

## STATEMENT

OF HIS EXCELLENCY MRS ELISA FERREIRA



MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF PORTUGAL

GENEVA, 17TH OF JULY 1996

STATEMENT BY MRS. ELISA FERREIRA  
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF PORTUGAL  
to the second meeting of the  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

IN GENEVA, WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY 1996

MR PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE HAS GIVEN OPERATIONAL INSTRUMENTS ABLE OF OBJECTIVELY MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE PROGRESS OF THE STATE OF THE ART AS WELL AS THE PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE ACTION.

WE ARE STARTING NOW A NEW PHASE OF NEGOTIATION, EVENTUALLY MORE DEMANDING THAN ALL THE PREVIOUS ONES, WHICH WILL NECESSARILY REQUIRE A STRONGER SENSE OF COOPERATION AND CORRESPONSABILITY INVOLVING ALL PARTIES.

THE SCIENTIFIC DATA PROVIDED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE RISKS INVOLVED IN CLIMATE CHANGE. THIS IS NOT ANYMORE A MATTER OF CONSENSUS AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY BUT RATHER A POLITICAL ISSUE. IT IS NOW UP TO THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACT ACCORDING TO THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED. THE ASPECTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE WILL LAST FOR A LONG TIME AND WILL BECOME A PROGRESSIVELY STRONGER ELEMENT IN ALL THE INTERNATIONAL FORA.

THIS CONFERENCE IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT TO CONFIRM WHAT HAS BEEN ALREADY AGREED UPON WHAT CONCERNS CO2 AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES CONTROL FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND ALSO A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT MOMENT TO REAFFIRM THE POLITICAL WILL TO NEGOTIATE PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FIRST DECADES OF THE 21st CENTURY.

AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, PORTUGAL HAS MADE A GREAT EFFORT TO HONOUR HER COMMITMENTS AND WILL GO ON DOING SO.

PORTUGAL IS CLEARLY ENGAGED IN THE PROGRESS OF ACHIEVING THE GLOBAL OBJECTIVES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BOTH BY THE CONVENTION AND THE CONFERENCE.

THIS POSITION RESULTS NOT ONLY FROM THE NATURE OF THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES WHICH ALL OF US ARE FACED WITH, BUT ALSO FROM THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT THIS EFFORT WILL WORK TO BENEFIT THE GENERATIONS TO COME. IT IS ACCORDING TO THIS AIM THAT PORTUGAL HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING, DURING THE LAST YEARS, A LARGE NUMBER OF MEASURES EMBODIED BY THE SPIRIT OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION.

PORTUGAL , AS SAID BEFORE, IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT OUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION STRUCTURE IS STILL CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE PREVAILING IN THE MOST ADVANCED INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES. THE PORTUGUESE PRIORITIES HAVE CONSEQUENTLY BEEN ORIENTED TOWARDS A DIVERSIFIED "PORTFOLIO" OF POLICIES AND MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE CONTROL OF EMISSIONS, SUCH AS:

. DIVERSIFICATION ENERGY SOURCES, BOTH THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURES AND AN INCREASE OF RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY;

. IMPLEMENTATION OF RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY PROGRAMMES;

. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING METHODS IN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING SPECIFIC CONSUMPTION AND POLLUTION;

. EXPANSION OF FORESTRY AREAS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW METHODS OF MANAGEMENT APPLIED TO THESE NEW FORESTRY AREAS AND FOREST FIRE CONTROL;

, REINFORCEMENT OF INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION.

SIMILARLY TO WHAT HAS PREVIOUSLY OCCURRED IN OTHER INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, AT THIS STAGE, THAT PORTUGAL - AS WELL AS OTHER MANY COUNTRIES - OUGHT TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE NEED OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AND THE REQUIRED LEVELS OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN ORDER SUCH NEED BE ACHIEVED.

NOWADAYS, THIS PROCESS IS EASIER REACHED THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGIES MORE COST-EFFICIENT ON WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGETIC CONSUMPTION ASPECTS ARE CONCERNED. IT IS, THEN, A CLEAR STRATEGY FOR PORTUGAL TO STRONGLY ENGAGE HERSELF IN IMPROVING THE GLOBAL EFFICIENCY OF HER ENERGETIC SYSTEM, NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE INDICATOR OF CARBON CONTENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND THE AVERAGE ACHIEVED BY HER EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERS.

ON WHAT CONCERNS THE FIELDS OF COOPERATION, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PORTUGAL INTEGRATES AND PARTICIPATES IN ALL THE RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMMES AT THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. THIS PARTICIPATION IS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT ASSUMED BY MY COUNTRY, AND, I SHOULD STRESS IT, IT IS A CONSEQUENCE OF A VERY CLEAR AND STRONG POLITICAL WILL IN ORDER TO SHAPE AND TO CONTRIBUTE, BOTH AT THE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVEL, TOWARDS ACTUAL ACTIONS AIMING ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

IT IS IN PARTICULAR AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL THAT PORTUGAL CAN AND WILL REINFORCE HER PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, OBVIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO OUR HUMAN, TECHNOLOGICAL, SCIENTIFICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

IT IS NOW QUITE CLEAR FOR MY GOVERNMENT THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS MUST PLAY A GROWING ROLE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PORTUGUESE EXTERNAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR THOSE HAVING PORTUGUESE AS THEIR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

THIS COOPERATION COVERS SEVERAL ISSUES RANGING FROM ENERGY PRODUCTION, TO FOREST AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WITH BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. PORTUGAL STRESSES HER INTENTION TO CONTINUE AND REINFORCE THIS COOPERATION EFFORT, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AREAS, SUCH AS EDUCATION, TRAINING, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHERE COOPERATION CAN BE MORE FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FINAL WORD TO FIRMLY STATE THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRESENT CONFERENCE, PORTUGAL SUPPORTS ALL THE INITIATIVES AIMING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: REINFORCEMENT OF THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND CLEAR ANSWERS THROUGH POLICIES AND MEASURES ADEQUATE TO THE AIMS IMPLICIT IN THE TEXT OF THE CONVENTION AND THE RESULTS OF THE BERLIN MANDATE. IN SUCH A FRAMEWORK, THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, ESTABLISHING OBJECTIVE REDUCTION OF THE GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSION LIMITS BEYOND THE YEAR 2000, REPRESENT A VERY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECAUTIONARY STRATEGIES, SUITABLE TO THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACED WITH.

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR, TO ALL OF YOU, THAT EASY SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEMS DO NOT EXIST.

EVERY AND EACH COUNTRY CAN AND MUST, AT THEIR OWN CAPACITIES, CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL PURPOSE OF REDUCING AND LIMITING EMISSIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CLIMATE SYSTEM. PORTUGAL STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT GLOBAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE CAN NOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THIS ONE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IN A FRAMEWORK OF REINFORCED COOPERATION WITHIN WHICH THE SHARING OF COSTS INCLUDES A CLEAR REFERENCE NOT ONLY TO EFFICIENCY CRITERIA BUT ALSO TO EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS.

THEREFORE, I CAN REASSURE YOU, THAT PORTUGAL IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG THE PRINCIPLES WE HAVE JUST ENUNCIATED AND WHICH WE BELIEVE REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF THE CONVENTION.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Portugal NAME OF SPEAKER: Ms. Elisa Ferreira  
 DAY: 17/07/96 TIME: 1:11 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <i>making strong efforts to honor its commitments to EU and the world.</i>
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:
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>Every country can and must, at their own capacities contribute to the global purpose of reducing emissions which may affect the climate system.</i>

## SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>"Portfolio" of policies + measures including the diversification energy resources, both through natural gas infrastructures, and on increase in renewable sources of energy. Rational use of energy programmes. New management + planning methods in the transportation system with the purpose of reducing consumption + pollution. Expansion of forestry areas. Reinforcement of integrated programmes on environmental education + information.</i>	
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>several programmes are being implemented at bilateral level w/ several countries in Africa. External cooperation and development aid is emphasized for education, training, scientific research, and technical assistance.</i>	
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>demonstrates risks involved in climate change. This is now a serious political issue.</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:	

OTHER COMMENTS: