

The First Conference on the Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Honorable Mister Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

~~Ukraine~~ Ukraine which is one of the biggest countries of the Central and Eastern Europe, is facing now, after attaining its independence 1991, a transition from a centralized to a marked economy. An extremely favorable geopolitic location, extensive natural, economic and human resources, fairly stable local communities confer a possibility for Ukraine to play a important role in ~~the~~ ~~European~~ Europe. Unfortunately, a tangle of economic political and enviromental problems which have been inherited from the former Soviet Union essentially impedes the overall rehabilitation process.

The economy of Ukraine is experiencing the deep depression, the drop in production of numerous articles is reported to be some tens of percent as compared with the 1990. The inflation rate 1993 was more than 10 000 percent. The reasons for this crisis are that in the Soviet times the economy of Ukraine has been formed with the shocking structural disproportion which emphasized the energy-intensive, resource-intensive and waste generating technologies. The share of the heavy industry in gross national product makes more than its half while the energy consumption rate index exceeds several times the corresponding index for the OECD countries. The absence of closed process cycles leads to the annual generation of up to one milliard cubic meters different types of waste which then are left unstored. Therefore, it is now extremely difficult for Ukraine to pursue an effective enviromental policy including the fulfillment of conditions of the Climate Change Convention.

The biggest Ukrainian source of greenhouse gases is the so-called fuel and power engineering industry whose contribution is considered to be of 65-70 percent of the overall gas pollutants. According to the expert's estimations, the volume of carbon dioxide emission has achieved in 1992 above 600 millions of tons. This is almost the same amount which is usually emitting in Germany during one year.

We would estimate the total emission of greenhouse gases in Ukraine for 2000 at the 1990 rate. Under the conditions of the anticipated economic upgrowth after 2000 the situation related to the fulfillment of the Convention provisions will exacerbate.

Where is a remedy? The way out seems to be found by introducing the environmental impetus to all the fields of a state environmental policy. That is we are making use of the transient economic period to establish legal, economic and institutional mechanisms for regulating the Convention conditions fulfillment.

The new environmental policy that we are trying to pursue for three years, necessitates the profound reform of interactions in both economic and other fields of human activities. The very gist of such reform strategy is reflected in the State Programme for protection of the environment which now is being considered by the Ukrainian government. The cornerprocess of the Programme is a gradual "environmentalization" of the manufacturing process by the virtue of the of the introduction of a crucially new financial and economic mechanism of influence on the enterprises-polluters as well as the reformation of administrative and financial regulations for the state environmental policy.

A set of economic, legislative and engineering measures is envisaged by the Programme to be put in place to prevent the increase in releases of greenhouse gases, for instance: charges for utilizing the natural resources, fines for environmental pollution, structural changes in the economy, introduction of closed cycles, upgrading of their energy-efficiency, reduction of the organic fuel consumption.

The Programme focuses on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by the essential expansion of forest covered areas and natural territories of a nature protection status. At the end of the last year our Parliament approved the National Programme for enhancement of natural reserve territories management, the implementation of which will allow in coming 5-10 years to bring the overall European standards.

A key-point is the establishment of a severe economic liability for overusing the natural resources and increasing the emission of pollutants into the environment. This is supposed to encouraged the broad introduction of resource and energy-conservative technologies as well as gas-refining equipment. The corresponding privileges are envisaged for such activities.

Ukraine is planning to adopt the European standards on home appliances energy consumption. We started already the transition to a new accountancy and statistics system which takes into consideration international requirements and experience.

I would like to stress the fact that today, due to falling-off of the economy, Ukraine just formally meets the Convention commitments regarding the reduction of releases although we have not yet officially acceded to the Convention. Our intention is not to follow the erroneous approach of the former Soviet Union when conventions used to be ratified for political reasons with subsequent non-implementation. Today there are extensive preparatory arrangements in progress pertinent to the accession of the Ukraine to the Convention.

~~The implementation of the Convention and the implementation of the Convention~~
 The ~~implementation of the Convention~~ initiatives in implementing international Conventions put in effect by some European, Asian and American countries are regarded by Ukraine as a manifestation of the mankind's understanding of global environmental problems and on our side we will do our utmost to contribute to their resolution.

Dear colleagues, for the Ukraine ~~which~~ which strongly intent to participate in the Framework Convention, the decisions of the first Session of the Conference are of the principal importance. We believe, however, that these decisions will also consider the particular problems and difficulties which actually experience countries that are just in the stage of the economy transformation.

~~Our civilization~~ Our civilization is on the threshold to arrive into the third millennium. What will it be for the new generation to come, will our green planet remain as it is, will it be ruined by the inexorable technocratic society or otherwise will the powers of nature destroy the very civilization? Our future, dear colleagues, in great measure depends upon us, upon how wise we are to make the right decision, and the most important, upon our actual deeds.

Thank you very much for your attention.