

Check Against Delivery

Statement by
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the Republic of Korea
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of the Republic of Korea to Germany
at the First Session of
the Conference of the Parties to
the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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**Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is now a well known fact that the future of humankind will depend on two crucial relationships; one is between man and nature, and the other is between human-beings themselves. The latter has been epitomized by nuclear threat, the former by environmental degradation.

If the 20th century has been primarily preoccupied with war and the spectre of nuclear proliferation, the 21st century will most certainly be engrossed in environmental concerns more than anything else.

We are gathered here to deal with perhaps the single most critical environmental issue, which is global warming. The destiny of future generations will depend on whether we can successfully cope with this challenge.

In handling this tremendous responsibility, we must bear in mind two basic premises: one is "the need to avoid the Tragedy of Commons," and the other "the need to pursue sustainable development."

(Commitment)

Madame President,

The primary task before us is to ensure effective implementation of the Convention on Climate Change, while devising mechanism to strengthen emission control after the year 2000 without jeopardizing special needs of developing countries.

We know current commitments to control greenhouse gas emission are not adequate to thwart imminent threat of global warming.

However, at this stage of launching our initial attempt to combat Climate Change, it is essential for developed countries to faithfully carry out their current commitment and to show the world their pioneering determination and willingness to commit themselves to a specific target and timetable after the year 2000.

It is hardly justifiable for developed countries to impose any new additional commitments upon developing countries without strengthened commitments on their part.

Our search for joint strategy should respect the legitimate concerns of developing countries in view of the different historical responsibilities wide ranging per capita emission gaps and the need for sustained economic growth to provide ordinary citizens of developing world with decent quality of life.

Korea supports the emerging consensus for strengthening the commitments of Annex I countries beyond the year 2000. I hope that the proposal made by the Alliance of the Small Islands States(AOSIS) will be a useful basis for our future consultations.

(Joint Implementation)

In formulating a joint strategy based on common but differentiated responsibilities,the proposal for pilot phase joint implimentation without crediting deserves serious consideration. With proper guidelines, joint

implementation could serve as a meaningful channel for technological transfer.

I support the launching of pilot phase among interested Parties on a voluntary basis in order to experiment operational modality as well as to develop necessary criteria.

Madame President,

While we are busy haggling over burden shifting, we often tend to forget the importance of technology.

(Technology Transfer)

Committing ourselves to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a certain level is only one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is that we have to find out technological innovations which could enable us to meet the necessary target to mitigate Climate Change.

The ultimate solution for global warming may lie as much in technological breakthroughs as in arduous negotiations for burden sharing or shifting between the North and the South.

Unfortunately, public as well as private R & D spending for climate change related technology is shrinking due to lack of short term commercial benefit and budget reduction.

In view of the limited resources available and the need to invest with a long term perspective, pooling and sharing R&D activities could create a synergy necessary for the rapid development and deployment of technological innovations to combat Climate Change.

A global strategy to pool R&D programs and to share the relevant technology and information deserves serious consideration. I believe SBSTA could develop an operational methodology to this effect.

In this regard, we welcome the Climate Change Technology Initiative(CTI) from OECD countries and hope the CTI could be a first step towards pooling our R & D activities and sharing the technical breakthroughs.

Madame President,

While developed countries take the lead in fulfilling their commitments, non-Annex I countries also bear general commitments for our common objectives.

The Republic of Korea, for its part, is now in a process of preparing its own national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and also contributes to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Madame President,

Faced with unprecedented global environmental threat, the spirit of global partnership has ever been strengthened from Stockholm via Rio to this historic city of Berlin.

I wish to echo the timely call for political will by Bundeskanzler Helmut Kohl in his statement delivered yesterday that it is economically and technically possible to adjust to ecological necessities if political will is there.

I sincerely hope that this Berlin Conference will be remembered as a birthplace of new global political will to combat climate change.

Thank you.