

STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE, THE HONOURABLE CHEN CHIMUTENGWENDE (MP), PRESIDENT OF THE COP2, AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC).
PALAIS DE NATIONS, GENEVA, 8 JULY, 1996.

+ General
ambassadors

THE PRESIDENT OF COP1, THE HON MINISTER ANGELA MERKEL,

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNFCCC MICHAEL ZAMMIT CUTAJAR AND STAFF,

HEADS OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES HERE PRESENT,

THE HONOURABLE PARTIES AND OBSERVERS TO THE UNFCCC HERE PRESENT,

REPRESENTATIVES OF NON GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HERE PRESENT,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. I BRING YOU WARM GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE.

2. AT THE OUTSET, ALLOW ME, TO WHOLE-HEARTEDLY THANK ALL THE PARTIES THAT SUPPORTED MY CANDIDATURE TO THE PRESIDENCY OF COP2, IN PARTICULAR, THE AFRICAN GROUP. INDEED THIS IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME, FOR ZIMBABWE, AND FOR THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. I TRUST THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES.

3. WITH OVER 155 PARTIES, THE POLITICAL BREADTH OF THE CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP IS APPROACHING THAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. WITHIN MY TERM, I LOOK FORWARD TO UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION - AN

INDICATION OF THE POLITICAL WILL.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

4. I NOTE THAT THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN ABLY LED BY A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES. OF NOTE, I WISH TO CONVEY MY GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING;

MONSIEUR RIPERT OF FRANCE AND AMBASSADOR ESTRADA OF ARGENTINA AS THE TWO CHAIRMEN OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, AND DR. ANGELA MERKEL, GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COP; AND TO THE COP BUREAU FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS REGARD ZIMBABWE THEREFORE, TAKES PRIDE IN NOTING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MADAM KARIMANZIRA, AS A MEMBER OF THE BUREAU AND RAPPORTEUR OF COP1.

ALLOW ME ALSO TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MR. MICHAEL ZAMMIT CUTAJAR AND THE ENTIRE SECRETARIAT STAFF FOR THE EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP THEY HAVE DISPLAYED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS SESSION.

I WOULD BE REMISS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I DO NOT EXPRESS MY UTMOST APPRECIATION TO THE GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR HOSTING THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT IN BONN.

5. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THESE NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE NOT BEEN EASY AND YET THE UNDERSTANDING WE HAVE OF EACH OTHER'S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SENSITIVITIES IS NOW MUCH BETTER THAN AT CHANTILLY DURING INC-1. IN THIS REGARD, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS IS INDEED AN URGENT MATTER WHICH NEEDS THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. AS SIGNATORIES TO THE EARTH DECLARATION IN RIO IN JUNE, 1992, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS THAT OF RETURNING THE GLOBE TO A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATH IN A MANNER WHICH IS BENEFICIAL TO THE CLIMATE SYSTEM. WHILE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS ARE IN PLACE FOR GLOBAL COMMON ACTION TO RETURN TO THIS SUSTAINABLE PATH, THERE IS INDEED A NEED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL, BOLD AND DELIBERATE POLICY ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

7. ZIMBABWE, HAS ADOPTED A SERIOUS VIEW TOWARDS THE CLIMATE CONVENTION. FOLLOWING RATIFICATION, ZIMBABWE PURSUED SYSTEMATIC SET OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTIVE OF BOTH OUR PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTION FORA AND OUR RESOLVE TO ADVANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION. THIS HAS INCLUDED EARLY PREPARATIONS OF NATIONAL INVENTORIES OF SOURCES AND SINKS OF GREENHOUSE GASES ALONG SIDE RELATED MITIGATION ANALYSIS UNDER THE US COUNTRY STUDIES PROGRAMME.

8. REGARDING ENABLING ACTIVITIES (WHICH ARE PRINCIPAL IN ENHANCING OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOALS OF THE CONVENTION), ZIMBABWE PARTICIPATED IN THE PILOT PHASE OF THE UNDP/UNITAR CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING PROGRAMME (CC:TRAIN), AND THE UNDP CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE FURTHER THAT ZIMBABWE FULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE IPCC PROCESS INCLUDING HOSTING OF ITS EIGHTH PLENARY IN HARARE. MOST PLEASING, WAS THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR NATIONAL SCIENTISTS AS LEAD AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS OF THE IPCC FIRST AND SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORTS.

9. IN ALL THESE ACTIVITIES, SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION. IN MY CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT, I WISH TO ENCOURAGE SUCH BILATERAL SUPPORT.

FURTHERMORE, ZIMBABWE WILL HOST THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL FORA AND THESE ARE;

- A. THE WORLD SOLAR SUMMIT, IN SEPTEMBER, THIS YEAR (1996)
- B. FIFTEENTH COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE IN MAY 1997
- C. CITES - COP10 IN JUNE, 1997.

10. OF GREATER NOTE IS PERHAPS THE FACT THAT OUR STATE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD SOLAR SUMMIT PROCESS. THIS PROCESS, NEEDLESS TO SAY, HAS VERY CLOSE LINKAGES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNFCCC AND IN THIS LIGHT OUR PRESIDENT SENDS HIS BEST WISHES FOR FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS IN THIS SESSION AND HOPES THAT OUR CONCLUSIONS WILL

BE USEFUL INPUT INTO THE WORLD SOLAR SUMMIT PROCESS.

11. IT IS EVIDENT THAT ZIMBABWE MAY NOT BE A NOVICE TO THE DEBATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. WE THEREFORE, COME PREPARED TO MAKE OUR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROCESS IN OUR ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF COP2 AND A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION.

12. TURNING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE OUR FURTHER ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION. APART FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PROTOCOL OR ANOTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, THESE INCLUDE THE ON-GOING REPORTING BY ANNEX 1 PARTIES; PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF INITIAL COMMUNICATIONS BY NON-ANNEX 1 PARTIES; PROVISION OF NEW AND ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET THE AGREED FULL INCREMENTAL COSTS INCURRED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES; THE ROLE OF GEF AS THE CONVENTION'S INTERIM FINANCIAL MECHANISM; AND THE ROLE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY AND OTHER MECHANISMS.

[IN ADDITION, WE STILL NEED TO REACH A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE]

ALL THESE ISSUES WILL RECEIVE MY FULLEST ATTENTION AND THAT OF THE BUREAUX OF COP2 AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

13. IN ORDER TO FURTHER OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CLIMATE SYSTEM, THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE IPCC SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT WILL PROVIDE PARTIES WITH USEFUL INSIGHT INTO THE SCIENCE, IMPACTS AND RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. NEW KNOWLEDGE GATHERED FROM OVER 2000 SCIENTISTS AND PEER REVIEWED BY EMINENT SCIENTISTS, GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WILL PROVIDE USEFUL INPUT TO THE NEGOTIATION UNDER THE BERLIN MANDATE PROCESS AND THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.

14. WHEREAS IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT UNCERTAINTIES ARE A FEATURE IN SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS, OUR ROLE IS TO SIFT THROUGH THE WEALTH OF AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO DEVELOP POLICY OPTIONS THAT ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. IT MAY WELL BE IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST IPCC THROUGH SBSTA, AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARTIES, TO IDENTIFY THOSE POLICY OPTIONS WHICH CAN BE DEEMED TO BE GOOD IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIABLE, SENSITIVE TO EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS AND YET ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

15. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE, HAVE THE CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE AND GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUND POLITICAL DECISIONS ON POLICIES TAKEN AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TAKING COGNISANCE OF THE BASIC SOCIAL NEEDS OF OUR LOT.

IN THIS REGARD, IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE IPCC WILL DEVELOP REGIONAL CLIMATE SCENARIOS WHICH WILL ASSIST US IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.

16. IN ADDITION, WE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF THE VALUABLE INPUTS FROM WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, ICAO, IEA, ICSU AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

17. FURTHERMORE, THE ROLE OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR PARTICULARLY AS THEY ARE CUSTODIANS OF TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW NEEDS OUR SERIOUS ATTENTION. REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THIS CONSTITUENCY, WHICH IN ITSELF HAS AN OBLIGATION TO MEET, MUST BE ENCOURAGED AND MAINTAINED. INITIATIVES BY THIS SECTOR TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGIES, AND TO ENSURE THEIR FULL GLOBAL DIFFUSION ARE IMPERATIVE. EFFORTS BY MY PREDECESSOR IN THIS DIRECTION ARE INDEED COMMENDABLE.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

18. SINCE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, COUNTRIES IN NORTH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPREMACY TO ESTABLISH AN UNEQUAL GLOBAL EXCHANGE SYSTEM AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SOUTH. THIS SITUATION QUITE UNFORTUNATELY CONTINUES TO HAUNT AND DISTRACT US FROM THE FOCUS OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, THUS REITERATING THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS.

19. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SOUTH IS CHARACTERISED BY LIMITED FINANCIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES, AND LIMITED HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES. MANY COUNTRIES, NOTABLY IN AFRICA, REMAIN DEPENDENT ON AGRO-BASED INDUSTRY WHICH IS CLIMATE SENSITIVE; FACED WITH HARSH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND BEARING A HUGE EXTERNAL DEBT BURDEN. NATURALLY, THEIR PRIORITY IS PLACED ON SUCH URGENT MATTERS AS POVERTY ALLEVIATION; IMPROVEMENT OF BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES (SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, HOUSING, TRANSPORT AND ISSUES LIKE JOB CREATION THROUGH INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION). THEY THEREFORE REMAIN THE MOST VULNERABLE TO THE IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY.

20. IN ADDITION FOR LOW LYING COUNTRIES AND ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH (AOSIS), THE COST FOR ADAPTATION MEASURES IS BEYOND THEIR NATIONAL CAPACITIES.

21. IN ORDER TO REDRESS THESE GLOBAL IMBALANCES, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BUILD A GLOBAL VILLAGE, WHICH AVOIDS DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS; AVOIDS PUTTING UNNECESSARY BURDENS ON OTHER PARTIES PARTICULARLY THOSE WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE WEAK.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

22. DECISION 1 OF COP1 PROVIDES US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON SOME SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS TO START PREPARING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNFCCC. THIS PROCESS UNDER THE AGBM WILL REQUIRE THE FULL SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL

PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN ANNEX 2. CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT COP1 NOTED THE CONCERNS OF THE AOSIS COUNTRIES BY ALLOWING THEIR DRAFT TEXT FOR A PROTOCOL TO BE INCLUDED AS ONE OF THE INPUTS INTO THE BERLIN MANDATE PROCESS. TO THIS END, I WISH TO URGE AGBM TO FOCUS ON A DRAFT TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE INTERCESSION PERIOD.

23. DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION AT HAND, IN MY HUMBLE VIEW, MAY WELL BE SUFFICIENT TO START NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PROTOCOL IN EARNEST.

24. FURTHERMORE, FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS MUST THEREFORE TRY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE NOT TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY HOW TO DO IT. IN THIS REGARD, THE ROLE OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) AS THE INTERIM FINANCIAL MECHANISM GUIDED BY THE COP CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASISED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

25. AS WE ARE ALSO AWARE, THIS SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES WILL HOLD ITS MINISTERIAL SEGMENT ON THE 17TH AND 18TH OF JULY. FROM THE FOREGOING, WE CAN ALL APPRECIATE THE IMMENSE AND CHALLENGING WORKLOAD AHEAD OF US DURING THESE TWO

WEEKS. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT I AM INVITING HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO AN INFORMAL ROUND TABLE ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 17TH OF JULY. THE ROUND TABLE WILL GIVE MINISTERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL INTERACTION ON POLITICAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ROUND TABLE WILL NOT ADOPT ANY FORMAL CONCLUSIONS. IT IS THEREFORE MY PLEASURE TO INVITE MADAM RUTH DREIFUSS, SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILLOR AND MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO CHAIR THE ROUND TABLE AND TO SHARE HER PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE MAIN TRENDS OF THE DISCUSSION WITH THE PLENARY SESSION ON THE MORNING OF THE 18TH OF JULY.

26. WITH THESE FEW REMARKS, I WISH ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS THAT SUPPORTED MY CANDIDATURE TO THE PRESIDENCY OF COP2. I HUMBLY ACCEPT THIS HONOUR ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND FURTHER TRUST THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME ALL YOUR SUPPORT TO COMMENCE OUR WORK WITH A CLEAR VIEW TOWARDS PAVING THE WAY FOR TANGIBLE RESULTS BY COP3. FOR THOSE OF US WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE IN 1990, YOU MAY RECALL THAT IT WAS IN THIS VERY ROOM, THAT MINISTERS GATHERED TO GIVE THE INITIAL POLITICAL PUSH FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS NOW OUR TURN TO PROVIDE FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR EFFORTS
IN COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

I THANK YOU.
