamos sentir que los verdaderos responsables estén cumpliendo con su deber de mejorar nuestra capacidad de adaptación.

Panamá ha venido dándole seguimiento al tema de la reducción de emisiones provenientes de la deforestación y degradación, mejor conocido como "REDD".

Muchos esfuerzos se han hecho en el pasado, pero con resultados no muy halagadores. La tasa de deforestación en nuestro país es alta, y continuará aumentando si no se hacen grandes esfuerzos e inversiones para reducirla. Sin embargo, el problema es bastante complejo y se requiere de grandes inversiones.

El Mapa de Ruta de Bali da señales claras sobre este tema y apelamos a la cooperación de todos para lograr acuerdos y detener estos procesos que, no sólo traerán como resultado reducir las emisiones de CO<sub>2</sub>, sino que además contribuirán al verdadero desarrollo sostenible de comunidades que hoy día no cuentan con formas de generar ingresos y que, a la vez, son las comunidades más vulnerables de nuestros países y que sólo así podrán adaptarse.

El trabajo en equipo es clave para lograr las metas trazadas en el Mapa de Ruta de Bali, cuya agenda incluye los temas que se negociarán y que no deben de pasar del 2009, para establecer lineamientos en cuanto a los compromisos a adquirir una vez que termine el 2012, fecha final del Primer Periodo de Compromiso.

Muchas gracias



**H.E. Robert G. Aisi**

Permanent Representative and Ambassador

Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work  
United Nations Headquarters, New York  
11,12 & 13 February 2008

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you for organizing this thematic debate and also take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General for his committed leadership in our efforts to address climate change.

We also align ourselves with the statements on behalf of G77 and China, AOSIS and on behalf of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States delivered by the Ambassadors of Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada and Tonga respectively.

For Papua New Guinea (and I suspect many other countries), the time for mind-numbing debate has passed. The time for leadership has arrived! We cannot idly watch our island communities slip silently under the waves of sea level rise, our villages torn apart by cyclones of increasing fury or our children die of new virulent diseases. We are prepared to step forward and accept the challenge to lead by example

Mr President

In order to meet this challenge, Papua New Guinea is working to integrate Climate Change into the principles of the Millennium Development Goals – especially MDG 7 on Environmental Sustainability and to be underpinned by MDG 8 which refers to the need to develop global partnerships.

Toward this objective, our Prime Minister has recently established the 'Office of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability.' The objective is to integrate all the wide ranging interconnections related to climate change – desertification, sea level rise, air pollution, biodiversity loss, spreading diseases, erratic weather, etc., – and to coordinate the best international and national minds through partnerships (refer MDG 8) to focus Papua New Guinea on contributing toward solutions while battling the unfortunate consequences of climate change.

We know this is a very complex undertaking for a developing country but we seek to lead by example but, again, in partnership with other friends including the UN and its agencies to undertake this challenging endeavor! We challenge the UN system to "Deliver as One" in this critical endeavor.

As we reflect on the Climate Change Conference last December in Bali, we do so with a mixed sense of hope and foreboding. While on one hand, we are encouraged that there is now a timetable with a start, a finish and an agenda for action; on the other hand, we are deeply concerned that the entire Bali Action Plan almost collapsed while only really being an agreement to continue TALKING!

However, looking forward, the next two years will become increasingly complex as we struggle to define 'common but differentiated responsibilities' and the steps that all nations must undertake to deal with climate change – either through mitigation or adaptation.

#### **Deepen Reduction Commitments by Developed Countries**

Mr. President, if we are to succeed, we must acknowledge that primary responsibility for global warming and its consequences today falls primarily upon industrialized nations, including the resulting mitigation and adaptation challenges all of humanity must now face.



We are very concerned by the hubris of certain industrialized nations who promote emissions reductions in certain developing countries as a precondition for taking responsibility for carbon emissions at home. We seek leadership by example. We say, please show us how deeply emissions can be cut in all industrialized countries, rather than simply pointing fingers at the poor in developing countries.

We do not accept that the cost of action is too high for these industrialized nations. Rather, the cost of INACTION places an unfair burden on developing countries and the world's poor.

Therefore, all industrialized nations must demonstrate leadership by reducing carbon emissions within their own borders through deep and hard targets! This concept has to be the bedrock for any future international agreements on climate change.

### **Mobilize Sufficient and Sustainable Resources for Positive Incentives and Adaptation**

Mr. President, thoughtfully structured, deeper cuts within industrialized nations can be leveraged to mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources necessary to underwrite emissions reductions in developing countries along with efforts toward adaptation.

Specifically, we believe that international carbon emissions markets hold the greatest promise to provide the necessary scale and sustainability of revenues! By expanding and strengthening carbon emissions markets, we may leverage deeper emissions cuts by industrialized nations to finance the necessary systems of positive incentives and adaptation for developing countries. To be successful, we must integrate more industrialized countries, more sectors, and deeper emissions reduction targets.

But, carbon emissions markets need not carry the burden alone! We must also consider selected carbon consumption taxes, reducing energy subsidies, and new and additional Official Development Assistance.

### **Global Incentive Systems to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation**

Mr. President, when it comes to mitigation, Papua New Guinea is seeking to contribute in an equitable way. As such, along with many other developing countries, we have been advocating a new initiative to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Why should the world care about deforestation and forest degradation? Simply: if we lose the world's forests, we lose the fight against climate change. Rainforests are our earth's greatest utility – our planet's lungs, thermostat and air-conditioning system.

Tropical Rainforests are being cut down because the world is not paying for these services. So, the communities who depend on forests must make their living in other ways.

To compound this dire situation, according to the IPCC, emissions from deforestation could account for approximately 20% of global emissions. But, action to reduce emissions from deforestation is too important to wait until after 2012. Therefore, we must overcome the existing perverse incentive systems, credit early action starting today, and expand implementation in future climate frameworks!

We say that if deforestation causes 20% of global emissions...then we must allocate 20% of available resources to address this important source. We must make this happen! For the world's climate and for the world's forests, and our rural poor, that day cannot arrive soon enough!

### **Scale up Adaptation Finance to protect Future Generations**

Mr. President, even with significant emissions reductions over coming decades, certain impacts of climate change are unavoidable. We are duty bound to be prepared. While developing countries are not responsible for climate change, its effects will fall most heavily on those least able to adapt.

The current UNFCCC mechanism to fund adaptation within developing countries is frankly unethical. How can we justify taxing developing countries, through a 2 percent levy on CDM trades only, for adaptation costs that are no fault of their own? In any enlightened society, those primarily responsible for damage must pay for corrective action!

Therefore, adaptation taxes should be levied against the carbon trading of Annex-B countries and not be deducted from the fractional revenues derived by developing countries from the CDM. This present structure is untenable and unconscionable!

Therefore, Papua New Guinea will be presenting a new agenda item at the next UNFCCC Conference of the Parties seeking corrective action on this important matter. We seek your support.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, Mr. President, we will not defeat climate change simply by asking developing countries to slow or halt economic growth. There is no political will to stand still, nor should there be! However, as a developing country, we are willing to contribute equitably toward a common objective. We are willing to do our part and lead by example.

Thank you.





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**MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**Intervención  
del Embajador Antonio García Revilla  
Representante Especial  
del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú  
en el debate temático de la Asamblea General sobre  
“La Lucha contra el cambio climático:  
Las Naciones Unidas y el mundo en acción”**

**Nueva York, 12 de febrero de 2008**

Señor Presidente,

El Perú saluda la iniciativa para celebrar este debate de alto nivel de la Asamblea General con la finalidad de examinar de manera conjunta las actividades del sistema de las Naciones Unidas con relación al cambio climático.

Señor Presidente,

Mi delegación desea asociarse a lo manifestado por el distinguido Representante de Antigua y Barbuda a nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China. Asimismo, deseamos expresar nuestro acuerdo con las perspectivas planteadas, el día de ayer, por el Representante Permanente de México a nombre de los Facilitadores nombrados por el Secretario General para la Gobernanza ambiental, respecto de las tareas pendientes que cabe cumplir al sistema de Naciones Unidas en esta materia.

Permítame en ese contexto, señor Presidente, señalar claramente un aspecto que mi país estima central en el combate contra el cambio climático.

La primera medida que se requiere para revertir la actual tendencia en materia de cambio climático, es establecer de manera urgente metas aún más ambiciosas de reducción en los niveles de las emisiones de los gases de efecto invernadero y en esta tarea y en base al principio de la responsabilidad común pero diferenciada, corresponde a los países desarrollados fortalecer su liderazgo.

Los países en desarrollo también hemos asumido un compromiso y rol vital que cumplir porque somos los más afectados. El reto es cómo hacer que nuestros esfuerzos para desarrollarnos sigan siendo sostenibles ante el desafío que implica el cambio climático.

El Perú estima que la integración de las políticas de mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático en la agenda internacional para el desarrollo constituye un aporte esencial del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Y es que el sistema de las Naciones Unidas se encuentra en una posición privilegiada para impulsar en la agenda internacional de la cooperación para el desarrollo las iniciativas que, con la urgencia del caso, los países en desarrollo necesitamos poner en práctica para reducir los riesgos de desastre ocasionados por los fenómenos climáticos extremos y para crecer económicamente de manera sostenida y sostenible.

En materia de adaptación, se requiere de políticas de adaptación integradas y sostenidas a lo largo de un período de tiempo que abarquen diversas áreas tales como el manejo de los recursos hídricos, agricultura, salud, industria, asentamientos humanos y reducción de riesgos.

De esta manera, los planes sectoriales de adaptación se ejecutarían bajo una óptica integral donde se pondría énfasis simultáneamente en la protección de la salud de la población afectada, en su seguridad alimentaria, en mejorar su resiliencia ante los fenómenos extremos, en la protección de la infraestructura económica así como de la biodiversidad. De otro lado, conocer y evaluar las vulnerabilidades de nuestros países ante el cambio climático requiere del desarrollo de capacidades y tecnología que el sistema estaría en capacidad de movilizar a la luz de sus ventajas comparativas en el campo de la cooperación para el desarrollo.

Hemos visto los valiosos esfuerzos que realiza el sistema de las Naciones Unidas para tener una aproximación más integrada en su apoyo a los países para la implementación de nuestras políticas nacionales de adaptación. Sin embargo, no podemos dejar de reiterar que frente a estos loables esfuerzos, los recursos financieros que se requieren son aún muy escasos ante la magnitud del problema. Se requiere con urgencia contar con los necesarios recursos adicionales y nuevos que permitan poner en marcha iniciativas integrales en la materia. No olvidemos al respecto que, como fue mencionado en el Panel el día de ayer, y conforme lo establece la propia Convención marco, el cumplimiento de los compromisos de los países en desarrollo está vinculado a que los países desarrollados lleven a la práctica efectivamente sus compromisos relativos a los recursos financieros y la transferencia de tecnología.

En el campo de la mitigación, se hace necesaria la promoción de un crecimiento económico con baja intensidad en el uso de carbono, que nos permita, a la vez, satisfacer nuestras prioridades de desarrollo; en especial la erradicación de la pobreza que aflige a partes importantes de nuestra población.

El desarrollo de una economía de este tipo está asociado a la adopción e implementación por parte de nuestros países de estrategias de crecimiento ambientalmente sostenibles, lo que requiere de la cooperación financiera y de un mayor acceso a las tecnologías adecuadas. El desarrollo de tecnologías limpias y sostenibles así como su difusión a través de la cooperación internacional es crucial para lograr una estrategia a largo plazo de reducción de los gases de efecto invernadero. Las agencias, programas y fondos de las Naciones Unidas están en capacidad de apoyar la difusión de las mejores tecnologías contra la emisión de los gases de efecto invernadero para que sean aplicados en los proyectos que el sistema ejecuta en apoyo a los esfuerzos nacionales. De esta manera contribuyen en la lucha contra la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero y en la transferencia de tecnología que se necesita para ser más eficientes. A pesar de esto, consideramos que es necesaria una reflexión sobre la evolución de la gestión del sistema de las Naciones Unidas sobre la temática energética.

Finalmente, como lo señalara ya la Cumbre de la Tierra de 1992, no puede dejarse de considerar que se encuentran vigentes insostenibles patrones de producción y consumo, que por lo demás se proponen como modelo a los países en desarrollo. Estos son cada vez más insostenibles con la preservación de la vida en nuestro planeta en el mediano y largo plazo, particularmente, como lo evidencia el informe del IPCC, en cuanto al incremento de los gases de efecto invernadero.

Señor Presidente,

El Perú estima que el sistema de las Naciones Unidas tiene un rol fundamental que cumplir con miras a promover de manera activa el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Convención. Cada entidad del sistema y de sus respectivas áreas de competencia está en capacidad de asistir con políticas de mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático a solicitud de los países.

Muchas gracias.



# PHILIPPINES

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK**

by

**Honorable Angelo T. Reyes**  
Secretary, Department of Energy  
and

Chairman, Presidential Task Force on Climate Change  
Republic of the Philippines

Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly, 12 February 2008

Mr. President, Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant day to all of you.

It is a great honor for me to speak at this High Level Thematic Debate session on Climate Change in behalf of the Philippine government and the Filipino people as concurrent Secretary of the Department of Energy and Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change.

As a developing country, the Philippines accounts for a miniscule share of global greenhouse gas emissions. Yet as a tropical archipelago located in both the typhoon belt and the Pacific Rim's so-called "ring of fire", our country counts among the most highly vulnerable to the effects of global warming. It is for this reason that we welcome this initiative of the United Nations to host a thematic debate on climate change. As a member of the Group of 77 and China, this statement is also aligned with the concerns that will be presented by our distinguished colleague from Antigua and Barbuda this morning.

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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To start with, I wish to echo the statement made by UN General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim that we need “a common vision, a global consensus, a global alliance for action” for, clearly, an issue like climate change cannot be addressed by individual nations on their own nor even by an institution as broad-based as the United Nations.

If indeed scientific consensus has been reached that human activity is the main cause of global warming, then our planet would be best served by the moral suasion of the United Nations in affirming this consensus and working toward the fulfillment of national commitments to halt, if not reverse, the tragic trajectory of climate change.

Over lunch yesterday, Sir Richard Branson stressed the preeminent need for scientific action in light of the reality that mitigation and adaptation strategies would do nothing to thin the layer of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are already pushing global temperatures on a precariously upward path as we speak. This opens up another potential for UN intervention, perhaps as the custodian of an international fund to activate research by a multinational group of scientists to develop a gas or a sophisticated sequestration process that can restore the balance in our atmosphere to pre-industrial levels.

To preclude the notion that a scientific silver bullet can save humankind from the ill effects of its largely unsustainable development track, however, we cannot downplay the importance of the mitigation and adaptation strategies—and the requisite technology and financing interventions—that are outlined in the Bali Roadmap.

The UN—along with other international, development partners—is ideally positioned to facilitate the flow of mitigation and adaptation technologies and resources to vulnerable developing states in particular. As a corollary benefit, such interventions afford countries like ours the chance to minimize—if not leapfrog—carbon-driven technologies on our way to higher stages of industrialization and development.

Yesterday’s discussions drew consensus on the need for partnership, based on good faith, solidarity and scientific knowledge, at every level. We seem to agree that each of us has to reach out—in a deliberate and systematic manner—to the private sector, to civil society, to local governments, to communities, to development partners and to one another if we are to make the collective impact that we all desire.

What seems to be lacking is a sense of urgency that cuts evenly across all these levels of partnership. Between the ranks of alarmed international scientists and the legions of passionate non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is a spectrum of stakeholders with varying degrees of appreciation of the climate change problem and what needs to be done about it. Of these “ambivalent” stakeholders in any state, the most critical would be the government, the private sector and vulnerable communities.

Governments are typically caught between competing priorities. In the developing world, sparse government resources tend to be focused on meeting people’s basic needs, making it necessary to align the UN’s Millennium Development Goals with the global climate change response agenda. In addition, many in the public sector still have to overcome the reluctance to engage other sectors, particularly those that might be critical of government or the work pace of bureaucracies.

In the private sector, on the other hand, many companies have yet to be convinced of the wisdom of the triple bottom line. In spite of the growing receptiveness of corporations in general to planetary concerns, a critical mass of CEOs has yet to subscribe to the view that profits can only be sustained over the long term if a company looks after delivering social and environmental benefits at the same time. But Ms. Fionna Harvey of the Financial Times raised an interesting point about shareholders exerting pressure on companies to place climate change concerns prominently on the corporate agenda. As Mr. Timothy Wirth, our debate moderator, pointed out, this underscores the emerging role of key stakeholders as political actors, bearing strong voices of advocacy.

Communities, like governments are beset by competing priorities. Climate change, while a very serious global concern, still has to be translated into concrete issues that would make it relevant to specific stakeholders—such as vulnerable island communities and marginal farmers—and stir them to act with a sense of purpose and urgency.

This is where NGOs, as ubiquitous links to grassroots stakeholders, fit perfectly into the picture. In addition, as Mr. Martin Khor of the Third World Network underscored, they inject the dynamics of activism that push governments—national and local—to sort out their priorities and that keep corporations transparent and consistent to the principles which these firms espouse.



**PORTUGAL**

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK**

Statement by

**Ambassador João Salgueiro**

Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

on the occasion of the informal thematic debate  
of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session the General Assembly of the United Nations

New York, February 12, 2008

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Mister President,

I would first like to align myself to the statement made by His Excellency the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

Scientists leading research into climate change have, over the years, painstakingly set out a stark vision of how the world will change if Humanity fails to tackle surging greenhouse gas emissions.

Again, this scientific case for action was authoritatively and unambiguously confirmed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, underpinning the scale of the challenge confronting Humankind and the urgency to address it at all levels.

Climate change is increasingly becoming a contributing factor to environmental, economic and security threats. A warming world would threaten billions of people with thirst and malnutrition, endanger more than half of wildlife species with extinction and hasten the melting of the ice caps and glaciers that could raise global sea levels by more than 22 feet, unleashing catastrophic and irremediable effects and imperiling Human life on Earth.

Some of these changes are already underway, but there is still a window for action, albeit short, to prevent some of the worst effects of an accelerated degree of disruption of the World's climate.

As the IPCC tells us, mitigation is technically feasible and economically affordable, if we act with resolve **now**. In fact, it is widely recognized that early action will reduce the severity and frequency of the impacts of climate change, avoiding potentially massive costs to our societies.

Mister President,

Climate change cannot be faced merely as an environmental issue. The ramifications this challenge poses to us are cross-cutting in nature, and will have deep implications for all three pillars of sustainable development, impacting economic growth and jeopardizing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The most vulnerable countries and in particular the most exposed groups in those countries, namely women and children, will be the hardest hit.

That is why the International Community needs to address the challenges of development and climate change in a more coherent and focused manner.

According to the IPCC, future vulnerability depends not only on climate change but also on the type of development that is pursued. In this regard, adaptation measures can only be successful if implemented in the context of national and international sustainable development plans. Besides, adaptation to climate change should be mainstreamed within development assistance programmes.

Recognizing the urgency of tackling this challenge, we, Portugal, together with our European Union partners, have shown our determination to continue playing an active role in the fight against the negative effects of climate change, by strengthening our own commitments. It is

however clear that climate change must be acknowledged as a real global threat and that urgent action must be taken by the International Community as a whole.

Mister President,

It has to be acknowledged that 2007 was an extraordinary year in terms of raising the political profile of climate change as a crucial issue and as a common concern of Humankind. Indeed, the unprecedented involvement of key political players and institutions, at all levels and in several *fora*, not only permitted a thorough discussion of many of the issues underpinning the climate change challenge but has also allowed for the recognition of the central role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the appropriate multilateral forum for reaching a global and comprehensive "climate agreement".

The Informal Thematic Debate of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly – "*Climate Change as a Global Challenge*" – as well as the High Level Event on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General last 24<sup>th</sup> September provided judicious and momentous contributions in this regard, galvanizing political attention to climate change related problems and calling for breakthrough action from all Parties at the Bali Conference, last December.

Bali did provide such breakthrough and Parties agreed to engage in a two-year negotiating process to deliver a global and comprehensive climate agreement. This process will encompass both mitigation action and enhanced action on adaptation, also considering the supporting role of technology and financial resources and investment to action on adaptation and mitigation.

In this joint endeavor, all countries have the responsibility to act according to their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

To keep up the momentum throughout the year, and to contribute to solving this common problem, we need to further translate our words into solid action, by establishing tangible and ambitious goals.

The United Nations system must cultivate this global political thrust and enhance the areas where its contribution can better serve the objectives to be attained through common commitment and decisive partnerships. In this regard, the report of the Secretary General on the "*Overview of the United Nations activities in relation to climate change*" is a very useful starting point upon which the wider membership can judiciously build, with a view to advancing the climate change agenda, through CoP-14 in Poznań/Poland, at the end of this year, and towards CoP-15 in Copenhagen/Denmark, in 2009.

There is a tremendous challenge ahead of us, but history is made of vision, courage and big steps forward. We must all contribute and be prepared for the transition to a low carbon economy, conscious that the next steps will require unprecedented international cooperation on a path that we must truly walk together, with the United Nations System at the center of this endeavor.

The International Community has now two very intensive negotiation years ahead and cannot but meet the expectations of the public opinion and respond to the clear scientific findings.

Thank you very much Mister President.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## بيان وفد دولة قطر

يلقيه

سعادة السفير / ناصر بن عبد العزيز النصر  
المندوب الدائم لدولة قطر لدى الأمم المتحدة

أمام

الجمعية العامة في المناقشة المواضيعية

حول

مواجهة تغير المناخ: الأمم المتحدة والعالم في خضم العمل

نيويورك، ١٣ فبراير ٢٠٠٧

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations – New York  
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السيد الرئيس،

أود في البداية أن أشيد باهتمامكم الشخصي بمسألة تغير المناخ وجعلها في قائمة أولوياتكم لهذا العام إدراكا منكم لأهمية هذه المسألة وتبعاتها الخطيرة على كوكبنا الأرضي، ونحن بدورنا نشارككم هذا الاهتمام وندرك أن مسألة تغير المناخ قد أصبحت أمرا لا يقبل الجدل، إذ كما قال الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة بمناسبة الإعلان عن التقرير التحليلي الرابع للهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ، لقد بات من المؤكد أن المناخ يتغير حتما، وعلى العالم العمل فورا لمواجهة الكارثة.

السيد الرئيس،

يأتي هذا الاجتماع امتدادا طبيعيا للنقاش الهام الذي جرى في بالي بإندونيسيا في ديسمبر الماضي، والذي نتج عنه خطة عمل وخارطة طريق للمفاوضات بشأن المرحلة المقبلة، وهذا ما يدل على تنامي نشاط الأمم المتحدة للتصدي للتأثيرات السلبية لتغير المناخ. ولا شك أنه من الضروري متابعة هذا النشاط وأن يكون تحت مظلة اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية لتغير المناخ وبروتوكول كيوتو باعتبارهما الآلية الأساسية للتعامل مع هذه الظاهرة.



السيد الرئيس،

تولي دولة قطر مسألة التغير المناخي الاهتمام الذي تستحقه حيث تهتم بالوقود النظيف. وقد أصدر سمو الشيخ تميم بن حمد آل ثاني، ولي عهد دولة قطر، في شهر أكتوبر الماضي قرار بتشكيل لجنة التغير المناخي بالمجلس الأعلى للبيئة والمحميات الطبيعية، وذلك بهدف متابعة اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغير المناخ وبروتوكول كيوتو والتأكد من تنفيذ الجهات الحكومية وغير الحكومية بالدولة للالتزامات المقررة فيهما، بالإضافة إلى اقتراح السياسات الوطنية للحد من انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري.

وتشارك قطر في عضوية مجلس صندوق التكيف الذي تم الإعلان عن إنشائه في بالي في شهر ديسمبر الماضي. وعلى صعيد آخر، فقد ساهمت دولة قطر بمبلغ ١٥٠ مليون دولار في صندوق أبحاث الطاقة والبيئة وتغير المناخ الذي تم الإعلان عن إطلاقه في قمة الدول المصدرة للبترول (أوبك) التي عقدت مؤخراً في الرياض، وهذا مما يدل على التزام دولة قطر التام بمبدأ الحفاظ على البيئة وإيمانها بأهمية المشاركة الفاعلة في الجهود الدولية للتصدي لتغير المناخ.

السيد الرئيس،

إن النتائج التي توصل إليها الفريق الحكومي الدولي المعني بتغير المناخ بخصوص تأثير تغير المناخ على التنمية المستدامة تؤكد أن تغير المناخ تنعكس آثاره على جميع الدول ولكن تأثيره الأكبر يكون على الدول النامية، وذلك نسبة لقلّة وسائلها وقدراتها المحدودة على التكيف. ولا بد إذن من معالجة مسألة تغير المناخ معالجة متكاملة ضمن عملية التنمية المستدامة كما جرى التأكيد على ذلك في مؤتمر ريو لعام ١٩٩٢. كما إن تطوير التكنولوجيا الحديثة وتيسير نقلها يشكلان عنصرا أساسيا من الإجراءات العالمية لمكافحة تغير المناخ.

ولا بد من أن تكون معالجة التغير المناخي قائمة على أساس مبدأ المسؤولية المشتركة والمتباينة ولكن المسؤولية التي تأخذ بعين الاعتبار أن الدول النامية ستكون أكثر عرضة للتأثيرات السلبية لتغير المناخ من جهة، ومن جهة أخرى فإن الدول النامية ستكون أكثر تضررا جراء التدابير التي تتخذ للتصدي لتغير المناخ، ولا سيما الدول المصدرة للنفط. وعليه فإنه على الدول المتقدمة النمو، التي تتحمل القسط الأكبر في المسؤولية عن الانبعاثات المؤدية إلى تغير المناخ، أن تلتزم بخفض الانبعاثات وبتحمل المسؤولية وفقا لمبدأ المسؤولية المشتركة المتباينة كما أسلفنا.

وشكرا لكم.

Постоянное Представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации Объединенных  
Наций



Permanent Mission  
of the Russian Federation  
to the United Nations

136 East 67th Street  
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**STATEMENT**  
**by H.E. Mr. Vitaly CHURKIN,**  
**Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN,**  
**at an Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly**  
**"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work"**  
**(New York, 11 – 12 February 2008)**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Today, the international situation is becoming increasingly characterized by the international community's growing awareness of the serious challenges posed by global climate change and of the need for joint action to address them.

Traditionally Russia has been an active participant in the international climate process. At all of its stages, we have consistently stood for consolidated efforts in this area by all countries without exception.

In this regard, we welcome the efforts by the UN Secretary General and the President of the 62<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly to convene an informal thematic debate to overview the UN system's implementation activities in relation to climate change, which must contribute to the strengthening of UN's role as the main platform for coordinating international cooperation on climate change in the light of the positive impetus provided by the recently concluded 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (Bali, 3-15 December 2007).

We highly appreciate the outcomes of the Bali meeting, first of all, the consensual adoption of the Bali Action Plan, in accordance with which in 2008-2009, comprehensive negotiations are to be held within the framework of UNFCCC to agree on the international regime of post-2012 (post-Kyoto) climate cooperation.

It is also of fundamental importance that the Bali meeting reaffirmed the priority of the UNFCCC as a universal mechanism for attaining the ultimate goal of stabilizing greenhouse gases at a level safe for humanity and the biosphere.

The achievement of this global objective can be greatly assisted by a more efficient use of the potential of the whole of the UN system, within which constant and diverse work in the above-mentioned area is being carried out within the mandates of the organs and agencies of the UN.

The proposals contained in the UN Secretary General's report are aimed at reviewing and optimising UN activities in this area; in our view, many of these proposals are quite interesting and deserve careful consideration.

Besides, we view as reasonable the attempt to organize future climate work in the UN system on the basis of the UNFCCC's strategic areas (adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance), including in particular sectors (energy, transport, health, etc.).

We believe that if approved by all participants of the climate process, measures along these lines can produce a significant synergy effect and become an important complementary element in the general international strategy of tackling adverse consequences of climate change.

On our part, we would like, first of all, to note the proposals to strengthen scientific research capacities in the climate change area, to coordinate UN activities at sector and thematic levels on the basis of the already established groupings ("UN-Energy, UN-Water, UN-OCEANS, etc.), to carry out a comprehensive analysis of links between biofuels and food security, and to increase the role of forest ecosystems in the climate process.

Thank you.

# SAMOA



**STATEMENT BY**

**H. E. AMBASSADOR ALI'IOAIGA FETURI ELISAIA**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAMOA**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THEMATIC DEBATE**

**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**NEW YORK, 13 FEBRUARY 2008**

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Mr. President,

"Time and tide waits for no man"

Likewise, climate change is impervious to the statements delivered during this thematic debate, if our rhetoric is not translated into true commitment and action.

Climate change has been described variously. Some have called it the most important challenge facing mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Others believed it is a security risk of far greater proportions than any military risks the world has experienced. For some, climate change spells doom and inevitable extinction of their islands from the face of the earth. A few have warned that climate change, if left unabated, could result in a redrawing of national boundaries and an ultimately, new-look world.

Call it what you like. Give it a label that best suits your country's conviction. Or try a new description if you prefer.

Whatever you choose, one thing is absolutely certain. As sure as the sun rises in the east, and sets in the west, climate change is real. It has happened, is happening and will continue to happen. Climate change knows no boundaries and respects no national sovereignty. As inhabitants of this world, we are all affected by it, in varying degrees. No country is exempted from the wrath of climate change irrespective of whether or not it contributed to its root causes.

The origins of climate change had been proven conclusively - both through real life experiences and by science. These causes had been internationally accepted and uncontested. Solutions to avert this catastrophe have been elaborated continually and agreed upon. The absence of solutions to reverse the negative impacts of climate change is not the culprit, but a reluctance by some countries to be part of a unified global solution.

Mr. President,

Grenada's Permanent Representative yesterday articulated the challenges facing the membership of AOSIS. Tonga's statement on behalf of the Pacific SIDS reinforced the same vulnerabilities our islands had been, and are continuously exposed to, on a daily basis. Initiatives undertaken regionally in the Pacific to demonstrate our determination to be part of the solution by trying to put our house in order first were highlighted yesterday by Tonga's Permanent Representative and by some of my fellow Pacific island colleagues.

Mr. President,

Climate change, to be addressed successfully, requires a global solution. The United Nations remains best suited for that purpose.

The unanimous approval of the Bali Plan of Action, the launching of the Adaptation Fund and Australia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol underscored vividly that "*where there's a will, there's a way*". Let me add a word of caution. There will always be skeptics bent on ensuring that the agreed timeframe of the Bali Roadmap would not be met. Much is at stake for the global good to allow such detractors to frustrate our collective will.

Mr. President,

The UN has the convening power to ensure that the issue of climate change is not allowed to slip out of the world's attention. This thematic debate is an excellent way to keep members states in tuned and focused on the magnitude of the task ahead. A realistic and practical post-Kyoto protocol is in sight. It is within our grasp. We all share the same basic needs and aspirations. It is immoral for some to deny others what is rightfully their due by virtue of their helplessness through consequences not of their making.

The United Nations stands for equality. To it we should turn for solutions that underpin such noble aims. Solutions that are based not on our economic ability and world stature, but rather on our genuine needs. Our organization should ensure that climate change is mainstreamed into its multifaceted agenda given its overarching reach and profound impact on every aspect of our social, economic, and political life. Let climate change be the litmus test on how the United Nations agencies can deliver optimally as one, as we try to test the waters under the banner of the system-wide coherence.

Mr. President,

No single stakeholder has a monopoly on ways to address climate change. Everyone, the private and civil sectors included, have strategic contributions to make. Ultimately, the success of any global solution will be assured only if it is led, driven and owned by member states and supported in partnerships with the inter-governmental organizations.

Access to adequate resources to fund our mitigation and adaptation needs remains an important challenge that must be addressed, if our modest efforts will have a lasting impact. The decision in Bali to operationalise the Adaptation Fund is a positive step. We implore countries with the capacity and willingness to provide additional resources to boost the Adaptation Fund to do so. No assistance is too small or insignificant to matter.



Within our region, the launch of the GEF/Pacific Alliance for Sustainability in April this year is an innovative way for GEF resources to be utilized for the islands mitigation and adaptation needs. Italy's project to meet some of our regions renewable energy requirements including proposed partnership arrangements with the governments of Turkey, India, Iceland, Austria and Venezuela are manifestations of what partnerships within the UN context or bilaterally can contribute to addressing country needs on the ground.

At the national level, our development partners, both old and new including international lending institutions and various UN agencies had been receptive to our call for support to meet our needs and priorities in the area of climate change. The UNDP's own decision to set up in Samoa in the near future a climate change clearing house for our region, adds strong impetus to our national aspiration to make Samoa the true climate hub for the Pacific region.

In conclusion, while we agree with the cautionary note offered by some of our member states to avoid the proliferation of different assistance modalities, it should be borne in mind that we all have different capacities and sometimes unique needs that more centralized approaches are ill suited to respond to. Practical approaches sometimes outside the acceptable norms of doing things can be quite effective and easily tailored to respond to these challenges. Innovative partnerships should therefore be explored and encouraged where their overall contributions add value to our suite of responses to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

There is much work to do between now and the Copenhagen Climate Change meeting in 2009. Are we up for the task? Positively so, for we have a shared common goal to succeed. For no man is an island to himself and united we stand and divided we fall.

Thank you.





REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

## STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador Daniele D. Bodini  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of San Marino  
to the United Nations**

**Thematic Debate**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the  
World at Work”**

**General Assembly**

**New York, 12 February 2008**

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this important event. We strongly believe that climate change is a critical issue on the GA agenda and we greatly appreciate your effort to maintain our attention focused on it. I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his commitment to "have moved the climate change to the top of the U.N. priorities" and for his inclusive report "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change". We have been extremely impressed by the great world leaders attendance to the High Level Event on Climate Change last September. This broad participation reflects the determination and the moral commitment of all Member States to resolve in an equitable manner such enormous challenge.

The Fourth Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provided us with definitive evidence of climate change and its causes, and presented us a practical basis for adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Bali Action Plan represents a promising way forward to guarantee a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral action to address this emergency situation.

Climate change is affecting all Countries with no distinction between, small or large, Developing and Developed Countries, but we all agreed on the fact that Developing Countries are facing a greater emergency and need an increased financial support and strengthened capacity-building. Moreover we agree with President Kerim's statement "we need to reconcile the economic aspirations of developing Countries with the necessity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions".

We also believe that an universal strategy to address climate change is our only solution and that the entire process has to be under the leadership of the U.N..

Development and economic growth can and must move forward together with environmentally friendly policies.

The negative consequences of climate change represent a concrete obstacle to reach the Millennium Development Goals, a threat to international peace and cause of humanitarian

emergencies. We cannot succeed without effective and coordinated strategies at all levels balancing between environmental need, energy consumption and economic growth.

The technological progress in new and renewable, affordable, sources of energy, is a key element of the entire process and should be one of the main objectives of our efforts. Partnerships between Governments (with fiscal and direct incentives) and private sector, can significantly contribute to focus on effective investments in alternative technologies to ensure universal access of know-how and expertise.

San Marino is finalizing a new legislation promoting energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable sources of energy, and introducing water, sanitation and water-waste management programmes to reduce water consumption. This regulation will include new criteria and incentives to promote alternative clean technologies and will establish specific measures such as the use of a fixed minimum percentage of energy from renewable sources by public buildings, and the monitoring on energy consumption. We are confident to significantly modify the energy and environmental patterns of the entire Country and reduce San Marino's dependency on energy imports, as well as Co2 emissions.

Mr. President,

Finally, we want to underline the importance of sustainable development and environmental education and respect for natural resources as basis of our social policies. In fact, as it has been pointed out yesterday, to succeed we have to raise awareness of private citizens, business community and Governments.

While there is no guarantee that we will be able to significantly stop global warming it is clear that all of us have to remain committed to curb this catastrophic outcome.

Reversing this trend would be the greatest legacy for our future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Saudi Arabian Permanent Mission  
To the United Nations  
New York*



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

## Statement of Saudi Arabia

at the  
Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on  
“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”

By  
Mr. Aysar Tayeb  
Energy and Environment Specialist  
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

Wednesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. President,

Allow me thank you for convening this meeting and for the continuous attention that the UN is allocating for the issue of climate change. At the offset, I would like to associate with the statement made by HE the permanent representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of Group 77 and China, and with the statement made by the honorable ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia shares the world's concern regarding climate change and the challenges it poses. And we are committed to working together towards finding the right solutions.

At the OPEC summit in Riyadh a couple of months ago, Saudi Arabia pledged \$300 million to a new fund that will support research on energy, environment and climate change. This pledge was complemented by pledges from Kuwait, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates, bringing up the sum to \$750 million.

There are also many efforts at the national levels, but the time does not allow getting into them in more detail.

Excellencies, Honorable Delegates,

On Monday, we heard a list of very useful presentations and discussions from experts. Some of the ideas that were crystallizing from the discussion include the important role of partnerships and the full engagement of the private sector and civil society; another idea had to do with great tie and connection between climate change and development. Development and climate change are linked and need to be viewed together.

Less than a year ago, the Commission on Sustainable Development here in NY was deliberating on energy for sustainable development. And the obvious fact that was also crystal clear is that energy is a main pre-requisite for development.

In order to maintain the objective of the Climate Change Convention in addressing the challenges of climate change without hindering the development process, we must find practical solutions that would achieve the required emission reductions, and at the same time keep the energy cycle on its steady path to avail the growing energy needs required for development.

In that regard, we need to be careful in assuring that mitigation actions do not create market distortions, which would lead to instability of energy supplies, and cause a disruption to the development process. Technological solutions such as Carbon Capture and storage provide a win-win solution and a positive way forward.

The other issue I would like to address is the Bali Roadmap

In Bali we reached an important agreement, and that agreement did not by anyway imply that Kyoto is dead or over, or that the Climate Change Convention is not good anymore; which is why I'm surprised by some of the statement I heard alluding to such notion. Yes, actions to address climate change are lagging. But that is not because there is a deficiency in the Convention or Kyoto Protocol; the deficiency has been in the implementation of the commitments under these agreements.

Going back to Bali, we have reached an agreement on a detailed timetable for the remaining work of the AWG under the Kyoto Protocol, which will agree on new ambitions targets for industrial countries, targets for the Kyoto second commitment period, targets that hopefully will be met this time.

In Bali we also reached an agreement "to launch a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012" it is not an agreement to replace or supersede the convention, or any of its principles.

We have agreed to step up the contributions from developing countries, with actions in the context of sustainable development. Actions that, are measurable, reportable and verifiable; with the condition that these actions are supported and enabled by measurable, reportable and verifiable technology, financing and capacity-building.

And its not like developing countries were incapable of taking these actions without the Bali agreement or any other agreement to follow; the problem is that the tools to enable them to take these actions were never made available.

Excellencies, honorable delegates,

This is the real challenge, this is the core of the climate change challenge, and it has always been. Our success through this year and next year will not be just in finding some consensus language and text that we can all agree to. Our success will be in making breakthroughs in unlocking the toolbox, and availing the required financing and technology that can really make a difference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few decades, reflecting on how successful the world was in facing the challenges of climate change will not be measured by agreements or treaties; it will only be measured by the tangible difference that we are able to make together.

Thank you.





STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VANU GOPALA MENON,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ENTITLED  
“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”  
13 FEBRUARY 2008

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Climate change is the global environmental challenge of our time. As a small island, Singapore is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We are taking immediate steps nationally to address this challenge. But climate change is a global issue that requires solutions and action at the global level. The world's collective response will determine how well we address it.

2 The UNFCCC is the key UN platform to discuss climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was an important attempt by the world to start addressing the problem. But looking ahead, we must work out a practical and effective post-2012 framework. Such a framework should contain the following elements:

3 First, it must put substance into the principle of "*common but differentiated responsibilities*". The reality is that developed countries are responsible for the bulk of current and historical greenhouse gas emissions. So clearly, they have an obligation to take the lead in reducing emissions. They also have to help developing countries address the problem through technology transfer or financial incentives. On the other hand, developing countries need to make effective use of the help they receive and take specific actions appropriate to their situations. The emerging economies are growing rapidly and will be among the largest emitters. Their participation is vital to any effective global solution to climate change.

4 Second, the post 2012 framework should take into account differences in national circumstances and specific constraints that countries may face. Countries vary in size, population and stages of development. Some are endowed with abundant renewable energy sources. Others have no alternatives to fossil fuels. Moreover, due to the international division of labour, countries that serve as manufacturing bases and transportation hubs that supply bunkers for ships and fuel for airplanes are naturally larger carbon-emitters than those that supply more services. It would be counterproductive to penalise such countries, as these activities would simply move to other countries which might produce them less efficiently. In short, the post-2012 framework cannot adopt a one-size-fits-all approach.

5 Third, the framework should take into account the need for continued development and economic growth. Many governments, especially those in developing countries, are faced with immediate priorities like improving living standards. They need economic growth, resources and energy, in particular fossil fuels, to achieve these goals. It will be difficult for them to accept a framework that impedes their development. But this does not mean that addressing climate change and economic growth are mutually exclusive.

6 There are already pragmatic and cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These steps can be taken immediately. Let me highlight three broad areas:

7 First, increasing energy efficiency. This involves using technology to improve energy efficiency and reduce wastage. Energy should also be properly priced so as to avoid subsidising the over-consumption of fossil fuels. These measures would allow countries to continue their economic growth in a more sustainable manner. Promoting energy efficiency can also drive the development of exportable energy efficient technologies. Singapore has launched a national energy efficiency plan, which we call “E<sup>2</sup> Singapore”. This is aimed at improving energy efficiency in our main energy-using sectors, namely power generation, industry, buildings, transport and households. Not only does energy efficiency lower our carbon emissions, it also improves Singapore's cost competitiveness and reduces our energy imports.

8 Second, use cleaner energy sources. The world needs to invest in climate change research and clean energy technologies to make low-carbon energy sources technically and economically viable. We have to try to embed such technologies into our everyday life. Singapore has already moved towards generating most of its power from natural gas, which is less carbon-intensive than fuel oil and coal. We are also committed to the global research effort. We have allocated about US\$110 million for research into solar and fuel cell technologies. We are also partnering China to build an eco-city in Tianjin. This project will test-bed environmentally sustainable and economically viable approaches for urban development. If successful, it could be replicated in other cities.

9 Third, we need to protect the world's carbon sinks. Deforestation accounts for some 20% of carbon emissions. Slash-and-burn practices and the large-scale burning of peatlands release massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. We must stop these practices. Our forests reserves must be better managed and protected. This requires the support of the international community, as well as responsible policies and effective enforcement by the countries that have forests. Singapore supports the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiative which emerged from the recent Bali Summit. We also support regional initiatives like the Heart of Borneo project which covers 220,000 sq km of forests in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. We have also worked bilaterally with Indonesia to tackle peat land fires and develop sustainable land-clearing practices.

10 Debates at the UN can serve as a forum for us to share ideas on how we are dealing with the challenge of climate change at our national levels. But we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. We need to agree on a collective response at the global level if we are to overcome this challenge. Each country must contribute its fair share towards a realistic and workable global solution.



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador Collin Beck,  
Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands**

**On the Thematic Debate of the General  
Assembly entitled “Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2008, New York**

*Please Check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this two day thematic debate on addressing climate change. My delegation would like to begin by associating and aligning itself with the statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G 77 & China, Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs, Grenada on behalf of AOSIS and the statement by Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum States. My delegation, wishes to contribute to this debate in its national capacity.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands notes the Secretary-General's report and commends you and the Secretary-General for keeping climate change on this cold winter warm on the agenda. My delegation assures you of our support as we explore the need to make the UN more effective and relevant in dealing with climate change.

The report shows that the magnitude of the climate change has outgrown the existing capacity of the UN system. In the process, the principal of equity and vulnerability has been lost within the UN system. Some countries receive more attention than others. The report shows, small is a curse rather than a blessing, as projects submitted are either too small to be considered or too expensive to manage hence their fragile environment are left to face the brunt of global warming. We look to partners to take this into consideration and hereby thank Italy for establishing special direct arrangements with Pacific Islands states and call on others to follow suit.

For SIDS and LDCs, climate change is inevitable. Climate change, sustainable development and poverty are interlinked for southern hemisphere countries. The report does not speak of the links between the states and the UN in detail, it makes no mention of member states where there is no or limited UN presence. Most UN bodies do not have a regional or sub regional offices making a weak and distorted partnership between the UN and states. It fails to structurally discuss implementation of economic opportunities climate change has to offer, including financial and technological incentives for LDCs and SIDS in the adaptation and mitigation sectors.

At the moment there is no clear direction on how the UN should deal with the immediate, medium and long term climate change challenges. It is heavy on providing technical support and analytical data and less on the ground activities. Internal migration now happening in low lying islands in Solomon Islands receives no attention.

Mr President,

The lack of a UN central climate change agency is also a concern to my delegation. While we have the UNFCCC, it remains a Convention Secretariat. We need a stronger UN that will see agreed international commitments and decisions carried out in a mandatory fashion. My delegation would like to restate what we have conveyed during the Security Council debate on climate change last year in April that climate change be given equal attention as other security issues.

Governments are burdened by proliferation of climate change reporting obligations from the magnitude of related meetings. It would be helpful for all climate change and environment issues be housed under an umbrella type arrangement maintaining a coordinated and efficient way of dealing with the issue. This will ensure no country gets left behind because their special needs are not taken into consideration.



# ESPAÑA

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA  
PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN Y EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO, EXCMO.  
SR.DON ARTURO GONZALO AIZIRI**

**EN EL DEBATE TEMÁTICO DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL  
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO**

**Nueva York, 12 de febrero de 2008**

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**STATEMENT BY THE SPANISH SECRETARY-GENERAL  
FOR PREVENTION OF POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE, H.E. MR. ARTURO GONZALO  
AIZIRI**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**New York, 12 FEBRUARY 2008**

(Unofficial translation, check against delivery)



**INTERVENCIÓN DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE LA  
CONTAMINACIÓN Y DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO DEL GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA**

**D. ARTURO GONZALO AIZPURI**

**DEBATE TEMÁTICO DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL.**

**NUEVA YORK 11-12 FEBRERO 2008**

Señor Presidente,

Excelencias, Señoras y Señores,

Permítanme expresar el agradecimiento del Gobierno de España al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Sr. Ban Ki-moon, y al presidente de la Asamblea General, Sr. Kerim, por el compromiso que están mostrando en el impulso a la respuesta multilateral frente al cambio climático, y nuestra convicción de que el sistema de Naciones Unidas debe reforzar su coordinación, recursos y capacidades para ejercer un liderazgo mundial efectivo en esta tarea.

Gracias a los informes del IPCC todos sabemos que el cambio climático es un problema global que exige una respuesta global. Todos los países tendremos que contribuir a lograr que el aumento de la temperatura media global del planeta sea inferior a 2°C respecto a los valores preindustriales. Para ello hay que explorar nuevas vías de cooperación enfocadas hacia el medio y largo plazo, que faciliten la participación de todos los países.

A este respecto los acuerdos alcanzados en Bali son esperanzadores: marcan un hito sin precedentes, expresan el compromiso de todos los gobiernos para realizar un esfuerzo global en la toma de medidas urgentes que permitan hacer frente al gran reto al que nos enfrentamos.

Para que todos los países jueguen su papel en el futuro régimen de lucha contra el cambio climático más allá de 2012, el reparto de esfuerzos debe ser equitativo.

Eso significa que los países desarrollados debemos intensificar nuestro compromiso con una mayor contribución en la reducción de emisiones y un mayor esfuerzo de cooperación en apoyo a los países en desarrollo. La Unión Europea ya se ha comprometido a reducir sus emisiones de GEI al menos en un 20%, llegando hasta un 30% si se alcanza un acuerdo global justo y efectivo a partir de 2012. Recientemente la Comisión Europea ha

presentado las propuestas de normas comunitarias que asegurarán el cumplimiento de esos compromisos.

Combatir el cambio climático requiere una perspectiva integrada considerando tanto la mitigación como la adaptación. Para España esta es una cuestión crucial: la adaptación tiene que ocupar urgentemente el mismo nivel de prioridad en la agenda global que la mitigación. El futuro de numerosos países depende de ello. En particular queremos destacar el gran impacto del cambio climático en la disponibilidad de recursos hídricos. Es una cuestión que será abordada en la Exposición Internacional sobre el Agua y el Desarrollo Sostenible que tendrá lugar el próximo verano en Zaragoza.

Los países en desarrollo están ya padeciendo desproporcionadamente los mayores impactos, acentuando así las desigualdades económicas y sociales ya existentes. Cada vez con mayor claridad, el cambio climático se consolida como un enemigo formidable de la equidad global.

Por ello, es imperativo establecer un régimen multilateral cuya arquitectura contemple las actividades de adaptación en toda su extensión, incluyendo un apoyo especial a los países más vulnerables.

Nos encontramos ante un auténtico desafío ético, en el que los países industrializados tenemos una gran responsabilidad. Pero es también imprescindible que todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas se adapte a esta nueva realidad, intensificando su coordinación interna e incorporando la lucha contra el cambio climático a todos los ámbitos de su visión estratégica.

Damos la bienvenida al informe del Secretario General que sirve de documento de referencia a esta sesión. Es un útil diagnóstico, refleja adecuadamente el gran potencial del sistema de Naciones Unidas y marca direcciones estratégicas apropiadas. El Gobierno de España desea expresarles su apoyo, pero también nuestro sentimiento de urgencia, nuestra convicción de que debemos ser aún más ambiciosos.

Sin duda se van requerir cambios a múltiples niveles para lograr la integración del cambio climático en todos los procesos de toma de decisiones, en todas las políticas sectoriales, priorizando los sectores o sistemas más vulnerables, tanto desde un punto de vista social como económico. En el ámbito multilateral, la Convención Marco de Cambio Climático debe jugar un papel crucial.



La respuesta al cambio climático va a requerir recursos ingentes, aún mal conocidos. Se necesita urgentemente hacer un análisis riguroso tanto de los costes, como de los mecanismos y flujos de inversión y financiación que serán necesarios, teniendo en cuenta que la cooperación al desarrollo es un elemento clave.

En este contexto, España está apostando decididamente por un desarrollo global y sostenible. En los últimos tres años hemos más que duplicado nuestra Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo. En 2008 alcanzaremos el 0,5 % del Producto Interior Bruto, para llegar en 2012 al 0,7 %, prestando una atención creciente al cambio climático.

España en 2007 ha realizado una contribución de 100 M€ en 5 años a la Ventanilla Medio Ambiente y Cambio Climático del fondo PNUD-ODM y de 2,8 M€ a la iniciativa PNUD-PNUMA. Asimismo, la Organización Mundial de la Salud recibirá del Gobierno español para la nueva Estrategia de Salud y Cambio Climático 3M€ adicionales a los 8M€ previamente asignados para otros fines.

Por otra parte, los Mecanismos de Desarrollo Limpio son un instrumento clave por su capacidad de generalizar una economía baja en carbono con beneficios en las comunidades locales, intensificando la cooperación económica y tecnológica. La política española en materia de Mecanismos de Flexibilidad es muy activa. El Gobierno español ha comprometido ya una inversión total de 305 M€ en este ámbito, a través de fondos multilaterales, especialmente del Banco Mundial.

Concluyo ya. El Gobierno de España entiende que la lucha contra el cambio climático y contra la pobreza son las dos caras del gran desafío de nuestra generación. Es el momento de pasar de las palabras a los hechos, de ser audaces y generosos, de conseguir un acuerdo en 2009 a medida de las necesidades del conjunto del planeta y en particular de los países más pobres.

Creemos que ello no será posible sin unas Naciones Unidas más fuertes y eficaces. España apoyará ese papel clave en la tarea multilateral, abogará por un reparto equitativo de los esfuerzos necesarios y asumirá la responsabilidad solidaria que nos corresponde.

Muchas gracias

The response to climate change is going to require some huge resources, still insufficiently acknowledged. We urgently need to make an accurate analysis of the costs, as well as the mechanisms and fluctuations of investment and financing that might be necessary, bearing in mind that cooperation to development is a key element.

In this context, Spain undoubtedly believes in a global and sustainable development. In the last three years, we have more than doubled our Official Development Aid. In 2008, we will reach 0,5% of GDP, reaching 0,7% by 2012, paying special attention to climate change.

In 2007, Spain made a contribution of 100 million Euros, to be deposited within the next 5 years, to the Environment and Climate Change Window of the UNDP-MDG and 2,8 million Euros to the UNDP-UNEP initiative. Furthermore, the World Health Organization will receive 3 million Euros from the Spanish Government for the new Strategy on Health and Climate Change. This amount will represent an additional contribution to the previous 8 million Euros previously allocated for other purposes.

On the other hand, Clean Development Mechanisms are a key instrument because of their capacity of generalizing a low carbon economy with benefits for local communities, thus intensifying economic and technological cooperation. Spanish strategy on Flexibility Mechanisms is active. The Spanish Government has already pledged a total investment of 305 million Euros in this area, through multilateral funds, specially the World Bank.

In conclusion, the Government of Spain understands that the fight against climate change and against poverty are the two faces of the great challenge of our generation. It is about time to go on from words to facts, to be brave and generous, to achieve an agreement in 2009 that matches the necessities of the entire planet and, in particular, the poorest countries.

We believe that this will not be possible without a stronger and more effective United Nations System. Spain will support this key role in the multilateral task, advocating for an equitable share of necessary efforts and will assume the responsibility and solidarity that we stand for.

Thank you very much.





# SRI LANKA

**Statement**

**by**

**Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, MP**

**Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of**

**Democratic Socialist Republic of**

**Sri Lanka**

**Thematic Debate**

**entitled**

**“Addressing climate change: The United Nations and the world at work”**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**New York**

**12 February 2008**

*(please check against delivery)*

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Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

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Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Let me first thank President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General for timely convening this important meeting.

The degree of impact of climate change varies from country to country. But the stark reality is that the countries with lower economic status and with low emission levels are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

When compared with the global per capita carbon threshold of 2,200 kg., Sri Lanka's current emission level is as low as 600 kg. In reality what does this means is that, we could increase per capita emissions by three times. However, such an approach would definitely contribute to a critical imbalance in the system.

Therefore, island nations like my own, which are highly vulnerable to climate change, are faced with the dual challenge of achieving economic development and responding to climate change as well.

Mr. President,

We all agree that, despite various interventions at all levels, atmospheric temperature continues to rise. Concentration of green house gases in the atmosphere is also on the increase. As we are now entering into a new phase of formulating strategies to respond to climate change, we need to think a fresh.

The present generation, including you, me and all of us together, have the responsibility of ensuring a better life for the future generations. The environment and all its resources which the present generation uses and also misuses is something we have borrowed from the future generations born and yet to be borne.

Therefore, unless there is a critical paradigm shift in our thinking even at this late stage, current trends will continue jeopardizing the rights of the present and future generations to live. There are two options before us. One is to continue the current practices and pass a huge “environmental debts” to the future generations of the living beings of the developing countries.

It is estimated that, the current carbon budget will be exhausted by year 2032. Therefore, if we continue with the blame game and carry on business as usual we would require at least two more planets to sustain the present growth.

Therefore, the only option is to work together to restore the already degraded environment and natural resources base and build a strong “environmental capital” so that the survival of the future generations are ensured.

If we opt to the first option, business will continue as usual. But definitely we would want to do the second. That is why we need this paradigm shift in our pattern of thinking. Without a revolutionary change in the way we think and the way we act, this will remain an unrealized dream.

Mr. President,

We all have contributed to the “environmental debt” in different proportions. As we all know, the UNDP’s Human Development Index Report ranks all the countries in the globe based on certain criteria and per capita purchasing parity is one them.

We know that, may be with a very few exceptions, countries with high per capita income also have a high share of GHG emissions. In contrast, contribution to the global warming by the less developed countries with low per capita income is comparatively minimal. Therefore, if we consider this very critical “environmental element” that goes hand in hand with the so called economic development, the picture we would see will be totally different from what we see today.



Therefore, in keeping with the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, it is not fair to expect the developing nations to shoulder the full burden of responding to climate change impact. Historically their contributions to climate change have been minimal and it will continue to be.

Therefore, Mr. President, our new agreement needs to be developed by inculcating all these different aspects. In parallel we also need to take a candid assessment of the success of the Framework Convention for Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol. Our own assessment is that, these instruments have not made a significant impact on reversing the present trends.

Mr. President,

At this stage it is also important to recognize the overarching nature of climate change where it can have direct and indirect influence on any activity on the earth. Thus, various initiatives under other environmental treaties would automatically become subsets of Climate Change phenomenon. Such a realignment of activities would significantly contribute towards optimal utilization of resources while minimizing chances for overlaps both at the global and national levels.

Mr. President,

There is no miracle cure for climate change related problems. Neither these challenges be resolved by any single country on its own. Thus, the first and the foremost, it is critical that all actors concerned implement the measures to which they have already committed.

We also need to bring about collaborations among governments, international organizations and the business sector for a comprehensive approach to climate change related issues. I strongly believe that our deliberations will become the first step towards achieving a global consensus on a framework to handle this most critical challenge.

Mr. President, before I conclude please allow me to quote from “Karaniyameththa Suththa” which contains key important teachings of Lord Buddha. As Lord Buddha said in one of his sermons, “*Bhuthava sambavesiva sabbesththa bhavanthu sukhithatha....*”, the world is a complex integrated system in which man is one among many players in that system and all players should respect each others rights to survive. This world belongs to present and generations to be born and we must protect it the way a mother looks after her only child”.

Therefore, Mr. President, on behalf of the future generations, let us take guidance from these noble truths in our quest for finding solutions to this biggest challenge faced by the humanity today.

Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations*

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**United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate, 11, 12 and 13 February 2008  
“ Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Delano Bart, QC  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative**

**St. Kitts and Nevis**

**New York, 13 February 2008**

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Mr. President,

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis thank you for convening this Debate in the General Assembly on the Theme “Addressing Climate Change; the United Nations and the World at Work.” St. Kitts -Nevis associates itself with the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G77 and China, Barbados on behalf of Caricom, and Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (A OSIS).

The Federation of St. Kitts -Nevis being among the smallest independent nations is compelled to have its voice heard in this Debate. There have been much talk and discussion on the issue of Climate Change in every corner of the world. It is evident that some Nations are willing to do much. The picture in relation to others is yet to be clear.

St. Kitts - Nevis joins the many who call out for action. Not just any action, but meaningful and focused action that will reduce the consequences of Climate Change.

For us it is no longer a question of addressing the “Treat” of Climate Change. The problem is beyond that. It is a matter of addressing its

consequences. And as the science in this area is yet to mature it is the unknown that we must recognize is waiting to haunt us.

Today, St. Kitts - Nevis speaks of just a few of the ways in which Climate Change presently affects us. We are small. There is a rain forest. Our people live in coastal areas. The rest of our lands are used for agriculture. It is not a lot of land.

The destruction of our beaches, and damage to our rain forest and topography have begun. Sooner than later rising sea levels, could cause us to lose our beaches. And deforestation can soon be a real possibility.

Our rainfall is now unpredictable. We receive less rainfall than before. But when it comes it is heavy. Such rains and floods are constantly eroding our top soil. We depend on the rain to irrigate our crops to feed our people. To irrigate otherwise is expensive. The present patterns are affecting our attempts toward food security. We depend on rainfall to mature our crops and feed our people. But prolonged periods of drought produce no crops. As a result our food importation bill continues to be high, using up much needed foreign currency.

We continue to be affected if not by all, by some of the regional hurricanes that visit yearly. Although they may not all hit St. Kitts and Nevis directly, through the activities of their outer bands, we are affected, whether it be by coastal erosion from the activity of the sea, or land erosion from the resulting heavy rains causing us to continually losing our soil.

As a result of the decline in rainfall our water resources are stretched to great limits. Desalination plants are now considered a necessary part of planning for the future to address water demand. Its an expensive way forward but we have no choice.

As tourism is our main engine of growth, the degradation of our natural assets will eventually make us unattractive. This in turn will have a negative impact on the many jobs that this sector has produced for our economy.

My country agreed to the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. This is our way of saying we are on board with the rest of the international community in setting Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the world. Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions is the only solution towards terminating overall warming of the planet brought on by

activities induced by mankind.

The significance of the measures taken to protect and preserve our planet should be the concern of all nations : developing nations as well as those which are developed. The consequences of ignoring the roles that we all have to play in the process will have implications for all of us. None of us is too big or too well placed geographically to consider ourselves safe from the ravages associated with unmitigated climate change. The historical data attests to that.

Therefore it is safe and also wise to conclude that we are all in this thing together and must join in the efforts to protect our planet that we hold in trust for generations to come, and for our own survival.

St. Kitts and Nevis are among the least contributors to global warming. In fact when one applies the principle of de minimis we contribute nothing to global warming. Yet we too are among those who are beginning to suffer dearly, as things get worse.

No matter what the military or diplomatic strength of the victim nation States may be, there is a moral imperative that the emitters and polluters should join in partnership to find a solution. The industrialized Countries create the problem. There is very little the

rest of us can do on our own. The Partnership of the Industrialized world is necessary for a solution.

There is no doubting the need for financial flows from the developed world to flow to the developing world to address the issue of mitigation and adaptation. We do not believe that every thing must stand still until the end of negotiations. There is much that can be done in the interim.

In our small way we are willing to contribute to the solution by the use of alternative sources of energy. In this regard, on our Federation there is evidence of viable commercial sources of geo-thermal energy. We are ourselves working to access the sources, but there is still the need for financial and technical assistance, from the developed world for us to succeed in bringing them into production.

In our response to this multi faceted challenge. we must therefore be Nations that are united as partners on climate change. As Nations united I therefore invite your fullest positive participation in addressing the issues associated with climate change. We ask that all nations be pro- active in the implementation of strategies, and solutions to mitigate impending disaster and misfortune for us all. As



a small island State we are anxious that **"NO ISLAND IS LEFT  
BEHIND"**.

I thank You.



# **SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

## **Statement**

By

**H.E. Camillo M. Gonsalves**

Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

## **Addressing Climate Change The United Nations and the World at Work**

12–13<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

United Nations General Assembly  
New York

Please check against delivery

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines associates itself fully with the statements made by Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); by Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); and by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Bali Roadmap two months ago is a welcome, if modest, step in our continued struggle for global climate security. However, the true worth of the Roadmap will not be measured in self-congratulatory statements this week, but in the work of Member States and our genuine commitment to the Bali Action Plan in the immediate future. The United Nations process has adequately framed the issues and charted the way forward. Now it is time for the world to work towards concrete implementation of both the spirit and the letter of the Roadmap.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines accepts the scientific evidence that demonstrates a causal relationship between climate change and the levels of greenhouse gas emissions emanating primarily from developed countries. As such, we recognize the crucial importance of developed countries radically cutting their emissions. We have every confidence that, as responsible global citizens, they will work in good faith towards meaningful reductions in the coming years.

But the importance of future emissions reductions cannot overshadow the fact that, for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and many other nations, climate change is not an esoteric theoretical concept looming on a distant hypothetical horizon. It is already a stark reality and gathering threat. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, citizens are being displaced by increasingly intense storms and tidal surges today. Residents are slowly losing their costal property to rising and encroaching seas today. The government is investing heavily in costal fortifications today. Our undersea environment is suffering from reef death and coral bleaching today. And our Farming, Fishing and Tourism sectors are being adversely affected today. The immediacy of these issues means that we cannot wait for 2012 and beyond for incremental relief from the lifestyle excesses of others. We need to address these problems today.

In that regard, the twin issues of adaptation and financing are of urgent importance to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Adaptation financing, in particular, cannot simply be an awkward appendage to mitigation efforts. It is insufficient to merely pay lip service to the importance of adaptation while dooming adaptation initiatives to failure with inadequate funding or support. If climate change is indeed the "defining human development challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," as stated in Bali by the president of the UN Climate Change Conference, we cannot delude ourselves into thinking that this challenge can be addressed on the cheap. It shall quickly become apparent to the international community that the recently launched Adaptation Fund, though welcome, is nonetheless severely undercapitalized and will be unable to cope with even modest adaptation needs unless it is buttressed by substantial voluntary contributions from developed countries.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines therefore sees ample scope for innovative regional approaches to adaptation and opportunities for fresh partnerships in capacity building. We also welcome efforts to deepen South-South cooperation on a broad range of environmental issues, such as the energy-saving light bulb initiative selflessly advanced by Cuba, which has reduced the carbon footprint – and electricity bill – of almost every residence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Additionally, it is necessary to fundamentally review the debt obligations of developing countries through the prism of climate change. Many of us are still paying for infrastructural investments that are no longer viable, or whose effective lifespan will be severely curtailed by climate change. Many of us will have to borrow more to retrofit previous investments, which were often funded, designed and built by foreign lenders. It is illogical and immoral that we continue to pay developed creditor states for items whose very use is compromised by their actions.

The gravity of the climate change challenge also forces us to abandon longstanding proprietary paradigms of technological exclusivity. The world cannot sacrifice its collective climate security on the altar of private profit or outmoded concepts of Intellectual Property. If climate change is a global problem, so too must the solutions belong to the entire planet. The developed world and the scientific community must find ways to quickly and freely place emerging green technologies and capabilities into the hands of those who need them most urgently. Measurable, reportable and verifiable cooperation in the fields of technology, capacity-building and financing are not charity. They are shrewd investments against future global catastrophes.

Mr. President,

It is crucial that the challenge of climate change is not simply viewed as an environmental issue, but as a crosscutting developmental concern. For some states, coping with climate change may not only represent an added expense, but may also require a complete readjustment of developmental priorities.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for example, has been effectively globalized out of reliance on agriculture as the dominant engine for national growth and development. Now the threat is that we may be climatized out of similar reliance on tourism. We are making multi-million dollar investments in leveraging our sunny climate, calm seas, pristine beaches, coral reefs and diverse marine life to lure tourists. Climate change threatens to deprive us of these few marketable natural assets.

Further, the profound developmental implications of climate change must necessarily trigger a fundamental reexamination of the international community's approach to developmental assistance. Development commitments made in the past – before the impact of climate change was fully understood – must now be reconsidered. And those of us in the developing world must clearly consider the developmental impact of not only climate change, but also the measures being employed to address it. For example, the rush to biofuel production will barely dent the developed world's appetite for fossil fuels, but has already made basic foodstuffs noticeably more expensive in many developing states. We cannot allow ourselves to be negatively affected by both climate change and its proposed solutions.

Mr. President,

While St. Vincent and the Grenadines is fully cognizant of the critical importance of steady and efficient procedural progress in coordinating the global effort against climate change, we in the United Nations cannot become so enamored with the *process* that we lose sight of the *substance* of our mission. There is an old joke in the medical profession whose punchline is: "the operation was a success, but the patient has died." Amidst the shuffle of expert groups, working groups and a proliferation of new abbreviations and acronyms, we must never forget that our patient is the planet earth, and the survival of the entire planet is our collective responsibility. We cannot afford to fail.

I thank you.



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بيان

وفد السودان

الدكتور / أحمد بابكر نهار

وزير البيئة والتنمية العمرانية

الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

النقاش الموضوعي

الأمم المتحدة والعالم: معاً من أجل التصدي

لتغير المناخ

نيويورك ١٢ / فبراير / ٢٠٠٨م

الرجاء المراجعة عند الإلقاء

السيد الرئيس

معالي الوزراء

السيدات والسادة رؤساء الوفود

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ، ، ،

باسم حكومة جمهورية السودان أود في البدء أن أهنيكم، سيدي الرئيس ، على ترؤسكم لهذا النقاش الموضوعي الهام الذي يتناول قضية تمثل بلا شك أهم وأكبر التحديات التي تواجه عالمنا اليوم ألا وهي تغير المناخ. وأود أن أعبر عن تقديرنا لهذه المبادرة وعلى الجهد الذي بذلتموه لها له والتي تأتي مواصلة للقاءاتنا السابقة حول هذا الموضوع .

نود أن نعرب عن تأييدنا للبيان الذي أدلى به مندوب انتيقوا ويربودا نيابة عن مجموعة الـ ٧٧ والصين، ومندوب الكاميرون بإسم المجموعة الأفريقية، ومندوب بنغلاديش بإسم الدول الأقل نموا، ومندوب الجزائر إنابة عن المجموعة العربية.

أن إجتماعنا اليوم يأتي في أعقاب مؤتمر الأطراف الثالث عشر لإتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية لمكافحة تغير المناخ وإجتماع الدول الأطراف الثالث لبروتوكول كيوتو الذي عقد ببالي بإندونيسيا والذي يعتبره السودان من المؤتمرات الناجحة، ونأمل أن تقودنا خارطة الطريق التي تمخض عنها المؤتمر نحو الإسراع في إنفاذ الالتزامات الدولية لمكافحة تغير المناخ.

سيدي الرئيس،

إن السودان بموقعه الجغرافي، ومساحته الشاسعة المترامية، وتنوعه البيولوجي ووضعه التتموي يعتبر ضمن الدول الأكثر تضرراً بالآثار السالبة للتغيرات المناخية حالياً ومستقبلاً، لذا كان إهتمامنا الأول بمسألة التكيف مع التغيرات المناخية و درء آثارها السالبة على التنمية الوطنية. وفي هذا الصدد قام السودان بوضع برنامج وطني للتكيف مع آثار تغير المناخ (NAPA) يشمل الاحتياجات العاجلة والملحة للتكيف مع الآثار السالبة لهذه الظاهرة والإسهام في معالجة مشكلات الفقر، والأمن الغذائي ، والمياه والصحة، والتصحر وإنحسار الغابات الإستوائية، بالإضافة لذلك يشمل هذا البرنامج توصيات لتطوير السياسات و الأطر المؤسسية لاستيعاب وتنفيذ إجراءات التكيف مع التغيرات المناخية. وقد

تنظر بقلق بالغ للحقائق التي وردت في التقرير الرابع للهيئة الحكومية لتغير المناخ (IPCC) والتي مفادها أن هناك مستوى من التغيرات المناخية واقع لا محال حتى وان تم الالتزام بأشد الإجراءات صرامة لخفض الانبعاثات وذلك بسبب تراكم الانبعاثات السابقة في الغلاف الجوي والمدى الزمني الذي يحتاجه نظام المناخ العالمي للإستجابة لإجراءات خفض الانبعاثات.

هذه الحقيقة تشكل محورا هاما لموقف السودان لأنها تعني أن الدول الأكثر هشاشة (The most vulnerable) سوف تتحمل عبء هذه التغيرات المناخية الحتمية، وستعاني المزيد من الكوارث وستفقد الكثير من مقوماتها التنموية الإقتصادية والإجتماعية، وستتفاقم فيها مشكلة شح الموارد والنزاعات حولها .

سيدي الرئيس ، ، ،

إن التقرير الرابع للهيئة الحكومية أشار بوضوح إلي أن التكيف (Adaptation) هو الخيار الوحيد للتعامل مع هذا المستوى من التغيرات لذلك يرى السودان حتمية أن تتضمن أي اتفاقية مستقبلية التزامات أكثر وضوحاً وتحديداً لدعم قدرات الدول المتأثرة في أفريقيا والدول الأقل نمواً للتكيف مع الآثار السالبة لهذه التغيرات علي أن تشمل هذه الالتزامات أطر مؤسسية وآليات تنفيذية فاعلة وقادرة علي تنفيذ الإلتزامات، فقد عقدت مؤتمرات كثيرة وأن الآوان أن ننتقل الآن إلى مرحلة التنفيذ، وهذه هي المرحلة الحرجة وهو التحدي بعينه.

يثمن السودان قرارات مؤتمر بالي بشأن الإلتزامات الحالية لتنفيذ الإتفاقية والبروتوكول، خاصة مسألة تشغيل الصندوق المالي للتكيف مع تغير مناخ (Adaptation Fund) والذي نرجو أن يتم تمويله بصورة كافية تمكنه على نحو مباشر من تنفيذ مشروعات حقيقية للتكيف بصورة عاجلة ومؤثرة. ويؤيد كذلك القرارات المتعلقة بخفض معدلات إزالة الغابات في الدول النامية وما قد ينتج عنها مستقبلاً من آثار ايجابية لمعالجة أسباب مشكلة تغير المناخ والإسهام في تنمية

المجتمعات الفقيرة التي ترتبط أسباب عيشها بهذه الموارد الهامة وندرب الخطوات العملية التي ستتخذ في هذا الشأن.

فيما يختص بتطوير ونقل التقانة والتي يعلم الجميع أهمية دورها المنتظر في معالجة أسباب وآثار تغير المناخ وان لهذا الدور أهمية خاصة في الاتفاقيات المستقبلية، نؤمن بأن هذا لن يتأتى إلا عن طريق معالجة المعوقات والمشاكل الأساسية التي حالت دون إحراز تقدم ملحوظ في تنفيذ الإلتزامات الواردة في الإتفاقية رغم مرور أكثر من عشرة أعوام علي دخولها حيز التنفيذ.

إن السودان، سيدي الرئيس، يثمن الدور المتعظم الذي تلعبه الأمم المتحدة بكل مؤسساتها في حشد طاقات الأسرة الدولية لوضع الأطر والاتفاقيات التي تعالج المشاكل المشتركة والعمل علي تنفيذها بما يخدم الإنسانية جمعاء بكل حياد، وعدالة، وفعالية، ويؤكد في ذات الوقت على ضرورة أن تظل الإتفاقية الإطارية لمكافحة تغير المناخ هي الإطار القانوني الرئيسي لمعالجة تغير المناخ، إستناداً على مبادئ ريو، خاصة مبدأ "المسؤوليات المشتركة و المتميزة"، وفي إطار ركائز التنمية المستدامة الرئيسية الثلاثة، "النمو الإقتصادي، التنمية الإجتماعية، وحماية البيئة". كما يؤكد على ضرورة أن يدعم دور الإتفاقية القيادي والتنفيذي لتمكين الدول الأعضاء، لا سيما دول القارة الأفريقية والدول الأقل نمواً، في مواجهة تحدياتهم العاجلة والمستقبلية.

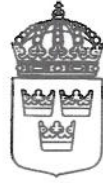
سيدي الرئيس ، ، ،

مما لا شك فيه إذا، أن مسألة التكيف مع التغيرات المناخية تفرض مسؤولية أكبر علي الدول المتقدمة والمتسببة في التراكمات الحالية للغازات في الغلاف الجوي، وعلي المنظمة الدولية خلق الأطر السياسية والمؤسسية المناسبة والفاعلة لتوفير الدعم المباشر و العاجل الذي يمكن التنبوء به للدول المتأثرة للتكيف مع هذه التغيرات الحتمية، ونكرر ضرورة الإنتقال إلى مرحلة التنفيذ..

وشكراً سيدي الرئيس ، ، ،



# SWEDEN



## STATEMENT

by

H.E. Ms. Ulla Ström  
Chargée d’Affaire  
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Thematic Debate “Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at work”

United Nations  
New York

12 February 2008

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. President,

Climate Change is a top priority of the Swedish Government, both nationally and internationally. Sweden has for a long time made substantial efforts in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and in assisting developing countries in coping with climate change. We share the sense of urgency that permeated yesterday's discussion. Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement of Slovenia this morning, speaking on behalf of EU.

The message brought forward in the fourth IPCC assessment is simple and precise: In order to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which does not entail far reaching and dangerous consequences global emissions of GHG have to be reduced by 50-85 percent by 2050. Developed countries would have to reduce their emission by 25-40 percent by 2020. Actions have to be taken now.

That is a challenge in itself. And yet it is only half of the equation. The other half is that climate change is already upon us. All countries have to plan and initiate actions to adapt to unavoidable climate change. The poor countries of the world and the poor people in general are the most vulnerable to climate change and those who will suffer the most.

These are some important starting points for the new round of negotiations under the Bali action plan leading up to a comprehensive post-2012 agreement for fighting climate change. Allow me to emphasize three issues that the UN and decision makers at all levels may wish to consider as we prepare ourselves for the Copenhagen agreement in less than two years' time.

Firstly, it is possible to combine reductions of greenhouse gas emissions with economic growth. The latest figures for Swedish greenhouse gas emissions show a reduction of 8,7 percent in 2006 compared to 1990. At the same time the Swedish GNP has increased by 44 percent. The reasons for this achievement are several. One important measure is the Swedish carbon dioxide tax that was introduced in 1990. Energy efficiency and savings and the use of renewables have further contributed.

It is our strong belief that it is necessary to put a price on carbon. And the wider the group involved in carbon trading, the more cost-efficient the emission reductions.

The diverse expertise of the UN system should be drawn upon to promote international sharing of good practice, the building of domestic capacity for policy formulation and implementation, and the development of equitable international sector-specific standards.

Secondly, climate change must be addressed globally in the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Efficient actions to adapt to climate change and investments in sustainable energy systems have to be undertaken.

All development and poverty reduction strategies would have to take climate change into account.

The Swedish government has established an international commission on “climate proofing” development assistance. The Commission should be seen as a complement to our national efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It is an attempt to meet our commitments to help developing countries to work preventively and to cope with the consequences of climate change. Furthermore, it is intended to contribute to UN system-wide efforts.

The Commission constitutes a forum where a group of prominent experts and policy-makers can discuss freely and identify a direction for how to design ODA that takes into account climate change and disaster risk reduction. But it will also come up with concrete proposals on how to “climate-proof” development assistance by introducing risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into the development and poverty reduction plans of poor countries.

The Commission consists of 13 members, including the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Gunilla Carlsson, as its chair. The members make up a broad geographical and institutional representation. With its wide field of expertise, experience from different parts of the world and its diversified institutional background, the Commission is unique.

The Commission will focus on four areas in particular:

One is the role and importance of ecosystems in disaster prevention.

Another focus will be on urban slum areas.

It will also look into slow-onset disasters such as prolonged droughts and chronic instability stemming from water scarcity.

Last – but not least – the Commission will focus on risk management mechanisms in the insurance industry. This is quite a new area where some interesting initiatives are underway.

Mr. President,

The scale and nature of climate change may sometimes imply a dominant scientific approach to the problem. However, I believe that the human dimension must always be in focus. This will also be reflected in the Commission’s work through some guiding principles. There will be a clear poverty and rights perspective, and the dimension of gender equality shall be explored.

The Commission will meet for the first time in Stockholm the day after tomorrow.

Throughout its mandate of one year, it will convene three to four times. It will engage actively in relevant processes such as the climate negotiations and the work carried out by, for instance, the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union. A final report will be presented in spring 2009. The intention is for the results to be reflected in relevant processes and contribute to a post-2012 agreement in Copenhagen.

The third and final issue that I wish to stress is that climate change calls for an integrated approach to environment, development and security. Climate change is already affecting human security and aggravating conditions in many parts of the world relating to fresh

water availability, soil erosion, energy supply, crops and fish stocks. In the future, losses of land areas due to rising sea level and shortage of fresh water because of melting mountain glaciers will make matters even worse. Millions of people could become climate change refugees, having to move to other areas, thus creating serious migration problems in many areas.

Weak governments and countries in regions particularly affected by climate change would be exposed to risks of instability and unrest because of deteriorating conditions. On the other hand, shared management of crucial natural resources like water could contribute to stability and peace. We call on relevant parts of the UN system to collectively address these challenges in the nexus between sustainable development and security.

Mr. President,

The UN system has a critical role to play in dealing with climate change effectively. No doubt the basic elements of the Bali Action Plan set the course for any future strategy to cope with climate change. We welcome the Secretary-General's proposal to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration on the basis of these common goals and objectives. Existing structures should be used to get the work done.

Mitigation and adaptation have to be addressed jointly even if strategies and actions to deal with them at country level may differ. At the end of the day, future progress depends more than anything on the outcome of the negotiations within the UNFCCC and its Kyoto protocol. An effective and equitable post-2012 agreement on climate change must therefore be the foremost priority over the next two years for the UN system.

Thank you.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse  
auprès des Nations Unies à New York

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

**62e Session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies**

**Débat thématique**

**« Faire face aux changements climatiques :**

**Les Nations Unies et le monde au  
Travail »**

**Déclaration de  
S.E. Monsieur Peter Maurer  
Ambassadeur**

**Représentant permanent de la Suisse  
auprès des Nations Unies**

**New York, le 12 février 2008**



Monsieur le Président,

La Suisse est très satisfaite de la tenue de ce débat thématique sur les changements climatiques et nous remercions le Secrétaire général de son rapport « Overview of UN activities in relation to climate change ».

Ce document est une très bonne base d'information et de propositions pour mieux coordonner les activités des agences onusiennes en vue de soutenir les négociations et la mise en œuvre de mesures. Reste à résoudre l'importante question de la conduite de ce processus que le Secrétaire général a initié pour aboutir à un traitement plus efficace et plus cohérent, par les agences des Nations Unies, des questions relatives aux changements climatiques.

Nous plaidons pour que les priorités liées à la protection du climat, tant dans le domaine de la réduction des émissions que de l'adaptation, soient intégrées dans les stratégies des agences onusiennes.

Nous soutenons donc l'approche adoptée par le Secrétaire général qui consiste à identifier des objectifs sectoriels et à faire des propositions concrètes pour chacun d'entre eux. Reste à distribuer les rôles entre les agences compétentes en vue d'atteindre ces objectifs.

Les stratégies des agences onusiennes doivent intégrer, développer et réaliser les besoins et les priorités identifiés par les deux fora responsables du traitement des changements climatiques globaux dans le système des Nations Unies, soit la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques et son Protocole de Kyoto.

Comme le Secrétaire général l'indique dans son rapport, les questions scientifiques d'observation, de suivi, de recherche sur le système climatique et d'évaluation de ces connaissances doivent aussi être une priorité pour les organisations spécialisées du système des Nations Unies.

Cependant, de nombreux objectifs sectoriels identifiés dans le document du Secrétaire général ne sont pas seulement des objectifs climatiques, mais offrent un intérêt plus large dans le domaine du développement. Dans cette optique, nous voudrions que les questions de protection de l'environnement, aux niveaux global et local, soient considérées et contribuent au développement durable.

De façon plus générale, nous pensons que des ressources adéquates doivent être mises à disposition des agences onusiennes afin de soutenir les processus nationaux et internationaux sur les changements climatiques.

Pour le futur immédiat, nous voudrions que le système des Nations Unies réponde effectivement aux demandes du Plan d'Action de Bali en matière de réduction des émissions, d'adaptation, de transfert de technologie et de mobilisation de ressources financières suffisantes. Le Plan a identifié des objectifs pour chacun de ces domaines et les agences des Nations Unies peuvent contribuer à y répondre.

A notre avis, le rapport du Secrétaire général mérite d'être complété sur certains points. Nous mentionnerons à titre d'exemple les activités en matière de plaidoyer, de sensibilisation ou d'éducation réalisées par les agences onusiennes participant à la Stratégie Internationale de Prévention des Catastrophes dans le cadre du « Cadre d'action de Hyogo 2005-2015 ».

Rappelons que le Plan d'Action de Bali a reconnu la prévention des risques de catastrophe comme un élément essentiel des stratégies d'adaptation au changement climatique. Nous encourageons ainsi le système onusien à intégrer de façon systématique les programmes de prévention des risques dans les programmes d'adaptation au changement climatique, en particulier dans les plans nationaux de développement afin de renforcer les capacités nationales et locales contribuant à une résilience accrue des communautés et des nations les plus vulnérables. Dans ce contexte, nous saluons aussi de récentes initiatives innovantes et transversales telles que la « Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery » de la Banque mondiale en 2006.

Enfin, nous soulignons l'importance que revêt la Troisième Conférence Mondiale sur le Climat qui sera organisée à Genève au début de septembre 2009. Cette conférence a été décidée par le XVème Congrès de l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale et doit être soutenue par toutes les agences pertinentes de l'ONU. Le thème général de la conférence est la prédiction climatique pour la prise de décision, prêtant une attention particulière à une échelle de temps allant des saisons aux décennies. La conférence comportera un segment de haut niveau qui fera d'importantes recommandations pertinentes pour la lutte contre les changements climatiques, et notamment sur l'adaptation.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.



## STATEMENT

by

**S. ASLOV, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations,  
at the General Assembly Thematic Debate “Addressing Climate Change : the United  
Nations and the World at Work”**

*New York, 13 February 2008*

**Mr. President,**

First of all I would like to extend our appreciation for the organization of today's thematic debate on Addressing Climate Change.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend, on behalf of my delegation, appreciation to the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his tireless efforts at the advancement of the issue of climate change, due to which the subject has risen to the very top of the UN agenda. Last year these particular efforts led us, member states and international organizations, to the UN Bali Conference on Climate Change that delivered the *Bali Action Plan* and defined a strategic framework for near-term cooperative efforts in the areas of adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing.

I would like to refer only to adaptation. As it was stated during the High-level Event on Climate Change in September 2007, **“adaptation becomes inevitable, given the ongoing climate changes”**. A vivid proof of this statement is the current unfavorable weather conditions faced by my country. In January and February in the Tajikistan's valleys the temperature dropped as low as minus 18-23 degrees by Celsius, which is by 8 to 13 degrees lower than the usual norm. Severe cold followed by heavy snowstorms. Over the last fifty years the weather records have never registered such an extremely cold winter. As a consequence, the rivers were frozen, numerous pumps and water supply networks were damaged. That actually caused the energy crisis, as a result of which the work of a great number of industrial enterprises was suspended. Almost all winter crop was affected, severe damage was done to fruit trees, vineyards, etc. The estimated economic damage accounts for several hundred million US dollars.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the UN, UNDP, WB, World Food Program and other special agencies, as well as to a number of member states, for the assistance and support rendered to my country.

**Mr. President,**

We support the thesis that climate change and development are inseparable items of a common agenda - sustainable development, which is based on the three components, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.

At the same time we believe that there is another very important component, which deserves to be specifically addressed in this connection, and without which life on Earth can not be sustained, that is water. It is common knowledge, that shaping of climate and emerging of life are closely connected with this natural resource, which just like climate itself needs to be treated with care. Meanwhile, some parts of our planet are already experiencing chronic shortage of freshwater. Against the background of ever increasing influence of climate change, especially in the dry regions of our planet, the issue of supply of the population with freshwater and development of numerous water-dependent economic sectors is becoming increasingly urgent.

A unique natural resource, water is used by humanity for drinking, food production, manufacturing of goods, and generating alternative electrical energy, on which, under the circumstances, depends success of our efforts in achieving the MDGs, providing access to electrical energy and, eventually, attaining sustainable development.

For this reason, we think it expedient to pay special attention to the issues of water and water supply, and to hold a High-Level Event or to convene a special session of GA on water supply issues, with the aim of discussing current progress and adopting specific measures for the achievement of MDGs, and for the implementation of the International Decade of Action "*Water for Life*", 2005-2015 and the International Sanitary Year.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I would like to briefly speak of another aspect of climate change. That is natural disasters, which in recent years have been occurring more often and on a larger scale. Water related disasters account for the most part of global natural disasters. Floods, mud flows, land slides, droughts and other water related disasters considerably affect the countries' wellbeing. According to the Inter-Governmental Council on Climate Change, the current trends are likely to produce an even worse scenario because, as a result of climate change, the scale and frequency of floods and droughts can increase in the 21 century. The losses caused by natural disasters are more severe in developing countries than in industrial nations.

We call on to enhance cooperation among member states and international organizations in this area. To this end, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan made a decision to make a practical contribution to this cause by holding the *International Conference on Water Related Nature Disasters Reduction* in Dushanbe, on June 27-28, 2008.

Our hope is that the UN and its special agencies, as well as members states, will be actively participating in the forthcoming Conference in Dushanbe.

Thank you for attention.



# PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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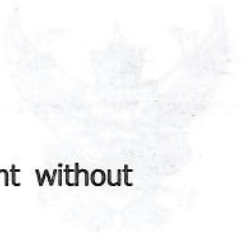
**Statement by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai,  
Permanent Representative of Thailand  
To the thematic debate of the General Assembly on  
"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work"  
12 February 2008**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I join the previous speakers in thanking you for convening this debate. Thailand believes that the role played by the United Nations during the past year has been significant in leading to a favorable outcome in Bali, in particular, the informal high-level event held in New York in September 2007 and the UN Secretary-General's visits to various countries. We strongly believe that the UN should continue to strengthen its role in engaging and promoting climate change discussions among national leaders since this can encourage progress in climate change negotiations and stimulate actions among member parties.

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by the Chair of G 77 and China. The statement has outlined the perspective of developing countries in tackling the threat of climate change. I wish to stress here once again the close linkage between climate change and development, in particular, the MDGs achievements. The recent UNFCCC regulations in Bali constitute several agreements among member parties generally referred to as the Bali roadmap, which provides a solid negotiation framework under the newly launched Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the existing Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Protocol. The roadmap identifies four main areas of concern among negotiating parties, which include mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and financial mechanism, and encourages further studies on the possibility of including emission reduction from avoided deforestation in developing countries in the post-2012 regime. This roadmap, with Cartagena decisions and Bali strategic Plan, should form the basis of our discussion today, which is on how UN can mobilize global efforts to support developing countries, through

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS



their capacity building, in balancing the three pillars of sustainable development without sacrificing any.

While leaving to UNFCCC the negotiation on specific actions each of us can take, based on principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the debate like this can enhance the climate change negotiation tracks under the Convention by exerting UN role to encourage appropriate leadership by developed countries in the global efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas. Regarding adaptation efforts, South-South cooperation can play a role but only as a complimentary role to North-South obligation which is the main message from the Convention. So I think, combining these two elements into triangular cooperation will further and truly reflect global partnership for development.

Technology transfer and financial supports will prove to be the most critical factors for developing countries in their fight against climate change which eventually will require an industrial revolution as much as revolution in patterns of consumption through new green lifestyles. We need a breakthrough in FfD and IPR regimes that will make climate-friendly technology and products affordable. Thailand believes that the UN and its subsidiary bodies can contribute greatly to enhance the feasibility of climate change technology transfer and resources mobilization among member parties by helping resolve conflicting issues in these two areas. Simplifying and operationalizing the Adaptation Fund together with other innovative mechanisms should be among priorities of the activities of the UN.

Private sector will also have a very crucial role to play. We take note With appreciation the work of UN Global Compact in this regard. However, public-private partnership, as suggested in the SG report, is only part of global partnership, not its main mechanism. Any arrangements less than Global Corporate Entities and without strong political or active governmental roles will not be sufficient and will fail to address problems at this global scale.

Mr. President,

I reaffirm to you my country's readiness and strong commitment to engage actively in this endeavor. I extend through you our services in this collective fight for better and greener future.

I thank you, Mr. President.



# TUNISIA

62<sup>ème</sup> SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

DEBAT THEMATIQUE

SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

***"Faire face aux changements climatiques : Les Nations Unies et le monde  
au travail"***

**INTERVENTION DE S.E.M. HABIB MANSOUR  
AMBASSADEUR, REPRESENTANT PERMANENT DE TUNISIE  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

**NEW YORK, 12 FEVRIER 2008**

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**Monsieur le Président,  
Excellences  
Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Il me plait tout d'abord de féliciter Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée Générale d'avoir pris l'initiative d'organiser ce débat thématique sur les changements climatiques, qui est de nature à soutenir la mise en œuvre de la feuille de route et le Plan d'Action de Bali. Je saisis également l'occasion pour remercier le Secrétaire Général pour son rapport d'ensemble sur les activités menées par le système des Nations Unies en matière de changements climatiques.

Avant d'aborder certains aspects auxquels mon pays, la Tunisie, attache une importance particulière, je voudrais m'associer aux déclarations prononcées par Antigua et Barbuda, le Cameroun et l'Algérie au nom, respectivement, du Groupe des 77 et de la Chine, du Groupe Africain et du Groupe Arabe.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Le thème retenu pour ce débat, à savoir, "faire face aux changements climatiques", est en fait transversal à toutes les menaces que soulève la problématique climatique dans son ensemble ainsi qu'il est au centre de la dimension développement. En effet, les défis sont multiples et divers, multilatéraux et nationaux, immédiats et futurs, à la fois économiques, technologiques, financiers, humains et même civilisationnels. Les changements climatiques constituent l'expression la plus symptomatique d'un contexte de mondialisation à vitesse multiple et inégale.

Aussi, la question des changements climatiques fait-elle ressortir nombre de paradoxes. En effet, il est révélateur de constater que les régions les moins responsables des changements climatiques en sont les plus vulnérables et les plus exposées, et par conséquent, les plus contraintes à s'adapter, l'adaptation n'étant pas seulement un choix alternatif mais un impératif de survie.

Cependant, la difficulté des pays en développement, notamment les moins nantis, à s'adapter à cet environnement, constitue un facteur supplémentaire d'handicap d'autant plus que leurs ressources sont déjà insuffisantes pour relever les défis liés au développement économique et social et à la réduction de la pauvreté. Par conséquent, le combat contre les changements climatiques ne peut avoir lieu au détriment de l'objectif de développement. Le défi climatique suppose une capacité technologique de riposte et un niveau de développement économique et humain dont nombre de pays, notamment les plus pauvres, ne sont pas actuellement dotés, d'où la priorité de renforcer toutes les formes de coopération en faveur du développement durable dans ses trois piliers.

Et c'est précisément là que la notion de responsabilité commune et différenciée, principe sur lequel est fondée la Convention Cadre, prend toute sa signification dans la mesure où l'entière application ce principe constitue une réponse aux déséquilibres et disparités en termes économiques, financiers et technologiques, des moyens d'adaptation aux impacts adverses, actuels et futurs, des changements climatiques.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Les résultats de la Conférence de Bali ont permis à la Communauté Internationale de franchir un pas en mettant en place un cadre, un échéancier et un processus de négociations. A ce propos, ma délégation, comme beaucoup d'autres, estime que la Convention des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques doit rester la principale enceinte de négociation du cadre post-Kyoto et que les questions de financement et de transfert technologique doivent rester au centre des enjeux. A cet égard, il est important de diversifier et de multiplier les sources de financement du Fonds d'adaptation, afin que les interventions de ce mécanisme soient à la mesure des besoins et des attentes.

Mon pays, la Tunisie, dont l'économie est liée, entre autres, à l'eau, à l'agriculture, au tourisme et au littoral, domaines fortement exposés aux risques climatiques, a placé la protection de l'environnement en général et la lutte contre les changements climatiques en particulier au centre de sa politique de développement. Pour la Tunisie, l'objectif d'adaptation est placé au premier rang des priorités nationales.

A cet effet, la Tunisie a mis en place tout un arsenal institutionnel, réglementaire et technique ainsi que des plans de mise à niveau environnementale des entreprises industrielles tunisiennes, des mécanismes financiers incitatifs en faveur de la maîtrise de l'énergie, la promotion des énergies renouvelables, la gestion écologiquement rationnelle des déchets, l'atténuation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, le développement forestier et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'air. Des structures de coordination au niveau national ont été établies et des programmes de coopération ont été mis en œuvre avec l'appui de nombre d'organismes et de fonds ou dans le cadre des mécanismes de financement prévus par la Convention ou son Protocole. En parallèle, des actions horizontales ont été menées en matière de formation et de sensibilisation.

Cependant, l'effort national, qui est nécessaire, n'est pas suffisant. Le soutien international et les différentes formes de coopération bilatérale, régionale et multilatérale, restent indispensables pour consolider le processus de développement et pour pouvoir ainsi prévenir et combattre les risques avérés ou potentiels des changements climatiques.

**Monsieur le Président,**

C'est dans cet esprit valorisant la coopération et la solidarité internationale et dans une perspective de contribuer à l'effort mondial visant à identifier des alternatives opérationnelles de coopération, en matière de changement climatique, et à renforcer la coopération internationale en termes financiers, technologiques et scientifiques, que la Tunisie a organisé, du 18 au 20 Novembre 2007, une Conférence Internationale intitulée "Solidarité Internationale pour la protection de l'Afrique et la région de la Méditerranée contre les changements climatiques".

Cette conférence a couronné ses travaux par l'adoption d'une Déclaration pour une solidarité internationale visant la protection de l'Afrique et de la région méditerranéenne contre les effets adverses des changements climatiques ainsi que d'un Plan d'Action visant la mise en place de projets de coopération et d'adaptation dont les

fondements s'inscrivent parfaitement dans le cadre des recommandations de la 13<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties de la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques, tenue à Bali en Décembre 2007. Etant signalé que la Déclaration de Tunis a été adoptée également par le dixième Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Union Africaine, tenue du 31 Janvier au 2 Février 2008 à Addis-Abeba.

En conclusion, je dirais que les défis liés aux changements climatiques concernent la Communauté Internationale, dans toutes ses composantes, et que le combat contre leurs impacts adverses ne pourrait être fiable et performant que dans le cadre d'une véritable alliance mondiale basée sur la responsabilité commune et différenciée, la coopération internationale tant financière que technologique et la consécration du principe de solidarité.

**Je vous remercie.**





**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY**  
**H.E. AMBASSADOR BAKİ İLKİN**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THEMATIC DEBATE**  
**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**  
**AT THE 62<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 13 FEBRUARY 2008**



[www.un.int/turkey](http://www.un.int/turkey)

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me further sense of responsibility to address the General Assembly on one of the most pressing global issues of our time. My Delegation has fully aligned itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. I still would like to add my voice to the debate and share some of our views on this vital issue.

Especially after the Bali Agreement, today's thematic debate provides us with opportunity to further reflect on the United Nations' pivotal role in climate change. It is amply evident that we face an enormous threat posed by climate change. Its effects are already being felt and if not properly tackled, will worsen over time as indicated by the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). And we are not left with any option other than to act collectively and decisively according to our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

IPCC report makes it clear that future climate change could critically undermine efforts for sustainable development throughout the world and especially in North Africa and in the Mediterranean region. In particular, climate change may add to existing problems of desertification, water scarcity and food production, while also introducing new threats to human health, livestock, ecosystems and national economies of countries.

Turkey itself is indeed one of those countries highly vulnerable to climate change. Our location in the eastern Mediterranean Basin obliges us to pursue policies in dealing with infrequency of rainfall as well as decreasing trend in precipitation, scarcity of water and desertification.

Adverse effects of climate change in terms of extreme weather events, temperature increase and sea level rise are also a grave concern especially for small island developing states. Devastating impacts of recent disasters that these countries have experienced over the past years further highlighted the particular significance of this issue. Turkey fully shares their concerns and is committed to support the global efforts addressing their urgent needs in the face of climate change and mutually reinforcing their sustainable development.

Mr. President,

While mitigation is one of the major aspects of the fight to limit global temperature increase, the adaptation to climate change is equally important and constitutes a demanding agenda for the developing countries. In this regard, the developed countries will have to shoulder a bigger responsibility, but the developing countries will also have to play their part. Our joint efforts must be commensurate with economic growth and social development. Without investment in capacity building for adaptation and proper technology transfer, development efforts will be undermined.

It is evident that Turkey's sustainable development will depend on its adaptive capacity to climate change. In recent years, the Turkish Government has made serious efforts to introduce and implement adaptive measures ranging from effective water management, irrigation to national and international afforestation campaigns.

In this regard, Turkey has become a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, Turkey's status as an Annex-1 party in the framework of this Convention does not reflect the actual industrialization level of my country. Although Turkey is an OECD country, it is neither a fully developed industrialized country yet, nor in the group of countries, the economies of which are in transition. Being so, we rely mainly on our national resources for adapting to climate change whereas non-Annex-1 party countries are able to benefit from the relevant mechanisms of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Thus, one might say that Turkey is in a *sui-generis* situation vis-à-vis the current international climate change regime. We hope that the post-2012 regime will re-categorize the countries on the basis of their different development levels instead of merely listing them as Annex and Non-Annex parties.

Distinguished Delegates,

Turkey fully supports and actively participates in the global efforts under the guidance of the United Nations towards adapting to the adverse consequences of climate change while combating desertification as well as implementing policies for mitigation.

This year Turkey will host the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Istanbul from 20 to 29 October.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you all that we are very pleased also to hold the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC in Turkey, in 2009.

Furthermore, it gives me pleasure to invite all participants to the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul in March 2009, which will provide us with the opportunity to share our experiences for a better water management that will take into account the concerns for climate change and desertification.

Mr. President,

Climate change has become a part and parcel of sustainable and social development as well as economic prosperity and energy policies. Its cross-cutting nature requires integrated approach and concerted action across many fora in the United Nations. As the UNDP's 2007/2008 Human Development report rightly warns, we should focus on the wide-ranging negative implications of climate change on the overarching endeavor of attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Otherwise we might risk bringing unprecedented reversals in poverty reduction, nutrition, health and even education. Therefore, we must ensure that the issue of climate change be included in all relevant policy debates and planning studies in a coherent fashion.

With its outreach capacity and legitimacy, we believe, the United Nations is best-suited and well-equipped to rise to the daunting challenge that climate change poses. I am sure we all have the ability and the political will to further strengthen the United Nations' central role in coordinating and leading our response to this threat.

Thank you.



TUVALU

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
P.O. Box 10  
Suva, Fiji

Statement

**Statement**

by

**The Honourable TAVAU TEII**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

of Tuvalu at the

**United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate,**

**on the theme:**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work,”**

**New York,**

**Tuesday 12 February 2008**

**(Check Against Delivery)**

**Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations**

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**New York, NY 10017**

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Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all I wish to thank you Mr President for convening this thematic debate. I also wish to congratulate and commend you on your foresight in encouraging a UN wide discussion on the issue of climate change. Let me also thank the Secretary General for his continuous commitment and leadership on the issue of climate change, and also welcome his report on the "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change".
2. Without doubt climate change is one of the greatest challenges that faces humanity today. We clearly need a comprehensive approach to addressing this issue. I am pleased to note that the Bali Conference in December 2007 laid a strategic and important milestone in our journey to fight climate change.
3. Mr President, Tuvalu fully associates itself with the statements to be delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of the Kingdom of Tonga, Grenada, and Bangladesh to the United Nations on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries, Alliance of Small Islands States, and Least Developed countries respectively.
4. Therefore I would like to focus my speech on just one of the questions for discussion: "How can the UN system assist in scaling up support for adaptation?" It is recognised that adaptation to climate change needs to be part of policy investment decisions of countries, the private sector, international agencies and other relevant actors. We need to enhance the networking capacities and co-ordination for international joint action.
5. Adaptation is undoubtedly a crucial issue for an extremely vulnerable small, atoll island nation like Tuvalu. I only need to highlight the fact that our highest point above sea level is only 4 metres to emphasise our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change especially sea level rise.
6. Mr President, last year Tuvalu produced an *International Blueprint on Adaptation* which we presented as a submission to the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For those who may be interested in reading our *Blueprint* I have included a website address for it as a footnote to my speech.<sup>1</sup> This *Blueprint* highlights a number of areas where we envisage greater collaboration within the UN system. Let me highlight some of these.
7. First, it is very clear that financial resources for adaptation are completely inadequate. Last year Oxfam International released a report which suggested that the adaptation needs of developing countries will cost a minimum of \$US50 billion per year - a figure higher than the current

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<sup>1</sup> International Blueprint on Adaptation  
URL: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cop13/eng/misc02.pdf>

World Bank estimate of \$US10.40 billion annually. We must work together, under the umbrella of the UN, to find these additional funds.

8. One means of increasing the funding for adaptation is through the creation of what we call a *Burden Sharing Mechanism*. Funding for this *Mechanism* could come from a levy on international aviation and maritime transport. Some exceptions would apply to this levy so that we would not create a burden for least developed countries and small islands developing States. Therefore we need the UN to develop a collaborative arrangement with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organisation to develop such a levy. We would encourage the convening of a senior officers meeting of these organisations with senior officials from UNDP and the UNFCCC, some time this year, to facilitate the appropriate arrangements for this levy.

9. Second, we need collaborative action among UN institutions and NGOs to develop a comprehensive approach to long-term adaptation action. As a first step we envisage a collaborative programme between the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties and the UN/ International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and participating countries. We believe that a special coordination committee be established under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. This *Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Committee* would also include other UN agencies including: UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, FAO, WHO and other institutions such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society and various NGOs with experience in the field of adaptation. Again we would like to see this *Committee* established this year and therefore hope that we could have a special session of the UNGA to pass a resolution in support of such a committee as soon as possible.

10. Third, the *International Blueprint on Adaptation* also proposes the establishment of an *International Climate Insurance Pool*. This would be an internationally sourced pool of funds for an insurance mechanism to provide support to the most vulnerable communities meet the costs of rebuilding after climate-related disasters. We envisage that this insurance facility could be administered by a special group within UNDP under the guidance of existing re-insurance companies. Internationally agreed climate threshold triggers for payouts to communities would need to be established. We would hope and encourage the UNDP to facilitate a special meeting some time this year to begin the process of establishing this insurance facility.

11. Mr President, these are only three ideas I have elaborated in our *International Blueprint on Adaptation*. There are a number of others. We have no special ownership of this *Blueprint*. We would like the UN system to embrace it and take it on as a truly UN *Blueprint*. We encourage you, Mr President to closely look at the *Blueprint* and work with your colleagues to develop these ideas further. We strongly encourage you to consider convening a special session of the UNGA to allow the development of and endorsement of a resolution to facilitate the implementation of these ideas on adaptation.

I thank you.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Permanent Mission of the  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
to the United Nations  
New York**



البعثة الدائمة  
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador/ Ahmed Al-Jarman**

**Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates  
to the United Nations**

**At the Thematic Debate  
of the General Assembly entitled**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the  
World at Work”**

**New York, 11-13 February 2008**

Mr President

It gives me pleasure to express to you on behalf of the UAE delegation our appreciation for the President of the General Assembly for convening this important meeting. I also would like to take advantage of this opportunity to commend the Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki Moon for his efforts and endeavors to mobilize the international efforts to take the necessary steps to meet the Climate Change challenges which are becoming a source of a real danger for the present and future of humanity. We also thank him for his valuable comprehensive report on the issues we are to address today.

Mr. President,

We have read carefully the report of the Secretary General which presents a wide scope review of how the UN would contribute to deal with the Climate Change crisis which threatens the safety and security of people all around the world. As we appreciate the efforts of the Governmental International Group on Coordination in finding the best collective solutions to deal with this global crisis, we reaffirm that the UN is the most appropriate frame within which we can define ways to deal with the crisis. We specially indorse the UN role in proposing solutions for countries on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and abilities of countries to implement the provisions of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol and its role in assisting the countries in implementing them. In this context, my delegation associates itself with the statement given by the representative Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G 77 and China and the statement given by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. President,

The UAE is aware of the size and seriousness of the challenges emerging from the Climate Change and the threat it poses to the security and stability of peoples in many countries, especially the developing countries. Convinced that dealing with these challenges requires a global partnership and an effective cooperation among developed and developing countries, my country was keen on joining all regional and international conventions and protocols on environment and sustainable development. We have supported the road map and the Plan of Action adopted at Bali in December 2007 which calls for launching negotiations among state parties that would be completed by the end of 2009 leading to a convention on emission reduction that can enter force by the end of 2012. We hope these negotiations will reach a comprehensive convention on emission reduction for after Kyoto , one that does not negatively impact the economies and the process of development in the developing countries, in general, and in particular in the oil producing and exporting countries , one of which is the UAE, whose economies depends primarily on fossil fuel.

Mr. President,

The UAE is one of the big oil producing countries, and being keen to ensure a continuous flow of energy to the world markets; my country continues to enhance its efforts and initiatives in sponsoring and supporting international activities to find alternative sources of clean, safe and affordable sources of energy and deal with the climate change crisis. Last month we hosted the World Future Energy Summit which was



a mobilization of government representatives, scientists, expertise, researchers and specialists in environment and energy. The UAE announced during the summit the launch of one of the largest program in sustainable development, with an initial investment of US\$ 15 billion in projects targeting solar, hydrogen and wind power and carbon reduction and management. It also announced the launch of the Zayed Future Energy Prize awarding \$US 2.2 million annually to honor individuals and organizations for their excellence in the innovation, development and implementation of sustainable energy solutions. And last Friday, we launched “Masdar City”; the world’s only zero carbon, zero waste city; expected to be completed in 2016 with a population of 50, 0000 and hosting 1500 companies. My country has also supported and contributed US\$ 150 million to the fund established by Saudi Arabia last November, with US\$ 750 million budget for research on the relationship between oil and the environment and climate change.

These initiatives and activities represent one of the many aspects of the national comprehensive strategy of the Emirates to protect the environment and deal with climate changes without undermining programs of development in the country. A number of measures have been implemented in areas of renewable energy, air pollution desertification, increasing the green areas, emission reduction and clean energy. We have enforced zero emission policies in all activities related to oil industries and mainstreamed the use of unleaded fuel in all transportation sectors. Those efforts culminated in 2006 in the launching of “Masdar” project which aims to establish a world center for developing future solution for sustainable energy through an integrated group of methods and means including a network of research institutes specialized in energy as well as maintaining stability in the world energy markets. And last April the UAE announced the government’s strategy which aims to achieve sustainable development in all sectors within the frame of general environment standard in the country.

In conclusion, we renew our support to the role of the UN in meeting the challenges posed by climate changes, and we stress the necessity of the developed countries shouldering their responsibilities towards this global crisis and fulfilling their commitments during the coming negotiations to implement the recommendations of international conferences and conventions related to environment and sustainable development, especially UNFCCC and its optional protocol. We also call for providing the necessary support for developing countries and facilitating their access to new technologies so as to enhance their abilities to adapt and apply measures of mitigation and get clean sustainable energy resources, all of which requires operating the funds and mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol in a transparent and just manner.

The UAE will continue to cooperate with the international community in the collective efforts to reach proper solutions, nationally and internationally, to deal with the negative effects of climate change.

Thank you



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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE**

**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**Wednesday, 13 February 2008**

**Statement by Sir John Sawers  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom**

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE**  
**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND**  
**THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**Wednesday, 13 February**

**Statement by Sir John Sawers, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr President

We have been talking this week about how the UN can turn awareness of climate change into a coherent programme to support the Bali Action Plan. I take from the debate so far six main conclusions.

1. That we're united in our sense of **urgency** to tackle climate change through the **UNFCCC**, as the multilateral framework for agreeing a post-2012 climate deal. Whatever discussions happen outside that framework, they should support the central effort of the UNFCCC.
2. That climate change threatens most of the UN's objectives. It is a **threat to peace and security, and above all to prosperity and development**. As Kemal Dervis said, unless we address climate change and poverty reduction together, we will not achieve the MDGs. Sustainable development must be sustainable. High carbon growth, or development strategies that don't take account of an already changing climate, are not sustainable and will fail.
3. That **the UN is already doing a lot of good work** on climate change. UN agencies provide unbiased scientific evidence, monitoring and early warning. They build the capacities of developing countries. They support the development of coherent national plans. They harness the innovative capacity of partnerships. And of course, the UNFCCC Secretariat supports the legitimate universal forum for negotiations.
4. That the UN alone doesn't hold the solution. **UN agencies need to identify where they fit within a broader international system**, that includes the IFIs, the private sector, research institutions, the UNFCCC and many other organisations. The UK believes the new money needed to help developing countries acquire clean energy and adapt to a changing climate should flow mainly through the development banks, and the private sector. But UN agencies should have a substantive role in ensuring that funding is used effectively, and do that by concentrating on **building capacity in developing country governments**. Working together, the UN and the IFIs can deliver a coherent package of support.

5. That **agencies are already working in collaboration** – such as UNEP and UNDP on poverty and environment; the World Tourism Organisation, UNESCO and UNEP on greening tourism; and UNIDO and UNEP on energy efficiency. However, this collaboration is the exception, not the norm. There are also examples of **duplication**, for example in the areas of capacity building, early warning and assessment.
6. To maximise the UN's contribution, we need a **strategic vision of how the different parts of the UN can best contribute to the Bali Action Plan**. Information-sharing is not enough. We need real co-ordination that identifies comparative advantages and sets out a clear division of labour.

It was refreshing to hear on Monday views from within the UN system. As Achim Steiner outlined, there is still too much fragmentation, driven by lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of different agencies. And Mats Karlsson pointed out how senior leadership within the UN is needed to make the whole more than the sum of its parts.

Fragmentation is the greatest barrier to the UN maximising its impact. The Secretary-General's report of 25 January illustrates the enormous potential the UN has to help tackle climate change. But the lack of a shared, strategic vision to realise that potential is striking.

We look to the Secretary-General to lead the work needed to deliver this strategic vision. And we look to each agency to honestly assess its strengths and weaknesses, and to focus on how it can best serve the UN system and the membership as a whole.

Member States, too, have responsibilities. We must send clear and consistent messages, particularly through the various governing bodies, on where we think different agencies' comparative advantages lie. And those of us who provide voluntary funding must use it to support coherence, rather than exacerbate fragmentation.

So where do we go from here? The Secretary-General's report suggests some ideas, but these need elaboration. There is promise in the basic idea of sectoral approaches, with lead UN agencies, working to an overall strategy under the supervision of the Chief Executives' Board. We think that most of this work can be done under existing mandates. We agree with the G77 that this can be done without prejudice to intergovernmental discussions on system-wide coherence and international environmental governance.

In taking forward the CEB's work, I'd suggest the following activities.

First, **analyse what the UN is already doing** to support the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and on each of the Bali commitments. This should give a good idea of where the strengths, weaknesses, overlaps and gaps are.

Second, **identify the comparative advantage of each UN body**, based on their existing mandates, skills base, global profile, and potential, taking full account of the roles of the rest of the international system.

Third, based on this, **develop a coherent UN Climate Engagement Strategy, under the leadership of the Secretary-General**, that responds to the Bali Action Plan. This should provide both an overall strategic vision, and some detailed principles for coordinated working.

Fourth, **agencies work up their own strategies** in the light of this taking a fresh eye to what they're doing now. Consultation with their governing bodies may be needed. Areas of duplication should be ironed out. Work should be intensified where an agency has a comparative advantage and priority needs are unmet.

This work will take some time, and some interests will lose out along the way. But it is of the utmost urgency and priority, if the UN is to be relevant to this biggest of global challenges. The UK stands ready to help in any way we can. I have no doubt the General Assembly will continue to play a role overseeing this work. But we should not hold it up.

Thank you, Mr President, for convening this timely debate.

**УКРАЇНА**



**UKRAINE**

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**STATEMENT**

**by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine,**

**Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev**

**at the High-Level Thematic Debate**

**“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”**

**12 February 2008**

At the outset my delegation would like to acknowledge the initiative to convey this important and timely debate. During the High Level Event on climate change on September 24th and the Bali Conference in December 2007 the world leaders agreed to move forward in very practical terms. We in New York within the General Assembly should work tirelessly to maintain and leverage momentum reached in 2007 in tackling climate change, to make tangible progress in negotiations already this year.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for keeping climate change on top of his agenda and for the preparation of very comprehensive and informative report A/62/644 on the UN activities on climate change. This report along with the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC conclude that the global warming is the result of human activities. My delegation is convinced that the UN General Assembly is the appropriate forum to discuss climate change in a comprehensive way and to support the ongoing negotiations under the auspices of UNFCCC. We should also take into account adverse and unfavorable consequences on the environment, on economic and social development. We would like to propose to have these discussions on the regular basis within the General Assembly and to introduce the separate agenda item, which will allow discussion and action to effectively tackle climate change. We are ready to work with all interested delegations on this matter.

Building momentum against global warming is very important on national level. In this area, Ukraine attaches great importance to the Kyoto Protocol. We act in accordance with improved practice of Joint Implementation and applying the Clean Development Mechanisms. Almost three years ago, in 2005, the Government of Ukraine has approved the National Action Plan and introduced an Inventory of greenhouse gas annual emissions. Ukraine considers cutting greenhouse emissions up to 25% until 2020. Ukraine takes forward Joint Implementation scheme – more than 80 projects received support and 12 of them were approved. With reference to the carbon market, we plan to use the balance of the emissions quota, which amounts to 250 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually, towards modernization of production and introducing “green” technologies,

My government has fully acknowledged the link between climate and sustainable energy. Efforts are underway to transform our currently carbon-based economy into low carbon economy on the basis of clean technologies, such as renewable energies, biofuels and energy efficiency. At the same time, meeting this challenge will require strengthened international co-operation in the area of energy efficiency and energy security.

Turning to the issue of post-2012 emissions regime, it should be flexible and diverse in nature, with due account of specific needs and circumstances of States Parties. Ukraine would like to stress the importance of striking balance between the first and second commitment periods. It is absolutely essential that while negotiating future climate change agreement, including its quantitative emissions targets and time frame in which they should be achieved, we are guided by the basic principles enshrined in the UNFCCC – equity, common but differentiated responsibility, respective capability, cost-effectiveness and sustainable development.

International joint and concerted action would not be possible without building appropriate architecture and creation of relevant institutional basis. Among other measures it is important to consider setting up an international technology transfer mechanism to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Donor and recipient countries alike should actively engage into this partnership initiative. Another topic is adaptation which should be part of policy decision within governments, private sector, international agencies and other actors.

Long time ago Ukraine called for creation of an overarching organization with mandate to address environmental issues in comprehensive way. This institution would be of universal membership and multiple national representation. It should be a mechanism to form ecological responsibility and system of international environmental security. Without responsible and caring approach in this vein we will simply fail the expectations of our people.

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February 12, 2008

As Delivered

*Statement by Ambassador Alejandro D. Wolff, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative, on "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World At Work," at the General Assembly Thematic Debate, February 12, 2008*

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States commends the Secretariat for its work in highlighting the importance of building and strengthening partnerships to address the global challenge of climate change, and appreciates the Secretary-General's report offering an overview of relevant United Nations activities.

A global solution to confronting climate change will require that we all collaborate on scientific and technological research, partner with industry on innovative energy efficiency and clean energy projects, and cooperate to finance mitigation and adaptation measures.

The United States supports the outcome at Bali, and is strongly committed to achieving the goals of the Bali Roadmap and reaching an agreement in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2009.

Furthermore, the United States will continue to commit significant effort and resources to build and strengthen its partnerships to address this global challenge, including through an international funding mechanism to promote clean technologies.

We are working hard to foster public-private investments in innovative clean-energy technologies through multilateral initiatives including the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the Methane to Markets Partnership, and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, among many others.

In the State of the Union address last month, President Bush expressed his desire to reach an international agreement that will slow, stop, and eventually reverse the growth of greenhouse



gases, and he pointed out that such an agreement can accomplish this only if it includes commitments by every major economy.

Late last month, the United States convened the second meeting of the world's major economies. This process is meant to support agreement under the Framework Convention and will consider a long-term goal for reducing greenhouse gases, near- to mid-term national emissions roadmaps and commitments, technology collaborations, sectoral efforts, and financing. Participants found this meeting constructive. We look forward to additional meetings to be hosted by our colleagues from France and Japan and to a meeting of leaders of the major economies this year on this important issue.

The United States is taking action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

In December, President Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Taken together, the new mandates for motor vehicles, alternative fuels, lighting, appliances, and buildings could reduce projected greenhouse gas emissions by more than six billion metric tons by 2030.

In March, the United States will host the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference where government officials and industry leaders worldwide will unite to confront the most pressing issues facing renewable energy development and deployment.

Partnerships and actions to address climate change are taking shape in cities and states across the United States, in communities large and small, as well as among business groups and our centers of research and learning.

The United States is partnering with other countries to promote development of advanced energy technologies that will help protect the global environment while enabling economic growth.

Through the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, for instance, we are expanding investment and trade in cleaner energy technologies in countries representing about half of global population, economic output, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption.

The U.S. has made significant investment in research, development, and deployment of new technologies. Since 2001, the United States has invested nearly \$18 billion in research and development of these cleaner, lower carbon, and more efficient technologies and is providing more than \$36 billion in loan guarantees over the next two years, as well as other measures, to help accelerate their deployment.

Proving low carbon coal technology on the shortest possible timeline is among the most important challenges we face if we are to reduce global emissions. In the United States, we are making the investment necessary to prove these technologies. President Bush's fiscal year 2009 budget for research, development and demonstration of advanced clean coal technology, when combined with required private-sector contribution, will approach a total investment of nearly \$1 billion. It is the largest single budget request for advanced coal technology by a President in over 25 years. In addition to this year's budget request, the United States government is providing \$8 billion in loan guarantees for advanced coal projects along with nearly \$2 billion in tax credits.

At the September Major Economies meeting, President Bush called for a new international clean technology fund to help developing nations harness the power of clean energy technologies. Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan and Prime Minister Brown of the United Kingdom have also risen to the challenge, and our governments are working together in establishing a new fund administered at the World Bank. The multilateral Clean Technology Fund will stimulate and leverage private sector investment in clean technology in developing countries as those countries fulfill their commitments with respect to limiting greenhouse gas emissions. The President has committed to provide \$2 billion to the fund over the next three years. We urge other potential donors to join our effort.

We also need to remove the obstacles to the global use of the most advanced clean energy technologies. In November of last year, the United States and the EU jointly submitted a ground breaking proposal in the World Trade Organization to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers for environmental goods and services, with priority action on technologies directly linked to addressing climate change and energy security. Removing these barriers provides a tremendous opportunity to make a real impact on global emissions.

With regard to the Secretary-General's overview of United Nations activities, the United States commends the UN on its efforts to improve and enhance collaboration and coordination on climate change across all its agencies to maximize effectiveness.

We enthusiastically support the organizational commitment to reduce carbon emissions through conservation and efficient management of resources across all agencies.

We believe that the UN's campaign to reduce its carbon footprint can contribute to making the UN an overall more efficient organization and have beneficial environmental impacts as well, just as the United States federal government's program seeks to do.

But while carbon neutrality is a laudable long-term goal, we believe UN agencies should explore the use of extra-budgetary funds, rather than regular budgetary funds, should they decide to purchase carbon credits, as this would avoid the diversion of precious resources from UN agencies' core functions.

The United States commends the UN for its vision for building partnerships across the world to tackle the challenge posed by a changing climate. We are committed to do our part to contribute to a global effort.

Thank you.



## **ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ**

**Постоянного представителя Республики Узбекистан при ООН А.Вахидова  
на тематических дискуссиях Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН  
«Решение проблемы изменения климата: действия Организации  
Объединенных Наций и мирового сообщества»**

**13 февраля 2008 г., г. Нью-Йорк**

**Уважаемый господин Председатель,**

Позвольте, прежде всего, выразить особые слова благодарности Его Превосходительству господину Пан Ги Муну, Генеральному секретарю ООН, который прилагает неустанные усилия по консолидации международного сообщества в борьбе с изменением климата, а также Его Превосходительству господину Срджан Кериму, Председателю 62-й сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи за его инициативу провести тематические дискуссии на эту тему.

Сегодня становится все более очевидным, что изменение климата - это многоаспектная проблема, требующая столь же многостороннего подхода к ее решению. В этой связи, мы приветствуем всеобъемлющий подход в докладе Генерального секретаря ООН «Обзор деятельности Организации Объединенных Наций, касающейся изменения климата». Мы убеждены, что именно ООН предоставляет возможность формирования многостороннего и универсального механизма по эффективному предотвращению и решению проблем изменения климата и вытекающих из него последствий.

Узбекистан, являясь участником Рамочной конвенции ООН по изменению климата и Киотского протокола, предпринимает последовательные шаги по реализации взятых на себя международных обязательств. Узбекистан осуществляет конкретные меры по обеспечению учета факторов адаптации к изменению климата в национальных программах развития энергетики, в частности, уделяя особое внимание сокращению выбросов парниковых газов, реализации программы по экономии энергии, механизма чистого развития Киотского протокола и другие меры.

В данном контексте, хотелось бы подчеркнуть, что мы разделяем мнение многих государств-членов ООН о том, что вопрос изменения климата является составной частью более широких международных дебатов по устойчивому развитию.

Считаем, что особую важность в борьбе с изменением климата представляет обеспечение эффективного партнерства между развивающимися и развитыми государствами. Приоритетное внимание должно уделяться решению проблемы недостаточного финансирования усилий по борьбе с изменением климата.

В контексте предотвращения негативных последствий изменения климата особое значение представляют внедрение экологически чистых технологий, противодействие деградации природных ресурсов, использование возобновляемых источников энергии, повышение эффективности потребления энергии и энергосырья, а также оптимизация управления и пользования водными ресурсами.

Господин Председатель,

Позвольте обратиться к одной из составляющих проблемы изменения климата, а именно к вопросу обеспечения экологической безопасности. Мы являемся свидетелями того, что разрушительное воздействие на окружающую среду становится значительным фактором влияния на весь комплекс устойчивого развития – социальное благополучие, экономическое развитие и экологическое равновесие.

Особому испытанию экологическая безопасность подвергается в зонах экологических катастроф. Одним из очагов такой экологической катастрофы является ситуация в бассейне Аральского моря. Гибель Аральского моря с его богатой биологической природой несет необратимые последствия не только на региональном уровне, но и негативно влияет на изменение климата далеко за пределами региона.

Солевые и пылевые бури, образующиеся на поверхности обнаженной площади моря, уничтожают урожаи и растительность. Снижается продуктивность пастбищ и урожайность возделываемых культур. Огромный экономический ущерб нанесен рыболовству, охотничьим хозяйствам. Комплекс сложнейших экологических проблем подрывает саму основу обеспечения жизни в бассейне Арала, привел к хронической нехватке оросительной и чистой питьевой воды.

Мы приветствуем участие международных партнеров в реализации конкретных программ и проектов, направленных на улучшение экологической обстановки в бассейне Аральского моря. Но с сожалением приходится констатировать, что предпринимаемые меры и фактически выделяемые средства недостаточны для экологического оздоровления Приаралья. В этой связи, мы ожидаем от международных партнеров активных и более конкретных действий по финансированию мер по нормализации экосистемы вокруг Арала.

На условия жизни населения, проживающего в бассейне Аральского моря, помимо других факторов, влияет решение одной из важнейших проблем в Центрально-Азиатском регионе - проблемы использования и охраны водных ресурсов. Население Центральной Азии растет, а количество воды и орошаемая земля остаются почти неизменными.

В горах Центральной Азии нарастают процессы деградации, такие как обезлесение и эрозия, загрязнение отходами и сокращение пастбищ. Ледники горных систем Памира и Алтая за последние 50 лет потеряли более 25% запасов льда, и этот процесс интенсивно развивается.

Экосистемы водных бассейнов объединяют все страны нашего региона. Необходимость общей схемы управления водными ресурсами Центральной Азии обусловлена самой жизнью и требует выработки и развития механизмов сотрудничества. Поэтому при реализации в нашем регионе проектов, оказывающих влияние на режим водопользования, должны учитываться все

факторы, которые могут в той или иной мере повлиять на экологическую обстановку в регионе и привести к непоправимым экологическим последствиям.

Господин Председатель,

Пользуясь возможностью, хотел бы проинформировать участников сегодняшних тематических дискуссий о том, что Узбекистан, стремясь внести вклад в общие усилия по борьбе с изменением климата и защиты окружающей среды, принял решение о проведении 11-12 марта 2008 года в г.Ташкенте международной конференции на тему: «Проблемы Арала, их влияние на генофонд населения, растительный и животный мир и меры международного сотрудничества по смягчению их последствий».

Основной целью конференции является обсуждение вопросов влияния изменения климата на уровень жизни и состояние здоровья населения бассейна Аральского моря, проблем сохранения биоразнообразия, улучшения управления водными и земельными ресурсами. По итогам ташкентской конференции будет выработан комплексный план действий по улучшению экологической и социально-экономической ситуации в бассейне Аральского моря.

Я пользуюсь данной приятной возможностью пригласить представителей Организации Объединенных Наций и государств-членов ООН принять участие в конференции и внести посильный вклад в решение проблем бассейна Аральского моря.

Благодарю за внимание.

*Please check against delivery*

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF VIETNAM'S DELEGATION**  
**H.E.Dr. Tran The Ngoc**  
**Vice Minister**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment,**  
**S.R. Viet Nam**

*Mr. Chairman,*

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the distinguished representative of Antigua Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and wishes to highlight some issues of our concern.

Climate change is becoming one of the mankind's greatest and most pressing challenge in recent decades. There are more and more concrete scientific evidences from all over the world that climate change is increasingly the realistic and considerable issue. The issue has been mainly rooted from human activities since the beginning of the industrial revolution more than two hundred years ago. Adverse effects of climate change including sea level rise, the shift of weather patterns and the increase in frequency and scale of natural hazards (the drought, flood and typhoon) are generally threatening the sustainable development of all countries throughout the world. It is the fact that no individual nation can resolve this difficult issue. Climate change has no definable boundaries. Therefore, international cooperation to deal with this global phenomenon is more necessary and critical than ever to avoid serious disruption of global and national economic and social activities.

It is the developing countries or the poor part of the world that suffer the most from the adverse effects of climate change. Among those, Viet Nam has been warned to be the top five most seriously affected countries. International experts have estimated that as many as twenty two million Vietnamese, especially those living in the central and southern regions, will be displaced if the sea level rises by an additional one meter. In fact, Viet Nam is now already suffering from climate change.

*Mr. Chairman,*

There is scientific evidence provided by the recent IPCC Report as well as the Human Development Report that we can afford reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and stabilize CO<sub>2</sub> levels and limit global warming. To achieve this requirement, we need first and foremost a clear and agreed roadmap for the post 2012 period, in which, the interests of poor countries and communities are mostly concerned. It is our hope that a new agreement under the UNFCCC will be developed in this regard and we confirm our continued strong support for the general principles and differentiated responsibilities.

The GHG emissions reduction scenario will require immediate and firm actions of all the developed countries, with the significant progress in GHG emission reduction than what has been achieved since the signing of the Kyoto Protocol (KP).

Presently, adaptation to climate change is an essential concern for all of us and should be addressed in the framework agreement with the central issue as emissions reduction which basically requires coherent international supports in respect of strongly increased finance and technology transfers.



*Mr. Chairman,*

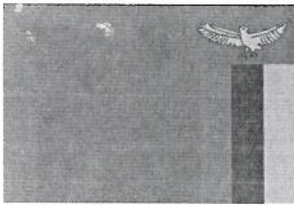
In contribution to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC reducing negative impacts of climate change, aiming at sustainable development, the Government of Vietnam recently adopted an important decision of Action Plan to implement Kyoto Protocol for the period of 2007-2010. This serves as a main framework for management and coordination of climate change activities in Viet Nam in achieving sustainable development strategic objective. Considering energy efficiency and conservation as one critical factor in achieving this objective, many policies and programs are under development such as renewable energy, energy saving as well as reforestation and forest protection. In addition, a national target program to cope with climate change is being developed in our country.

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Being one of the several countries seriously affected by climate change, Viet Nam has been actively joining the international community to reach multilateral agreements to address climate change impacts. This global concern requires a global solution. We are now looking forward to joining efforts undertaken by the international community to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention as well as the global sustainable development.

Thank you very much for your attention and cooperation./.



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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## STATEMENT

BY

**HON. MICHAEL L. KAINGU, MP  
MINISTER OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

AT

**THE HIGH LEVEL EVENT THEMATIC DEBATE ENTITLED  
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE WORLD AT WORK:**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,  
NEW YORK, USA**

**February 12, 2008**

Your Excellency, Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Fellow Ministers,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this very important debate on Climate Change and I commend the Organisers for such an important event.

We may all recall that the Fourth Assessment report of the IPCC established, unambiguously, the facts of global warming and showcased the perceptible sign of the changing climate in various locations in the world. The projected increases – up to 5.8 degrees celsius by the year 2100 in some scenarios are estimated to be up to one hundred times as fast as some of the major spikes temperature rises during the earth's history.

The reports also stress that this global warming will increasingly affect human and natural systems, and will have potentially disastrous effects on local, regional and global economies. The economic impacts of climate change will likely:

- Be unevenly distributed across regions and within the economy and society, with secondary effects being higher prices, reduced income and job losses.
- Outweigh benefits for most sectors that provide essential goods and services to society.
- Place immense strains on the public sector

Poor countries like Zambia will suffer most because we do not have the capacity to face the impacts of climate change. Our predominant concerns, relate to alleviation of poverty which over shadow issues of climate change. As I speak to you now Zambia is experiencing unprecedented floods which are causing havoc, displacing people and washing away bridges, culverts and roads.

Excellencies,

This day I wish to share with you what my government is doing in trying to address climate change, as well as the challenges that we face.

My government signed the UNFCCC on 11 June 1992 and ratified it on 28 May, 1993. We also signed the Kyoto Protocol (KP) on 5 August 1998 and ratified it on 7 July 2006.

Although, Zambia does not have a specific policy on climate change, the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) recognizes climate change as a challenge. The FNDP forecasts climate change may reduce rainfall between 8 to 30 percent and advocates for measures that address this challenge.

The issue of climate change is also provided for in the recently approved national policy on environment. Furthermore, climate change is well articulated in other environment sector programmes. In this regard, the following activities have been undertaken by my government and I would like to thank and commend the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF): for giving us support in this regard.

- The initial national communication was completed and submitted to the UNFCCC in 2006. The two years formulation of the second national communication was initiated in 2007. Besides reporting UNFCCC implementation progress, the second communication process will also serve as a management tool, as well as indicating the gaps in the current national capacity to address climate change management.
- The NAPA: was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2007. The NAPA, specifically addresses immediate, pressing adaptation priorities in food security, and public health. The NAPA also pointed out that there is evidence of Climate Change affecting other sectors, such as forestry and wildlife, land management, energy and Tourism, we now require resources to implement the NAPA.
- The designated national authority for the approval of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects has been established, formed by an Ad-Hoc board of the most relevant national stakeholders to the CDM process, and hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR).
- In line with the commitments originating from the UNFCCC membership, my government has also undertaken a comprehensive national climate change awareness campaign, whose objective is to ensure national ownership and success of future climate change-related efforts, through sensitization and national consensus building.
- The national capacity self assessment for the implementation of the Rio Convention was completed by the UNFCCC focal point in 2007. The assessment identifies the gaps in national capacity for the effective implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Biodiversity (UNCBD), Desertification (UNCCD) and Climate Change (UNFCCC), and proposes a strategy and an action plan to address such gaps.

- The study on the economic impact of climate change in Zambia, with support from UNDP will commence soon. Rigorous analysis has demonstrated that climate change is of critical importance to the short-term, medium and long-term development priorities for Zambia as set forth in the FNDP.
- My Government has also documented the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) which sets out to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. This document was done in April 2007

Excellencies,

This forum provides us an opportunity to participate in promoting partnerships and consider the most appropriate approach the United Nations and the world at large may take to address climate change, to ease the impacts that will be exerted on countries like Zambia, and forestall the reverse of developmental gains that may arise as a result of climate change.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, let me emphasise the importance of early action to the threat of climate change. We need to address the root cause of this problem by taking decisive action at global level to reduce the green house gas emissions.

I thank you.



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
Delegation of the European Commission  
to the United Nations

**General Assembly  
Sixty-second Session**

**Thematic Debate**

**Addressing Climate Change :  
The United Nations and the World at Work**

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Fernando M. Valenzuela**

**Head of the Delegation of the European Commission**

United Nations  
New York, 12 February 2008

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Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2008 is a crucial year for addressing climate change and President Kerim, by convening this debate of the General Assembly, offered to all of us a timely opportunity to contribute to make progress in the right direction, for which we thank him.

We know climate change is happening. The evidence is irrefutable and has been piling up for some time. We know that climate change can only be tackled on a world scale and the window of opportunity for action on climate change is closing. The longer we wait to act, the worse the climate change impacts and the greater the challenge.

It is time to move from words to action. A new framework for action must be agreed before the current international commitments under the Kyoto protocol come to an end in 2012. This requires, first and foremost, a strong political will to tackle this global challenge from the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

The European Union's objective is to limit the rise in average global temperatures to two degrees above pre-industrial levels. To send a clear signal to partners around the globe, the EU took on an independent commitment to reduce its green house gas emissions relative to 1990 levels by at least 20% by the year 2020 and by as much as 30 % as part of a global agreement, where all developed countries commit to comparable efforts, and where also developing countries contribute further.

On 23 January the European Commission has presented the legislative "Climate Action and Renewable Energy package", which will be instrumental in shaping a response in line with our commitments

The climate action and renewable energy package will enable the EU to achieve sharp cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and a major increase in renewables through a combination of cost-effective action through the carbon market and a fair sharing of the effort between Member States.

These proposals could make an important contribution to strengthening climate action globally. I want to highlight three areas.

1. First, a new international agreement on climate change is essential. Only global action – under the leadership of developed countries but with a meaningful contribution by emerging economies - can deal effectively with this

global challenge. The UN climate conference in Bali in December last year brought the breakthrough we needed, by deciding that a global agreement for the period after 2012 should be reached by the end of next year.

I believe the Commission's climate action and renewable energy proposals will help the forthcoming negotiations in two main ways:

First, the political importance of leading by example is considerable. The EU is responsible for around 14% of worldwide emissions and this share is falling. Our package has a role to play here. It shows that making the deep emissions cuts necessary to avert dangerous climate change is fully compatible with continued economic growth and prosperity.

The second way the EC package could make a useful contribution to an international agreement is through its approach to effort-sharing between different countries. Within the EU there is now a 23-fold difference in the average wealth per person between the richest Member State and the poorest Member state. The mechanism we have devised in our package allows for poorer Member States to continue growing, while they reduce or keep their emissions below 'business-as-usual' levels. We are, in fact, giving practical effect to the international principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."

Mr. President,

Let me add that the stakes could not be higher. With the world temperature rise accelerating, the challenge is not just to reach a post-2012 climate change agreement. It is to ensure we are ambitious enough to prevent climate change from reaching devastating levels over the coming decades that could put the lives of millions of people in danger and impose a crippling burden on our economies.

2. This brings me to the second point I want to highlight.

The Commission's climate action and renewable energy proposals take as their starting point the cut of at least 20% of green house gas emissions relative to 1990, and this commitment is unconditional. But it has also put in place the arrangements for scaling up the emissions reduction to as much as 30% once a global agreement is reached.

We believe that a 30% cut in collective emissions from developed countries is needed by 2020, if we are to have a chance of stopping global warming before it reaches dangerous levels. It is with this responsibility in mind that the EU leaders have endorsed the 30% cut that the EU has argued for in Bali. We will



continue arguing for it, as the next necessary step towards an ultimate reduction in global emissions of at least half by 2050.

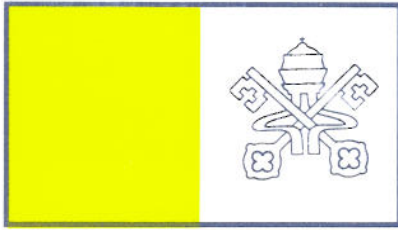
The Commission's package foresees that emission reduction targets will be scaled up automatically and proportionally in line with a higher international target. This means we are fully prepared for making a cut of up to 30% by 2020. We also create a strong incentive for third countries to join the future global agreement by proposing that only emission credits from countries that ratify it should be accepted by EU governments.

3. My third and final point concerns the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). By adopting our independent commitment, the EU is also sending a clear signal that the carbon market will continue, without interruption. In fighting climate change, we will need to make better use of markets. Emissions trading is the key tool for achieving emission reductions at least cost. For us there is no question that the global carbon market must play a central role in a post-2012 climate agreement in order to limit the costs of the deep emission reductions that will need to be made globally. In this respect, public-private partnerships have a major role to play: public authorities can facilitate the creation of a framework and long term incentives to attract private investment towards activities that contribute to a low carbon economic development. In fact, the largest share of investment and financial flows for addressing climate change comes from the private sector, 86% according to the UNFCCC secretariat report.

Mr. President,

Climate change affects everyone on this planet. For some it is their very survival that is at stake. It is their home, their livelihood, the food that they eat and the water that they drink that is at stake and the human dimension of the impact of climate changes must be taken into account. But climate change is a worldwide phenomenon. It cannot be overcome by one country or group of countries, no matter how rich or powerful. All major emitters must take action and all nations must participate in the effort by adopting the right policies in a timely way.

The United Nations has to lead global efforts to address global challenges. No organization is better suited to dealing with these issues. Climate change is a global problem and requires global solutions. The UN family of agencies, funds and programmes is best placed to act in an increasingly coherent manner to support Member States, during both the negotiation and implementation phases of a new climate change agreement. We welcome in this respect the work led by the Chief Executive Board. And would like to conclude by reaffirming the European Commission active support to the multilateral negotiations under the UNFCCC and the UN role in this area.



# HOLY SEE

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS 25 EAST 39th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016-0903 (212) 370-7885

**Check against delivery**

**Statement by H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See**

**62<sup>nd</sup> session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**Thematic Debate entitled  
“Addressing climate change:  
The United Nations and the world at work”**

**New York, 12 February 2008**



Mr President,

The ongoing debate on climate change has helped put into focus the inescapable responsibility of one and all to care for the environment, thereby building consensus around the common objective of promoting a healthy environment for present and future generations.

The recent UN Climate Change Conference in Bali has shown that through increased concern for our neighbour, in particular for those most vulnerable to climatic change, we are better equipped to adopt strategies and policies which balance the needs of humanity with the urgency for a more responsible stewardship.

The Holy See assures of its collaboration towards achieving the objectives set in Bali. To this end, the personal commitment and numerous public appeals of Pope Benedict XVI have generated awareness campaigns for a renewed sense of respect for and the need to safeguard God's creation. Individuals and communities have started to change their lifestyles, aware that personal and collective behaviour impacts climate and the overall health of the environment. While such lifestyle changes at times may seem irrelevant, every small initiative to reduce or offset one's carbon footprint, be it the avoidance of the unnecessary use of transport or the daily effort to reduce energy consumption, contributes to mitigating environmental decay and concretely shows commitment to environmental care.

On a more practical side, the Holy See has already taken certain measures to reduce and offset the carbon emission of the Vatican City State, such as the use of solar panels and tree-planting. With its involvement in a reforestation project in Hungary, it will provide environmental benefits to the host country, assist in the recovery of an environmentally degraded tract of land, and provide local jobs.

The interrelated issues of environmental preservation, economic development and climate change can have competing demands on our priorities and concerns. It is incumbent upon every individual and nation to seriously assume one's share of the responsibility to find and implement the most balanced approach possible to this challenge. Sustainable development provides the key to a strategy that harmoniously takes into account the demands of environmental preservation, climate change, economic development and basic human needs.

The use of “clean technologies” is an important component of sustainable development. To help industrializing countries avoid the errors that others committed in the past, highly industrialized countries should share with the former their more advanced and cleaner technologies. The pooling of resources makes initiatives of mitigation and adaptation economically accessible to most, thus assisting those less equipped to pursue development while safeguarding the environment. Moreover, markets must be encouraged to patronize “green economics” and not to sustain demand for goods whose very production causes environmental degradation. Consumers must be aware that their consumption patterns have direct impact on the health of the environment. Thus through interdependence, solidarity and accountability, individuals and nations together will be more able to balance the needs of sustainable development with those of good stewardship at every level.

Indeed, the challenge of climate change is at once individual, local, national and global. Accordingly, it urges a multilevel coordinated response, with mitigation and adaptation programmes simultaneously individual, local, national and global in their vision and scope.

My delegation, therefore, commends the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for providing a global framework for concerted international action to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its impacts. The almost universal membership in the Convention will not fail to facilitate the launching of national strategies --- starting with those most vulnerable, like small-island States and coastal, low-lying populated areas --- and would promote a more equitable pooling of resources and technology to help vulnerable countries with lesser resources better understand and assess the risks they face. The “Bali Roadmap” presents a common vision, capable of overcoming self-interest through collective action. It demands a global alliance for the adoption of a coordinated international political strategy towards a healthy environment for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Statement by Ms. Anke Strauss, Liaison Officer, International Organization for Migration at the thematic debate on: "Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the World at Work"; 11-12 February 2008, New York**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates the opportunity to participate in this informal thematic debate on climate change, to include the perspective of climate change, environmental degradation and migration.

The discussion on the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on human mobility is not entirely new. Already in 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had noted that "the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration – with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption". Yet, until recently, comparatively little attention has been paid to the long-term migration consequences of predictable environmental forces. Therefore it is an important and timely development that the discussion on climate change, including environmental degradation and its nexus to migration has been revitalized and stimulated by the various debates here at the UN, including the High Level Event on Climate Change here at the General Assembly last September.

Mr. President,

Both gradual climate change (*climate processes*) and great natural disasters (*climate events*) will put at risk the inhabitants, particularly indigenous peoples, of coastal regions, low lying islands, and areas susceptible to drought, and may force them to move to safer areas. While no consensus exists whether or not migration can be considered as a way of adaptation or as a failure of adaptation strategies, it is often a survival mechanism for those affected.

The implications of the climate change and migration nexus for human vulnerability, including its potential for sparking new and reigniting old conflicts, are yet to receive sufficient attention both from policy-makers and researchers. IOM is currently promoting policy dialogue and research on this nexus:

First, to establish effective policy approaches for managing the migratory causes and consequences of global environmental change, governments and other stakeholders need to address a number of broad policy challenges, namely

- Enter into a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary dialogue and cooperation;
- Commence early planning to address migratory consequences and causes for environmental change;
- Leverage the development potential of migration as an adaptation strategy;
- Improve capacity building and awareness-raising.

To advance this multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary dialogue on policies and related issues, and in the context of the Greek chairmanship of the Human Security Network, IOM and the Government of Greece are organizing a conference in Geneva next week to address the human security impact of climate change on vulnerable groups.

Second, Mr. President, research is another urgent priority.

To advance this debate among researchers, the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), IOM and the Munich Re Insurance Company are organizing an expert group discussion among multi-disciplinary researchers "Towards a Global agenda for research on migration and the environment" to define the research agenda on environmental migration. The experts aim at three primary goals, namely (i) assess the existing knowledge base on environmental migration, (ii) promote a new agenda of policy-oriented research on migration and the environment, and (iii) identify key questions, research themes and innovative research methods needed for more accurate data collection and cross-cutting approaches to migration and the environment.

Recognizing that policy, research and operational activities are to be consistent in order to ensure the needed coherence at all levels, IOM alongside humanitarian partners from the UN system and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) are addressing the operational aspects of supporting environmentally displaced.

As the Secretary-General stated in his opening remarks to the September event: "we know enough to act, if we do not act now the impact of climate change will be devastating and we have affordable measures and technologies to begin addressing the problem [...]. *What we don't have is time*" – because as we speak – environmentally-induced migration, due to both climate processes and climate events, is already uprooting communities and transforming cultures at an alarming rate.

I thank you, Mr. President.



**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**  
**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly  
on Climate Change**

Statement by Ambassador Anda Filip  
Permanent Observer

United Nations  
New York, 12 February 2007

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished representatives,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world organisation of parliaments, has concerned itself with the environment at many of its recent Assemblies. In the last few years, it has debated climate change, energy security, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and the protection of biodiversity. Its members have negotiated and adopted resolutions, which in many cases have served to mobilize parliamentary action on the respective issues.

The Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has laid to rest any lingering ideas that climate change was a natural phenomenon. The broad consensus that human beings are responsible for damage to their environment has opened a new chapter in the world's realisation that something needs to be done urgently. Parliamentarians are keenly aware that legislatures are a vital part of the process.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon told the 116<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, held in Bali in April last year, that when it comes to climate change, the cost of inaction far outweighs the cost of action. Parliaments, he said, have a contribution to make in ensuring that the necessary resources are made available, adding that their legislative role is especially important, since in their hands lies considerable power to forge the laws, guidelines, frameworks and incentives that will allow business, industry and other actors to play their part in achieving deep and necessary emissions cuts.

The IPU Assembly in Bali closed with the adoption a Presidential Declaration on Climate Change. The Declaration called on parliaments to reinforce climate change policy and legislation with a view to achieving the ultimate objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. The parliamentarians pledged to raise the issue of climate change in their respective parliaments and to engage with government ministers on preparations for the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, held in Bali last December.

The Declaration also called on parliaments to foster better understanding by local communities of the threat of climate change and the action needed to avert dangerous human interferences in the climate system.

Different examples may be quoted of reactions within parliaments, in follow-up to the Bali parliamentary declaration. The parliament of Chile has started to look at ways to make the national budget more environment-friendly. The German Bundestag Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety has recently debated several motions on proposed climate protection measures tabled by the parliamentary groups. The Bundestag also sets an example for climate protection and energy efficiency in the operation of its own buildings. In Israel, the Knesset Committee for Internal Affairs and the Environment is currently preparing the second and third readings of the clean air bill. A recent session of the Japanese Diet has seen the enactment of a law relating to the promotion of government contracts that pay due consideration to environmental concerns, assessing the environmental load of each project rather than simply looking at price competitiveness. In the UK, the parliamentary Joint Committee on the Draft Climate Change Bill, which aims to reduce the net UK carbon account by at least 60 per cent from the 1990 baseline by the year 2050, expressed its concerns recently about the legal enforceability of the targets and budgets, and proposed a system of annual milestones and a compliance mechanism to create a strong legal framework. In Belarus, the parliament is currently debating two bills designed to mitigate climate change, one to amend the environmental protection law on compensation for environmental damage, and the other concerning a draft code on earth resources. Many other examples can be quoted.

Mr. President,

Parliaments alone will not save the world from its own extinction by greenhouse gases. That will be done by the right partnerships being forged between governments, civil society and the private sector, putting the interests of the general public before more narrow concerns. What parliaments can do, however, as the UN Secretary General suggested, is lay

the legal foundations necessary for such partnerships to really work in practice. They can also play a useful role in explaining to the public why radical action is in their best interests.

To do this as effectively as possible, parliamentarians are increasingly immersing themselves in international debate and making greater efforts to keep abreast of the issues and proposals, both at the United Nations and elsewhere. This is something the IPU facilitates, in keeping with its stated objectives. Three areas of focus for parliaments in the future emerged from the debates at the IPU Assembly in Bali. They constitute the main pillars of a new global parliamentary campaign on climate change.

Under the heading of leadership, parliaments can promote more robust national commitment to global cooperation in climate observation and research; they can engage national stakeholders, civil society and local industry in discussion of national action plans. They can initiate work to estimate adaptation needs and to include them in social, economic and development planning; monitor the publication of regular “green accounting” government reports, and make sure that parliament is a place in which innovative financial mechanisms and new technologies are amply discussed.

Under the heading of knowledge and its dissemination, parliaments can foster better understanding within the community of the threat of climate change and the action needed to avert dangerous human interference in the climate system; draw on their countries’ experts from the most recent IPCC report to promote a better understanding at all levels of society of the climate change issue; spread a better understanding of the socially optimum level of mitigation; and monitor local news for misinformation about climate change and respond publicly where necessary.

Under the third heading, technology transfer and capacity building, parliaments can strengthen national support for the transfer of greenhouse-friendly technologies to the developing countries; and support capacity building for adaptation to natural climate variables and human induced climate change in developing countries.

In the international arena, the IPU campaign will seek to compile good practices, pinpointing case studies where legislators have been instrumental in plans and projects that have proved their worth. Members of parliament will meet regularly to talk with the scientific community to forge a shared understanding of what is practical and workable in societies, especially poor ones. Finally, they will channel these findings into the international arena in order to better inform the international organisations of how progress can be made, and how the “win-win” solutions can take real shape.

I thank you for your attention.

## **Sixty-second Session, General Assembly**

### **Thematic debate entitled “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”**

**Delivered by: Narinder Kakar  
Permanent Observer of IUCN to the United Nations**

**11-13 February 2008**

Mr. President,

IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature welcomes your initiative to convene this thematic debate on climate change. This debate is very timely, given the urgency for dealing with the issue, and provides an opportunity to discuss ways to address it collectively.

Mr. President, it is important to realize that although climate change will affect all, it is the poor and vulnerable who would be affected most severely. The international community's actions have therefore to be rooted in sustainable development and equity, recognizing the vulnerability of poor people, the need for economic growth and poverty alleviation and a comprehensive approach to sustainable development with its economic, social and environmental pillars. IUCN's own work on climate change focuses on links between climate change, equity and bio-diversity, and the opportunities and challenges these links present for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

#### “Rising to the Challenge: Partnerships on Climate Change”

We are pleased that the need for collaboration between Member States, the private sector and civil society in efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change is being realized. IUCN fully supports efforts to develop such partnerships in order to respond to the key areas described in the Bali Action Plan viz. mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and finance.

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IUCN works towards preventing bio-diversity loss in support of human well being, and in that regard wishes to highlight the value of biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides to reduce the impacts of climate change. Activities aimed at increasing adaptation to climate change and resilience will secure livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to disaster. We therefore hope that biodiversity-related action towards climate change adaptation would be fully integrated in the development programmes of the UN agencies.

In this context, partnerships at local level (with local authorities, communities, private sector and civil society) are essential in order to ensure adaptation to climate change. IUCN highlights the crucial role of forest and water resources in climate change adaptation, and the importance of capacity building in sustainable ecosystem management to enhance adaptive capacity. In collaboration with IISD, the Stockholm Environment Institute-US and Inter-Cooperation, IUCN developed a Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL) that could be used by the UN development agencies in developing their programmes.

#### “Responding to a Multifaceted Challenge: The UN at Work”

It is important that all stakeholders are engaged in the design of the new framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries (REDD). IUCN welcomes the decision adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> COP in Bali regarding the integration of REDD in a post-2012 agreement. IUCN believes that the new framework for REDD should, among other elements, be integrated into a broader strategy focused on securing deeper reductions of emissions from the use of fossil fuels rather than simply offsetting carbon emissions.

The UN System should ensure that the negotiating parties from developing countries are provided with the adequate technical support and linguistic services to allow them to take an active part in the negotiation process. Developing countries often lack financial, administrative and technical capacity to access the new opportunities created by mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism, and the Adaptation Fund.

#### Financing Adaptation

IUCN welcomes the decision adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> COP in Bali regarding the establishment of the Adaptation Fund, with equitable representation from developed and developing countries alike. As the Secretary-General has earlier emphasized, significant new investments need to be made in financing for adaptation, including resources from multilateral institutions together with the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility and other sources of multilateral and bilateral financing. Increased adaptation resources could also be raised through a more robust Clean Development Mechanism, as well as through philanthropic support.

Mr. President, it is important that UNFCCC is implemented in compliance with globally agreed commitments on gender equality and equity, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UNFCCC should also develop a gender strategy, invest in gender-specific climate change

research and establish a system for the use of gender-sensitive indicators and criteria for governments to use in national reporting to the UNFCCC.

Mr. President, it is very encouraging to see that the UN system is making efforts to harness the capacities of the System to the fullest, and intends to align its strengths into a coordinated approach to climate change in order to support the efforts of member states at national, regional and global levels in tackling the multifaceted challenge presented by climate change. It is also commendable that efforts are being made to explore ways of making the UN more climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, in order to develop a climate-neutral approach to UN premises and operations that would reduce its own carbon-footprint.

Before closing, we would like to commend the work that IPCC has done, and continues to do, to assess on a comprehensive, objective and transparent basis the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic literature relevant to the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change, its impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Mr. President, IUCN hopes that the United Nations would aim for a comprehensive and equitable post-2012 regime by 2009, with the inclusion of specific mitigation targets in coherence with the ultimate objective of "preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system", and that necessary support to all stakeholders for equitable and effective participation in the negotiations that will take place at the 14<sup>th</sup> COP in Poznan this year and at the 15<sup>th</sup> COP in Copenhagen in 2009.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in October 2008 in Barcelona, will have climate change as one of the central themes, and we would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join us for those discussions, so that together we can demonstrate progress and harness our collective commitment in support of a post-Kyoto regime.

I thank you, Mr. President.





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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Mr. Robert L. Shafer**

**Ambassador**

**of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

**to the United Nations**

**THEMATIC DEBATE ENTITLED**

**“ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:**

**THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT WORK”**

**New York, February 12, 2008**





**PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION  
OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly**

**Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work**

**Statement by**

**Mrs. Diane Jumet  
Special Adviser**

**Wednesday, 13 February 2008**

Mr. President,

Although climate change has come to the forefront of global attention over the past few years, we should note that the United Nations has been addressing this issue since 1986. More recently, however, the growing competition among populations for natural resources, the desires, and indeed the rights, of increasing numbers of people to have access to the benefits already enjoyed by the more developed world, and the availability of information about the state of the environment in all parts of the planet have propelled the climate change issue to the top of the global agenda.

There is a general acceptance by most Member States, if not all of them, that climate change is no longer a controversial issue. There is no impasse - all States, by now, are cognizant of the threat not only to the earth's ecosystems but also to the quality of life of humankind. Therefore, we must avoid setting up a false dichotomy between those States that have the moral will to address this issue and those that wish to develop at any cost. We understand that we must either work to meet this challenge together or we will fail separately.

The dire predictions and pessimism about our capability to deal with climate change should be contrasted with some of the commendable steps that have been taken by Member States and those in the private sector. For example, the comprehensive energy policy recently adopted by the European Commission demonstrates a willingness to set targets and promote innovative solutions, even if policies must be modified as more is learned

about their actual effectiveness. In addition, many corporations are discovering that becoming “environmentally-friendly” is not only beneficial for the planet but also cost effective and positively received by consumers.

The policy of reduction in consumption is an important and necessary measure, given that technological advances have not kept up with the incremental growth in exploitation of the planet’s resources. However, investment in research and development may well lead to technologies that will allow more people to have more benefit, whereas reduction measures leave an ever greater number of people to divide up an ever-diminishing share of resources. Therefore, we should increase our commitment to expanding and refining the technology that can help us to use what resources we have in the most efficient way possible.

The sharing and transfer of technology is a moral imperative and a laudable goal. At the same time, we cannot share what does not yet exist. For example, there is an urgent need for more efficient and safe renewable energy sources and for clean coal burning technologies. There is also a dire need for an improved internal combustion engine that will meet transport requirements while minimizing harmful emissions. The recent introduction of a very low-cost motorcar designed for first-time owners in one of our Member States has raised outcries among some who fear that its mass production will add dangerously to the level of greenhouse gases. The implication is that the sum total of allowable pollution has been reached and no new members may be added to the club.

In the absence of acceptable technologies, we can not expect that developing states are morally bound to put development on hold until science catches up with present-day needs. Reduction must be shared by all, but with regard to the proportion of the earth's resources being exploited by each, and technology development and transfer must be a priority, and the special responsibility of those who have the capacity to undertake it.

The United Nations, as the world's most representative intergovernmental forum, can make its most effective contribution to the debate on climate change by identifying areas of agreement among Member States and promoting cooperation, as well as information sharing, among the parties. The goals that are set must be attainable, for setting the bar too high may become a reason for procrastination or failure.

AALCO believes that as a starting point Member States, working through the UN system, can address climate change by working on the implementation of existing treaties. States have already agreed on rules with respect to adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate disruption. However, there has been too little follow-through in enactment of national and local legislation.

An example of the effectiveness of existing agreements can be found in the cooperation and adherence to obligations by the parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, or the Ramsar Convention. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is another example of successful partnership and the benefits of technology sharing.

Member States can also address climate change by promoting the dissemination and sharing of information. The Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters guarantees the rights of citizens to information from public authorities, encouraging democratic engagement in environmental decisions. All of these examples indicate that attention and adherence to existing agreements can move the process forward without further debate.

Finally, AALCO would like to note that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the relevant body dealing with the climate change issue.



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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
62<sup>nd</sup> session

Plenary

Thematic debate

*"Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the world at work"*

Statement by  
Dr. Raymond Forde  
Vice President

The International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Mr President,

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) congratulates you on your decision to convene this thematic debate on climate change. For us, the issue of partnerships is particularly appropriate because of its vital relevance to the fulfilment of commitments in the Hyogo Framework and ISDR contexts.

This same theme was addressed at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in late November 2007 in Geneva. That Conference brought together all the world's governments and their partner Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and resulted in the adoption by consensus of a declaration entitled "Together for Humanity". One of the four major challenges identified in the declaration is the humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change with an emphasis on adaptation.

Mr President,

The debate at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference was driven by exactly the same realisations as those which underpin the discussions here.

The first is that there can be no argument about the impact today of climate change and global warming on tens – no, hundreds - of millions of people, all over the world.

We are an organisation composed of 186 National Societies functioning as the auxiliaries to the public authorities in every country. Our "Together for Humanity" declaration envisages each government meeting with its National Society to establish what they can do together to combat the challenge of climate change.



Our Societies are committed to their part of this action, and some have already engaged their governments on defining roles and responsibilities. We urge all governments to take up the opportunity our Geneva consensus provides to make a real difference, especially in fields such as adaptation.

In anticipation of this, we worked with the Netherlands Red Cross Society to establish the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre in The Hague in 2002. Since then, we have utilised its expertise and resources to contribute to a large number of international meetings and events all over the world, and have used that experience to build national action on humanitarian consequences in selected countries.

We have also established partnerships between IFRC and global and regional organisations to address disaster risk reduction.

One such organisation, in my own region, is the Association of Caribbean States. But the diversity of our interest is also illustrated by our intention to work more closely with the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council.

We also pay tribute to the work of the Association of Small Island States for the priority its members are understandably giving to climate change and its consequences.

We in the Red Cross and Red Crescent are profoundly committed to ensuring that all governments fully appreciate the humanitarian consequences of climate change. To address this, and in fulfilment of the consensus achieved at the November 2007 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, we will use all means at our disposal to ensure that climate change is fully integrated into disaster risk reduction and disaster management policies and plans at the national level.

Mr President,

We will continue giving the highest priority to those with the greatest needs especially in the so-called SIDSs, LLCs and LDCs.

One of our key messages which we delivered in Bali and will be delivering again in Poznan and in Copenhagen is that adaptation of climate change must be prioritised in all countries, and in all programmes. Despite the support the concept always receives, it has yet to become truly embedded. I repeat this message today:

Adaptation must receive its own funding support. It must not be seen as a competitor for development funds. It requires its own resources, and unless serious commitments of new money are made we will have to face the prospect of an annual cost to the planet of one trillion dollars by the year 2040 – the figure published by UNEP's Finance Initiative in 2006.

Mr. President,

This topic of climate change I hold dear to my heart. I am from a small island developing state, Barbados in the Caribbean archipelago, and am naturally worried that if various aspects, for example such as raising sea water levels, are not fully addressed, my own country which is referenced by other nations as a paradise might not even exist in 2050.

I implore the General Assembly to fully endorse the conclusions of this conference and commit to concerted action.

Mr. President, thank you.