

GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

STATEMENT

of

H.E. Mr. AUREL CONSTANTIN ILIE, Ph. D.

MINISTER

of

WATERS, FORESTS and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ROMANIA

addressed to

**PARTIES TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGES**

5 - 7 APRIL 1995

BERLIN

GERMANY

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STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF WATERS, FORESTS and
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DEAR MISTER CHAIRMAN,

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

I have the great pleasure of addressing you with the occasion of this first Conference of the parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Changes and to greet on behalf of the Romanian Government all the participants to this important meeting.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express our thanks to the German Government as well as to our hosts in Berlin who have organized this important meeting.

Romania has committed itself in an ample transformation process in building up a new society based on a deep economic and social reform. In this framework, in the strategy of passing to the market economy, the environmental protection, the objectives, principles directions and criteria for action as regards achieving the requirements for a sustainable development of the future society are based upon the application of the Agenda 21 principles, our tasks deriving from the International Conventions which Romania is a part to and the harmonization of the legislation in this field with the standards of the European Community States.

The strategy in the field of climate change, based on the provisions of the Convention signed by our country in June 1992, on the occasion of the International Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, goes along this same framework. Romania has ratified this Convention in 1994 and it is one of the countries included in Annex I of the Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The countries which in the second half of this century have become highly industrialized are responsible for the climate change on our planet. The increase of the global mean temperature is felt in our country as well, and it has as effect prolonged droughts, phenomena of desertification especially in the southern, south-western and south-eastern areas.

Analysis of data concerning the main greenhouse gas emissions (1989-1993) ~~performed in the framework of the CORINAR Programme~~ indicates that these values are below European means. Consequently, the aforementioned phenomena are partially caused by the effects of the global emissions that are mainly beyond the territory of our country.

Moreover, Romania is currently in the stage of changing and modernizing the existing technologies and of replacing them with greenhouse gas emissions reducing technologies.

But, the huge capital expenses imposed by these investments and the technology transfer that has to be achieved for the reduction/elimination of greenhouse gases, must be supported by all those who contribute to these phenomena.

Being known the few times higher efficiency, from the global environmental impact point of view, of the economically developed countries, we consider to be more efficient to attract investments funds towards the Eastern European countries.

Hence the importance which Romania attaches to the activities of applying the Convention provisions jointly both with the latter's special bodies and with the other institutions and programmes interested in this process. This joint application implies finding new suitable economic and financial incentives and using more efficiently the GEF funds.

In this respect we propose that within the GEF Programme, besides the programmes for technology transfer, special attention should be given to the following aspects as well:

- rational management of forests through extension of some forest areas which are important in regulating the climate equilibrium by absorbing the green house gases; these forests must be subject to a conservation practice;
- assistance in the promotion of some methods for energy conservation from the producer up to the consumer;
- conservation of energy and reduction of energetic losses on the producer-consumer chain that will be equal to the supplementary use of unpolluting energy sources.

For the emission reduction strategy and for its sound support, we consider that we should take into account some desiderata of great importance such as:

- to ascertain the real possibilities for emission reduction in each geographical area in relation to the climate conditions;

- to estimate the impact, that would result by respecting the obligations incumbent upon the categories of countries that are in different economic development stages.
- to evaluate correctly the period of time in which the developing countries may conform with the obligations of this Convention, while having at their disposal their own technical and financial means.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This strategy includes a great variety of actions planned by research institutes from different fields of activities and even by non-governmental organizations (NGO s) involved in this action plan of great interest.

It is true that in order to solve these problems we should rely above all on our own human and financial resources.

Taking into account the fact that the investments works and the transfer of technologies need great funds and the results can be noticed, frequently, only after long periods of time, it is necessary to reduce these difficulties by promoting some favorable credit conditions as well as by using the special funds more efficiently.

The credit facilities should include the collecting of reduced interests, long period of grace or even the payment from special funds.

The implementation of all these measures suppose adequate policies for each Party, our first Conference is in fact the way to harmonize our opinions in order to have new commitments.

The harmonizing of these policies is in accordance with the real economical stage of each Party, as well as of the effects which we can support.

In fact, this harmonization will be a long term process, and our Conference marks the beginning of the search of these very difficult solutions.

First of all, one must take into account the average of climate changes effects, the most affected countries and the burden which they must support. So, we can appreciate that the most affected states are those with less audience in the international community.

In this substantial but difficult dialogue, we will try to express our point of view concerning the transfer of technical and economic costs on those which produce the most negative impact on the climate, in order to ensure the conditions of normal and sustainable social and economic development on the benefits of those countries which until now have had not this opportunity.

financial conditions in order to solve more rapidly and efficiently the main problem of controlling this phenomena.

Ladies and Gentlement,

Allow me please, to close my speech by thanking you, Mr. Presiden and the honoured audience for your attention and by mentioning once again the support of the Romanian Govenment for all the actions that will be carried out in order to apply the provisions of the ~~Pa~~ Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Thank you.