

MR. PRESIDENT,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

MR. PRESIDENT, ACCEPT MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS
FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.

I AM MOST DELIGHTED TO BE ACCORDED THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ADDRESS THIS AUGUST SESSION OF THE HIGHEST DECISION-
MAKING BODY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATIC CHANGE (UNFCCC).

OUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY SIGNIFIES THE GLOBAL
CONCERN FOR THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON
THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES. THE GAMBIA FULLY SHARES THIS CONCERN AND HAS
THEREFORE, BEEN PARTY TO THE CONCERTED EFFORTS TO
ANTICIPATE INPUTS AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE THE
ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE VARIOUS CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS
ESTABLISHED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, EVEN BEFORE THE LAST CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES (COP 1), HELD IN BERLIN IN 1995, WHICH PAVED THE
WAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE
UNFCCC, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA HAD BEGUN
IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND MEASURES TO ASSESS THE NEGATIVE
EFFECTS OF CONCENTRATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE
ATMOSPHERE.

AS THE STATE MINISTER OVERSEEING CLIMATE AND CLIMATE
CHANGE MATTERS IN THE GAMBIA, IT IS MY SINGULAR PLEASURE TO
INFORM THIS GATHERING THAT DESPITE OUR LIMITED RESOURCES
WE HAD COMPLIED A NATIONAL INVENTORY OF GREENHOUSE
GASES IN 1991, WELL BEFORE THIS ACTIVITY BECAME MANDATORY
UNDER THE UNFCCC. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN NOVEMBER 1992, WE
CONSTITUTED THE GAMBIA'S NATIONAL CLIMATE COMMITTEE (NCC),
AS REQUIRED BY THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION
(WMO), IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND INTER-
DISCIPLINARY NATURE OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED IN
MEETING THE COMMITMENTS OF THE UNFCCC. OUR NCC IS
MANDATED TO CO-ORDINATE ALL CLIMATE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN
THE GAMBIA.

IN FEBRUARY 1993, THE GAMBIA WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES TO CONDUCT A STUDY (FUNDED UNDER THE GEF/UNEP PILOT PROGRAMME) ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL INVENTORY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION SOURCES AND SINKS, BASED ON EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM OUR 1991 INVENTORY. THE STUDY, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY OUR NATIONAL CLIMATE COMMITTEE, WAS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY 1994. THE ASSESSMENT COVERED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION SOURCES AND SINKS IN ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND LAND-USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY COMBINED. THE INVENTORY WAS DEVELOPED USING THE IPCC/OECD METHODOLOGY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE LAND USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY CATEGORY WAS RATED THE HIGHEST EMITTER OF GREENHOUSE GASES, CONTRIBUTING 64% OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL EMISSIONS IN 1993. THIS CATEGORY ALONE CONTRIBUTED 89% OF THE TOTAL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS, 38% OF THE TOTAL CARBON MONOXIDE EMISSIONS AND 5% OF THE TOTAL METHANE EMISSIONS. THE ENERGY SECTOR ACCOUNTED FOR 11% OF THE CARBON DIOXIDE 54% OF THE CARBON MONOXIDE EMITTED. ACCORDING TO THE INVENTORY, THE LEVEL OF CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSION WAS THE HIGHEST IN 1993 AND STOOD AT ABOUT TWO MILLION TONNES.

USING THE 100-YEAR INTEGRATED GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL AS AN INDEX TO DESCRIBE THE RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VARIOUS EMISSIONS REPORTED IN WARMING THE ATMOSPHERE, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT CARBON DIOXIDE WOULD BE THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE POTENTIAL WARMING THAT WILL RESULT FROM THE 1993 EMISSIONS IN THE GAMBIA. THE GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL ALSO GIVES A TOTAL OF ABOUT TWO AND A HALF MILLION TONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT AND WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT ONE MILLION PEOPLE IN THE GAMBIA IN 1993, THE PER CAPITA EMISSION WAS ABOUT 2.5 TONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT, ~~PER YEAR~~.

ANOTHER ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN THE GAMBIA WAS THE ASSESSMENT OF THE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO THE POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE, FUNDED BY THE US COUNTRY STUDY PROGRAMME. THE MAJOR SECTORS STUDIED WERE THE COASTAL RESOURCES, WATER RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES, RANGELANDS AND LIVESTOCK.

RESULTS FROM THE COASTAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT ARE VERY FRIGHTENING. WITH JUST HALF-A-METRE SEA LEVEL RISE, THE WHOLE OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF BANJUL WOULD BE COMPLETELY LOST TO THE SEA. THIS CONFIRMS THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS STUDIES UNDER UNEP AND DELFT HYDRAULIQUES, AND ESTIMATES FOUND IN THE LITERATURE SUCH AS THE NAIROBI DECLARATION. MOST OF OUR MANGROVE ECOLOGY AND OTHER WETLANDS WILL BE INUNDATED, THUS LEADING TO A LOSS OF LARGE AREAS OF FISH SPAWNING AND BREEDING GROUNDS. ALSO, WITH SEA LEVEL RISE, THE SALINE FRONT IS EXPECTED TO MOVE FURTHER UPSTREAM OF ITS PRESENT POSITION TO A NEW POSITION IN THE RIVER GAMBIA. THIS MOVEMENT AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL SALINIZATION OF LAND WILL RENDER LARGE AREAS OF BOTH BANKS OF THE GAMBIA RIVER, NOW UNDER IRRIGATION, UNSUITABLE FOR CROP PRODUCTION.

THESE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ALL THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECTORS OF MY COUNTRY ARE ALREADY WELL DOCUMENTED AND, INDEED, THE GAMBIA BEING A LEAST DEVELOPING NATION CAN ILL-AFFORD SET BACKS IN THE OUTPUT OF ANY OF HER ECONOMIC SECTORS.

A STUDY ON THE ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE GAMBIA IS ALSO BEING CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE STUDIES ALREADY ELABORATED, THE GAMBIA IS NOW FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN AND COMMUNICATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE RECENTLY PREPARED A PROJECT PROPOSAL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN. THE PROPOSAL IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO DONORS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THE GAMBIA WILL BENEFIT FROM A PROPOSED GEF/UNEP REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE GAMBIA ALSO PREPARED AND IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING THE GAMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN. THIS ACTION PLAN PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK WHICH ENSURES THAT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS TO BUILD THEIR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF GREENHOUSE GAS-RELATED PROJECTS.

FOR OUR DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTNERS, IT IS MY COUNTRY'S VIEW AND FIRM BELIEF THAT THEY SHOULD, OF NECESSITY, TAKE THE LEAD IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY INITIATING ACTIONS AT THEIR NATIONAL LEVEL TO LIMIT EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES. WE URGE THEM TO ENDEAVOUR TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERTAINING TO THE PROVISION OF NEW AND ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY - SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, ON PREFERENTIAL AND CONCESSIONAL TERMS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE, AND THIS ACTION MUST BE PREDICATED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE COMMITMENTS BY INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS UNDER THE CURRENT CONVENTION ARE INADEQUATE. THE BURDEN OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MUST BE SHARED EQUITABLY BY BOTH PARTIES, WHICH CONNOTES A RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT, BEFORE CONCLUDING, I WISH TO FULLY SUPPORT AND ENDORSE THE STATEMENTS MADE BY COSTA RICA, ON BEHALF OF THE G-77 AND CHINA; AND BY KENYA, ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP. FURTHERMORE, I WISH TO HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING POINTS :

1. THERE IS NEED FOR A PROTOCOL OR ANOTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENT, OPEN TO ACCESSION BY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, STIPULATING THE REDUCTION OF GHG EMISSIONS BY ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONVENTION AND THE BERLIN MANDATE, AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SUCH AN INSTRUMENT ON NON-ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES.

2. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE IPCC'S SAR AS THE MAIN SOURCE, TO DATE, OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE UPON WHICH POLICIES SHOULD BE FORMULATED.

3. THE CAPACITY OF NON-ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES TO MEET THEIR NATIONAL-COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS IS CONTINGENT ON THE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES BY ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES; AND THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN STATES TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION IN GENERAL DEPENDS ON THE ACCESS TO, AND TRANSFER TO NON ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES OF, ENVIRONMENTALLY-SOUND AND PROVEN TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPACITY BUILDING, AS WELL AS ADEQUATE AND PREDICTABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

4. WE RECOGNISE GEF AS THE INTERIM FINANCIAL MECHANISM, AND I EMPHASISE THE NECESSITY FOR ITS FULL REPLENISHMENT NEXT YEAR, SO AS TO ENABLE NON-ANNEX 1 COUNTRIES TO PREPARE THEIR NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, ON THE BASIS OF AGREED FULL INCREMENTAL COSTS.

5. REMOVE GEF CONDITIONS AND RECOGNISE COP AS THE BODY THAT SHOULD ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA FOR GEF FINANCING.

6. FINALLY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAKE REFERENCE TO DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION, AS PRIORITIES OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN AS MUCH AS THEY RELATE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE.

MR PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, PLEASE ALLOW ME, ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA TO THANK THE UNFCCC SECRETARIAT FOR ~~ENDURING THE PAIN~~ SUCCESSFULLY SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE COP 2.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Gambia NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Musa Mbenga
 DAY: 18/07/96 TIME: 6:26 p.m. NOTE-TAKER: So STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☐

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments:
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <i>national climate change action plan has been introduced</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>Heavily burdened by changes in climate system</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments:
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>adopted it as a valid source</i>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>study conducted in Gambia</i>
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments:
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS: