

STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR DATO' RENJI SATHIAH, HEAD OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION, DURING THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, 5TH APRIL 1995

Madame President,

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I would like to join others in congratulating you on your election as the President of the Conference. I am confident that, under your able leadership, the Conference will bring about positive results. My delegation is also very happy to attend this meeting in the great and historic city of Berlin, the new capital of unified Germany.

Madame President,

Malaysia is deeply committed to the Rio process and we regard the Framework Convention on Climate Change as an especially important agreement in the context of the achievements of the Earth Summit. We would have hoped that our meeting in Berlin would have been an important milestone in marking the progress of the global effort to combat climate change that threatens our planet. Unfortunately, it is clear to my delegation that after four years of difficult negotiations, there still remains serious doubt that we can arrive at meaningful solutions over some of the

key issues in Climate Change.

The Convention text which was adopted, in the so-called "package deal", in May 1992, did not stipulate specific targets of stabilisation and reduction of greenhouse gases for developed country Parties. We had then pointed out these flaws, in the specific commitments of the developed country Parties, at the very heart of Convention, severely compromised the agreement.

The Convention has some fundamental premises, without which its adoption would not have been agreed to by developing countries. Firstly, it accepts the special responsibility of developed countries for historical and current global emissions and their commitments to take the lead in redressing growing emissions of GHGs. In addition the developed countries accepted commitments to provide new and additional financial resources and to promote, facilitate and finance transfer of technologies to other parties, particularly developing country parties. Most importantly and often conveniently forgotten, it was also accepted that the emissions of developing country parties would increase.

Amongst the issues that need to be addressed by the CoP, the most important for my delegation is the issue on the adequacy of commitments. Scientific evidence has

confirmed that a serious reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is urgently needed if greenhouse gas emissions are to be stabilised at their present level to avoid future irreversible impacts.

Although the Convention states that developed country Parties should take the lead, some major developed country Parties are demonstrating their lack of will to address this situation. My delegation is deeply disappointed with the position taken by these developed country Parties who, while admitting their commitments are inadequate, are unable to agree to establish the necessary targets for further reductions and stabilisation of greenhouse gas emissions. To make matters worse, these Parties argue that, developing country Parties should shoulder additional commitments. It is noteworthy that the initiative to develop a mandate for the CoP to endorse action for a Protocol, to provide for the next necessary steps, came from the Association of Small Islands States (AOSIS), not from those parties who are committed to take the lead. At our meeting here, the initiative was again taken by the Group of 72, including AOSIS, in coming up with the so-called "green paper" which lays the basis for further action.

Since the Convention was adopted we have noticed that many attempts have been made to re-negotiate its spirit and letter. Here in Berlin, yet another attempt

appears to have been made. The reports submitted by developed country Parties indicate that a majority of them cannot fulfill their commitments to stabilise the emissions under Articles 4.2(a) and (b). Furthermore it is also clear, that developed country Parties, have not shown good faith in fulfilling their commitments to provide new and additional financial resources. What funds are available under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), are extremely modest. As for transfer of technology no attempts has been made to seriously respond to the pressing needs of the developing countries. My delegation wishes to see these commitments implemented in good faith. Unless they are, the political will of developed countries to take their commitments seriously remains in question.

Madame President,

As for the need to address emission reductions after the year 2000, my delegation would like to reiterate its strong support that the draft Protocol submitted by AOSIS should be the basis for negotiations. We believe the AOSIS draft provides a realistic timetable for the developed country Parties to take on additional commitments of stabilisation and reductions. We sincerely hope that, when we leave Berlin this weekend, the expectations of the global community that we, the Parties to the Convention, would take the necessary steps to address their concerns will have

been met.

Madame President,

Malaysia is concerned with the promotion of joint implementation as a means of transfer of technology. Joint implementation, as stipulated in the Convention, are policies and measures that developed country Parties carry out jointly amongst themselves to meet their commitments to stabilise their emissions. We find it difficult to accept the reluctance of developed country Parties to meet their commitments domestically and deplore their attempts to shift their responsibility of stabilisation and reduction to developing country parties. Developed countries have to accept an adjustment of their wasteful patterns of consumption for the sake of the many small and vulnerable developing countries that are threatened by climate change.

Malaysia supports a pilot phase of joint implementation; its objective should be to develop experience of the concept so that it can be fully evaluated. Crediting facilities cannot be considered during the pilot phase which should be open-ended. It is important to appreciate that the process for the pilot phase should be used to build confidence.

Malaysia welcomes joint activities among developed and developing countries as good manifestations of global partnership. Transfer of technology through joint activities will also enable the developing country Parties to develop endogenous technology that is useful and easily adaptable for other developing country Parties.

Madame President,

Malaysia considers that the threat posed to climate change by the accumulation of GHGs justifies urgent action.. We consider that too much time has been taken up by discussion and arguments in which narrow self -interest continues to prevail against the global need for decisive action. We call upon developed country Parties to come forward positively with policies and measures to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions rather than to attempt to shift their responsibilities to developing country Parties. Rio promised a global partnership to address common environmental concerns. Those who are committed to take the lead must live up to their commitment. They must help realise the global partnership that was promised in Rio which , we all need to ensure the survival of man and his planet..

I thank you, Madame President.