

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

To The

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Second Session
Geneva, 8-19 July 1996

Statement

by

The Honourable Ismail Shafeeu

Minister of Planning, Human Resources and Environment
Republic of Maldives

Ministerial Segment
Thursday, 18 July 1996

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, from Maldives I bring you warm greetings from the people and the government on your election to the Presidency of COP-2 by acclamation. I am confident that you in the chair we are in capable hands.

I also like to commend your predecessor H.E Dr. Angela Merkel, Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany for her exemplary leadership of Cop-1 amidst many obstacles.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies. When we signed and ratified the Convention in 1992. We did so because we believed in the objectives of this Convention: we still believe that the mission of this Convention is the protection of nations and their peoples from the adverse effects of climate change.

We do not accept that climate change is just a theory of a few scientists. Neither do Maldives agree that in the IPCC third assessment report will go upside down sirening a global cooling. These arguments are nothing other than the views of a protectionist group. But on the other hand, there are those who believe that the global warming and climate change are no longer projected scenarios but are real and occurring world wide. Further more an assembly of this magnitude drawn from the world over does not proclaim mere whims and fancies. But this is testimony to the significance that the world community attaches to the phenomenon of climate change.

Mr. President, At this juncture a very pertinent and crucial question comes to my mind: Is the order of the day, just agreeing to disagree? This query arose from the fact that we can only agree on minute matters. Issues of substance still remain unresolved. Mr. President this is not at all encouraging.

Mr. President, Allow me to refer to the COP-1 decision 1(g) which calls upon Parties to the convention to co-operate in good faith and to participate in this process. We can one honestly say that the present state of affairs constitutes good faith!

The whole agenda of climate change emerged from the findings of science. It should, therefore, merit to be the driving force of negotiation. The universal catastrophic nature of climate change warrant action. Action that keeps equal pace with climate change.

Mr. President, This is told in no uncertain terms in the SARA. The toil and sweat of some 2000 leading scientists from 130 countries cannot just be discarded. It quiet apparent that a handful of countries is bent on doing just that.

Mr President, My delegation appeals to you to endorse the SARA as the most authoritative scientific document before us. In that document, science clearly express the impact of human influence on climate change.

Mr. President, While science dictates commitments, the government of Maldives recognises the AOSIS Protocol as the only document legally constituted and duly submitted to the COP. The Protocol merely calls for a 20% emission reduction from 1990 levels by 2005. Several country parties have acknowledged here that up to 30% cuts in Co₂ emissions below today's levels are achievable at no additional cost. The low lying small island states, like mine, are in the front line to experience the impacts of climate change and the accelerated rise in sea-levels. The truth is the low-lying island nations are the most dispossessed and the least equipped both in terms of resource and technologies to meet such a challenge of life and death. Therefore, my delegation earnestly urges that a protocol or another legal instrument to be adopted at COP-3. Let us demonstrate the political will and the leadership which human kind demands of us.

Mr. President, Hon. Ministers, Encountered, as they are, by the irreversible damage, the developing countries in general and the low-lying island states in particular, urgently require new and additional financial resources to implement the provisions of the Convention. While talking about funds, let me share with you our experience with the Global Environment Facility. Four years have elapsed since Maldives forwarded a project for capacity building, we are still awaiting for the disbursement of this project. The GEF should cut down its bureaucracy and long delays in order to fulfil its role as the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Mr. President. Technology development and transfer as well as capacity building in research and systematic observation including education, training and public awareness as enshrined in the Convention need to be addressed in a comprehensive and a timely manner.

Mr. President, On a point of departure, I note that our agenda for this conference includes stock taking among others. Maldives believes that we should seriously take stock of two queries: What are we doing? and Where are we going? My delegation finds it difficult to accept the fact that the Rules of Procedure could not be adopted even after two sessions of the COP. A small group of parties cannot be allowed to hold the Convention hostage to their parochial intentions.

Mr. President, The Rules of Procedure can and should be adopted without any further delay. Before conclusion, let me remind those vocal delegations advocating lack of full scientific certainty, article 3.3 of the Convention calls for precautionary measures to be taken.

Mr. President, Hon. Ministers: Let rhetoric be cut short, but actions prevail.

Thank you for your attention.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Maldives NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Abdullah Majeed
 DAY: 18 July TIME: _____ NOTE-TAKER: Pascale 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: Supports AOSIS protocol should be legally binding instrument for parties.
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input checked="" 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:

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments:
Development and transfer of technology	Comments:
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: Strongly supports the IPCC findings. IPCC should not be discarded even though a handful of countries are trying to do just that. Agenda of climate change came from findings of science therefore should be the driving force of action.

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Is GEF just a grain to disintegrate?	Comments: Requested assistance from the GEF & is still waiting for its materialization. Called for a cutting down of bureaucracy in order to fulfill its role as a fin. mechanism.
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: Believes strongly in the objectives of the Convention. Stated a need for financial resources in order to implement the Convention.

- Rules of procedure is still unresolved - this is not all encouraging, POP can & should be adopted without further delay!! Quoted Article 3.3. precautionary measures.
 - Stated actions should prevail above all else.