



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

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**Speech to be delivered by the  
Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning  
and the Environment  
Margaretha de Boer**

**at the**

**Second Conference of the Parties**

**to the**

**United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Geneva, July 17th, 1996**

Mr. President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I will focus my remarks on the ongoing negotiations on a Protocol to strengthen the Convention.

There are three burning questions to be dealt with in the months ahead:

1. How fast do we need to act to get a grip on global greenhouse gas emissions?
2. Who should be doing what?
3. Can it be done?

The Netherlands is ready for serious negotiations on these three important issues.

Question One: When it comes to speed of action, we should take our cue from the recent report of the IPCC, from which we have drawn the political conclusion that the trends in current emissions entail high risks; unacceptable risks.

Based on the best available science, we have made a political judgement:

- \* To avoid dangerous climate change, the worldwide temperature rise should not exceed two degrees Celsius as compared to the situation before the industrial revolution. Sealevel-rise will then be limited to 50 centimeters maximum - and even that may be too much.
- \* To protect nature, the rate of the temperature rise has to be limited to one-tenth of one degree Celsius per ten years.
- \* We should not pass the burden of a changed climate on to future generations.

The second question is: Who should be doing what?

It is imperative that the industrialised countries together reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases after the year two-thousand by on average one to two percent annually, year after year, for a long period of time.

The industrialised countries and the developing countries together have to find the road to sustainable development, development with fewer emissions, 'clean' development. Key words here are 'technology transfer' and 'activities implemented jointly'.

And then the last question: Is it really possible?  
I am convinced it is, both technically and economically.

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It is technically possible to achieve the necessary reductions of one to two percent annually. This is what the IPCC says. Our own analyses and those of others point in the same direction.

And it can also be done in an economically acceptable way, but **only** if certain conditions are met:

Condition number one:

Industrial countries must coordinate their actions. The Netherlands for example is a small country with an open economy and open frontiers. The economy is largely dependent on export. Without international coordination between Annex-I-countries, The Netherlands cannot commit itself to a 1-2% reduction, but to stabilisation at the most.

In the field of internationally coordinated action I would give priority to the following issues:

- \* cars with low-fuel consumption;
- \* low-energy cooling and freezing equipment;
- \* energy efficient production in energy-intensive sectors of industry;
- \* increasing the share of sustainable energy, and
- \* taxation on energy and aviation fuel.

These are all measures that have an immense potential for achieving emission reductions.

Condition number two:

We must accept that the costs differ from country to country. We have to find an agreement that is fair to all parties, but which can be negotiated before the end of next year. That requires a very simple solution for the issue of the differentiation in the contributions of individual countries;

Condition number three:

We have to find a way of achieving reductions at the lowest possible cost. An example again: Central and Eastern European countries have a high potential to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions at low expense. But to do so they need to have access to the necessary capital and technology.

Condition number four:

Sustainable development should be recognised as an opportunity for developing countries. The best investment for the future is to invest in development and distribution of climate-friendly technology.

We need to promote confidence in the relationship between the industrialised countries and developing countries. Climate change has worldwide repercussions and therefore

## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

requires global action. This is why we said in Berlin that industrialised countries have to accept their responsibility. In other words, action at home and assistance to developing countries in the financial and technical domain. Developing countries accept their own responsibility. They too have to aim for economic and social development in a sustainable fashion.

Mr. President,

It is good to see that so many countries are taking measures to implement the Climate Convention. It is hard work for Annex-I Parties to get their emissions back to 1990 levels in the year 2000, but that can also be done if enough political will is shown.

Thank you for your kind attention.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: The Netherlands NAME OF SPEAKER: Mrs. Margaretha de Boer  
 DAY: 17/07/96 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE-TAKER: So STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

## AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" 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>- accepts costs differ from country to country; an agreement of fairness must be met for all parties</i> <i>- achieving such reductions must be cost-effective.</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>Reduction of emissions after 2000 by on average 1-2% annually, for a long time period. Under 'L' coordination between Annex-I countries is vital, unless, the Netherlands can only commit to stabilization at the most.</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>Technology transfer is emphasized.</i>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>Concludes that the trends in current emissions entail high, unacceptable risks. - agree w/ report, and state it is technologically possible to achieve necessary reductions of 1-2% annually through coordination of actions by industrial countries.</i>

## 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: <i>Important for industrial countries reduce their emissions and collaborate/developing countries for the road to sustainable development. - promotes confidence in relationships across the globe. - action at home, and assistance to developing countries in the financial + technical domain.</i>	

## OTHER COMMENTS:

*Climate Technology Initiative: package of availability enhancement and use of existing and new climate-friendly technologies*