



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PERMANENT MISSION AT GENEVA

(Original: Chinese)
(Courtesy Translation)

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. LI ZHAOXING,
VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
AND HEAD OF CHINESE DELEGATION,

*AT THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
GENEVA, 17 JULY 1996*

Mr. President,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to extend to Your Excellency our warm congratulations on your election as the President of the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties. We are confident that under your skillful and able guidance, the present session of the COP will certainly achieve great success as expected and make an outstanding contribution to the process of the Convention on Climate Change.

Climate change is one of the important issues on the world agenda, arousing world-wide concerns as it affects the present as well as the future generations. In the past 200 years since the Industrial Revolution, the improper handling of the relationship between environment and development, especially the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption of developed countries and their excessive and even destructive exploitation of natural resources, have led to the serious pollution and continuing deterioration of the environment of the planet on which we human beings live. More than 70% of the present concentrations of anthropogenic greenhouse gases in the atmosphere originates in the developed countries, which bear the unshirkable responsibilities for the problems of climate change. As is well known, climate change will have various adverse impacts on the survival and development of human society, especially on developing countries, who are the hardest-hit victims of the adverse effects of climate change. While recognizing their serious historical responsibilities, the developed country Parties of the Convention are hereby called upon to adopt effective policies and measures, so as on the one hand to control and reduce their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and, on the other hand to provide developing countries with the requisite financial resources and technologies with a view to enhancing the latter's capacities and capabilities to address climate change.

As one of the important achievements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides a good basis and an effective framework for countries of the world to conduct extensive international cooperation in addressing climate change. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to achieve, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. To achieve this objective, the Convention and the principles it has established, especially the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and principle of equity, should guide the Parties in the entire process of implementing the provisions of the Convention and govern the development of the convention process.

As provided for by the Convention, developed country Parties shall adopt and implement programmes and measures so as to stabilize their greenhouse gas emissions at their 1990 levels. In accordance with Article 4.2 (d) of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties at its first session had reviewed the adequacy of the commitments under Article 4.2 (a) and (b). The review concluded that those commitments of developed country Parties under the above sub-paragraphs were not adequate and should be further strengthened. The crux of the "Berlin Mandate", which was adopted at the first session of the Conference of the Parties is precisely to strengthen developed country Parties' obligations under the Convention to limit and control their greenhouse gas emissions, especially to set for developed country Parties quantified limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) within specified time-frames for their anthropogenic emissions. What should be specially emphasized here is that the Berlin Mandate has clearly stipulated that its process shall "not introduce any new commitments" for developing country Parties.

Two years has elapsed since the entry into force of the Convention, and the implementation of the Convention has got onto the track. In accordance with the Convention provisions, most of the Annex I Parties have commendably submitted their national communications. Meanwhile, we have noticed that much improvement has to be made in their communications; some should improve in level of detail, especially in communicating information on implementation of their commitments in providing new and additional financial resources and promoting transfer of technology. The effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention of providing developing countries with the necessary financial resources and technology is the precondition for developing countries to implement their commitments under the Convention. As the developing country Parties started their process of implementing the convention, the timely, effective and expeditious provision of financial resources and transfer of technology will be most crucial.

Environmental protection is a basic State policy of China, and the climate change issue is an important part of environmental protection. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the issue of climate change, and the State Council (Central Government) of China has set up the Coordination Group on Climate Change composed of ministerial officials from relevant ministries and agencies of the government to coordinate and formulate policies and measures to address climate change. Taking the path of sustainable development has been established as the important objective of China's future economic development and climate change considerations have been taken into account in China's economic and social development programmes.

China is a developing country, whose first and over-riding priorities are economic and social development to eradicate poverty and to meet the basic needs of the people's livelihood. China's per capita CO₂ emission is very low, accounting for less than one half of the world average per capita emission, and only one-tenth to one-sixth of that of developed countries. Nevertheless, we are fully aware that climate change is a global environmental problem, whose resolution calls for concerted efforts of the international community. China, which is among the first countries to ratify Convention on Climate Change, will actively implement the relevant provisions of the Convention. In response to the call of the UNCED, the Chinese government has formulated *China's Agenda 21*, whose many programmes are designed to address climate change. In the light of the characteristics of China's energy system and composition of her national resources and taking into account the needs of economic development and provisions of the Convention, the Chinese government is making earnest efforts to abate the increase of CO₂ emissions by implementing the national laws and regulations on saving energy, encouraging and spreading energy-saving and energy-efficiency improving technologies. In addition, by means of developing new and renewable resources of energy, persisting in afforestation, protecting vegetation, strengthening education and controlling population growth rate, China is making her contribution to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

China will, as always, participate actively in the development of the Convention process. And on the basis of the global consensus reached at the UNCED in 1992, China is ready to carry out positive and effective cooperation with other Parties, so as to make her share of contribution to a beautiful environment for the present and future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: CHINA NAME OF SPEAKER: MR. Li Zhaoxian

DAY: 17 July TIME: 12:21 NOTE-TAKER: CMZ 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: <u>saving energy & energy efficiency improvement technologies.</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <u>Ppl. of "common but differentiated responsibility" should guide the parties.</u>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <u>Quantified limitation & reduction objectives should be established for developed C within time framework.</u>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <u>Developed C. should provide Developing C with financial support & technologies.</u>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments:

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
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: <u>Improvements needed - New financial resources.</u>	

OTHER COMMENTS:

Core of the speech: Developed should be more committed & assist developing C.
 "China's per capita CO₂ is very low, accounting for less than 1/2 of the world average per capita emission, and only 1/10 to 1/6 of that of developed C."