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STATEMENT OF COSTA RICA ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA

JULY 17, 1996
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
COP2

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. With the honor of speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for your admirable leadership of this meeting, whose implications touch all of humankind.

The Group of 77 and China sees important advances emerging from the Second Conference of the Parties.

At this meeting, the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was presented as currently the most authoritative scientific assessment of climate change in existence, suggesting a discernible human influence on the global climate.

Also, the Group of 77 and China is pleased with the adoption of the decision on the preparation of initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties. This decision, already approved by the subsidiary bodies, is a big step forward in advancing the implementation of commitments of developing country parties in order to achieve sustainable development. Once approved by the Conference of the Parties, the formal communication of this decision to the GEF Council will help to guide its decision making and therefore advance the implementation of the Convention.

Still, however, it must be said that most of our work lies ahead of us. Perhaps most evidently, it is clear that many of the measures taken so far by the developed countries are inadequate. This was confirmed by the President of the First Conference of the Parties, Dr. Angela Merkel, who pointed out that the results of the review of the first national communications of the Annex I Parties are a matter of concern, since the countries with the higher emissions of greenhouse gases expect their emissions by the year 2000 to be above their 1990 levels.

Developed country Parties, in accordance with the Berlin Mandate, should strengthen their commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the Convention. These commitments must include the elaboration of policies and measures and the establishment of quantified emissions limitations and reduction objectives within specified timeframes for their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Developed countries are falling short of their commitments to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, and they are setting a bad precedent by evading their responsibilities rather than assuming the leadership they have committed to under Article 4.2 of the Convention.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity here today to speak frankly with you. As we all know, the Convention represents a carefully laid-out balance based upon the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. However, throughout these negotiations, the Group has felt pressured by Annex I countries to go beyond their responsibilities. In spite of the Group's considerable patience and flexibility, it is clear that this relationship is threatening to disturb the Convention's delicate political balance. It is the opinion of the Group that the ultimate source of this disturbance is the unwillingness of most of the Annex I countries to fulfill their obligations under the Convention to return to 1990 emissions levels by the year 2000. Consequently, and strategically, there has been an attempt to divert the focus of the deliberations away from this fact. This cannot continue.

It is worth recalling in this forum that the largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated from developed countries. The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively

implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by those Parties of their commitments under Articles 4.5 and 4.7 of the Convention, related to financial resources and the transfer of technology.

The Group of 77 and China considers the issue of "the development and transfer of technology" as being of crucial importance to developing countries. We are concerned over the slow progress on the issue, and in particular, over the lack of implementation of Decision 13 of the First Conference of the Parties.

The Group stresses the importance of the need for technology transfer to meet the specific requirements of developing countries. Furthermore, there is a need to re-focus the issue of development and the transfer of technology to the building of endogenous capacities of developing countries, in order to enable and facilitate the optimal transferability of the technology, its adequate incorporation, and its practical applicability.

To this end, besides urging Annex II Parties to fulfill their commitments under Articles 4.5 and 4.7 of the Convention, the Group of 77 and China has proposed a comprehensive list of specific and concrete actions to the Secretariat, the SBSTA and the SBI that will facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how. The Group of 77 and China has urged the Annex II Parties to include in their national communications measures taken for the transfer of technology so that the Secretariat may compile, analyze and submit such reports to future Conferences of the Parties. We are pleased that this specific recommendation, among others, was incorporated in new draft decision on the Development and Transfer of Technologies approved by the subsidiary bodies, and we look forward to working with the Secretariat in the decision's implementation. However, we continue to be frustrated with the continued impasse in the establishment of the very important ITAPs for this Convention.

In fulfilling the obligations of the Convention for the Annex I Parties, the social and economic impacts on developing countries must be taken into full consideration, avoiding those negative impacts and assuring more equitable burden sharing.

Regarding the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, the Group of 77 and China recognizes the efforts of the Global Environmental Facility to adapt itself to the dynamic process of implementing the Convention. However, our Group is deeply concerned with the way the GEF is operating as the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, due to the difficulties encountered by developing country Parties in receiving the necessary financial assistance, and particularly, because the GEF's actions are inconsistent with the conclusions that we adopted in the previous session of the SBI. There is an urgent need for GEF to harmonize its strategies with the priorities of the Convention. The GEF's mandate as the interim financial mechanism of the Convention depends upon the Conference of the Parties, and not the reverse. It is fundamental that the strategy of the GEF regarding the implementation of the Convention be based upon the policy guidelines and program priorities provided by the COP. These guidelines and recommendations have been made clear during this and the last COP, and we look forward to the GEF's implementation of this decision. We have also, at this session, adopted a decision on guidance to the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism, in which it is stated that the only basis for funding the preparation of national communications of non-Annex I countries is the guidelines and format adopted for non-Annex I Parties.

In conclusion, allow me to revisit the text of the Second Assessment Report. The Group of 77 and China feels that the SAR is clear in presenting the negative impacts of climate change on developing countries. The particular vulnerability of developing countries to the impacts of climate change is manifest. This clearly illustrates what we may call "the human face of climate change."

Developed countries must, as the first important step, implement fully their commitments under the Convention. As we orient ourselves toward COP-3, we must move forward. Thank you.

on behalf of the G77 & China

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: COSTA RICA NAME OF SPEAKER: Mn. René Castro
 DAY: 17-7 TIME: 10:36 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:
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>Common but differentiated resp. Accepted Annex I C. of meeting</i>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>More equity</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>G77 + China → important - slow progress & lack of decision - Building of indigenous capacity. Art 4.8 & 7 → list of specific activities proposed (incorporated by decision draft)</i>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>Most authoritative scientific assessment of CC. yes → human-made CC.</i>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <i>Not explicit but</i> <input type="checkbox"/> no <i>he is not happy with GEF</i>	Comments: <i>Concerned of its functioning. GEF is inconsistent with decision of COP1. GEF should be at the Parties' service, no other way around</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: <i>Pleased w/ preparation. Measures from <u>Sec C</u> are inadequate -</i>	

OTHER COMMENTS:

need for strengthen their commit. described in 4.6b + measures