

THAILAND

STATEMENT

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MINISTER OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND

ENVIRONMENT

HEAD OF THE THAI DELEGATION TO THE FIRST

SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE

PARTIES

TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK

CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE,

6 APRIL 1995

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Madame President,

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to offer your Excellency our warmest congratulation on your election as president of the COP.

I am certain that under your Excellency's able and wise guidance, this conference, which is the first UN meeting on climate change since the Framework Convention has entered into force in March 1994, will yield most tangible results in halting the impending destruction of the world climate systems. My delegation would like to extend our utmost cooperation to Your Excellency.

I also would like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government of Germany for the excellent hospitality and assistance in organizing this conference.

Madame President,

Thailand places great importance on protection of the atmosphere, which is the common concern of mankind. Due to our concern, we have decided to ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are well aware that

our contribution to the global emissions of CO₂ is trending to increase due to the expansion of our economic growth. It is, evident that our economy will continue to grow hence more energy consumption will be inevitable. Thailand depends largely on lignite and natural gas as a source of energy supply, however, we will be trying to use them in an environmentally friendly manner.

Our annual contribution to the world total emissions is insignificant compared with the cumulative emissions of industrialized countries over the past 200 years. Consequently, this stresses the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities which should be strictly adhered to and, rigorously, implemented. This means that the industrialized countries must take the lead in combating climate change.

Unfortunately, even though the commitments of the Annex I countries, most of which are industrialized countries, have been clearly stipulated in the Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, their commitments have been inadequate, hence, we call for immediate action with regard to commitments on the part of the Annex I countries.

We, Thailand, being a developing country, are in need of environmentally sound technologies which help reduce CO₂ emissions. Even though such technologies are already available, operating cost

are prohibitive, therefore, transfer of environmentally sound technologies to combat climate change on preferential and concessional terms from industrialized countries to developing countries should be vigorously promoted and facilitated.

At present, developing countries have to pay a very high price for technologies used to produce products to be exported to developed countries. Therefore, we would like to urge that Annex I countries, as required by Article 4.3 of the Framework Convention, to provide such financial resources for the transfer of technology needed by developing countries to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures as covered by Article 4.2.

Madame President,

Recognizing the importance of global cooperation to combat climate change, Thailand is in the process of formulating comprehensive national strategies, which inevitably requires the consensus among all the government agencies concerned. To have a better understanding of the nature and effects of climate change in Thailand, we have been co-operating with UNEP, ADB, UNDP, Germany and the U.S. in conducting studies that we hope, will yield good background data for sound decisions in matters related to climate change. Studies already completed include a preliminary study on the Socio-economic Impact of Climate Change, a study on Preparation for a National Strategy on Global Climate Change. Information and data generated by the projects will be used in preparing our National Communication to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties in three years after having ratified the Convention.

As part of the efforts to reduce CO₂, Thailand has been implementing various measures to increase energy efficiency, including the amendment of the Energy Conservation Act in 1992, and new energy pricing policy.

Madame President,

Joint Implementation is a concept that needs careful consideration but should not be an excuse to postpone the commitments of developed countries to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000. We endorse the proposal that joint implementation should be carried out on an experimental basis in the pilot phase, first between the Annex I countries. If agreed by the parties concerned, it could also be extended to cover joint activities between Annex I countries and developing countries. However, no crediting should be given in the pilot phase.

Madame President,

My delegation would like to support a resolution setting the modalities for consultations on Commitments in Article 4.2 (a) and (b) of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The consultations on such commitments should be carried out in an ad-hoc open-ended working group.

Lastly Madame President,

My delegation would like to congratulate the Government of Germany, on the occasions that Bonn has been selected as the location of this important secretariat office.

Thank you.