



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

STATEMENT
by
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THE MINISTER
FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND FORESTRY

to the First Conference of the Parties
to
the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
Berlin, 5 April 1995

Distinguished Madame President, Distinguished Colleagues Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset, express warm thanks and congratulations of my delegation and myself, on your election, Madam, to the Presidency of this important Conference.

Upon ratifying the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Poland committed itself to fulfil provisions of the Convention adopted by countries listed in Annex I. The implementation of the provisions of the Convention is inseparably associated with the success of socio-economic reforms in Poland and with the implementation of the National Environmental Policy. The process of reforms conducted so far and monitoring of greenhouse gases emissions indicates that Poland will meet its current commitments. The inventories of emissions of the greenhouse gases until the year 1992 show that Poland not only stabilized emissions, but also reduced them by about 20% when in comparison the base year 1988. We do not anticipate that emissions will exceed base year level until 2000. As a Party to the Convention, we are not only interested in the fulfilment of the obligations by Poland but also in the state of their implementation by all countries-Parties to the Convention. We therefore expect that also other countries included in Annex I will fulfil their commitments.

The ultimate objective of the Convention "... to achieve ... stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" (Article 2 of the Convention), is very ambitious, taking into consideration the economic possibilities and the needs of the contemporary world.

In order to achieve this objective, inter alia, the fundamental principle of the common but differentiated responsibilities was adopted. Poland supported this principle as the only appropriate and just approach to the problem. However, in the course of negotiations, considerably greater weight was given to the differentiated responsibilities, and at the same time their common character was minimized. It is obvious that we have to do here with global problem, which can be solved only through the collective efforts of the world community. Any "wishful thinking" or looking for those responsible for present situation will not help. The truth is that, if we want to save the Earth, we have to work together.

Poland has been consistently calling for a realism in making commitments. We keep in mind differentiated responsibilities and socio-economic potential of the countries involved. The global balance of the climate system worldwide cannot be maintained without active involvement of the world community. On the other hand, we do consider that the commitments should not impede the socio-economic development of the peoples of the World.

Taking into account the real threat that may result from climate change we consider that further commitments for the period beyond 2000 are necessary. According to the research results, presented by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the attaining of stabilization of greenhouse gases concentrations on safe climate level requires further firm steps.

Poland will join the negotiation process of future commitments which we want to be adequate to our capabilities. The fulfilment of these obligations can be facilitated and accelerated by the transfer of the most advanced and environmentally sound technologies, and active international cooperation. We consider that the Conference of the Parties should agree on the scenario of the global reductions of emissions, having regard to the development needs of the humankind and to the obligations which should be shared by all Parties to the Convention.

As the experience from the negotiating process shows, the Convention became a forum for political bargaining, in which the primary goal - climate protection receded into a secondary one. We hope that the next Conferences of the Parties to the Convention will renew the spirit and purpose which was articulated in the earlier decision of the UN General Assembly - (Resolution 45/212 of December 1990) setting out the goals for international action and establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

We expect that this Convention, which is one of the fundamental achievements of the UN Conference on Environment and Development of 1992, will become a model for cooperation of the world community in the preserving of the natural environment in a state which secures life and ensures the opportunities for the development of humankind.

Poland is ready to participate in this international challenge.