

# **Statement by the Head of the Kingdom of Swaziland's delegation to the Third Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.**

**Mr. President, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland, allow me to take this opportunity and inform Parties to the convention that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland has signed the project document for Enabling activities, to enable the country fulfil its commitment under the objectives of the convention. We believe our first National Communication will be submitted to the Secretariat before or by January year 2000.**

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**Mr. President, it is clear to us that there is absolutely no dispute of the scientific evidence that human activities have a direct influence towards Global Warming. Leading scientists from all over the world have once more made it clear that without drastic action taken now, population growth, rapid industrialisation, increased fossil fuel use and continued deforestation, greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere will**

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by: Mr. M.S. Magongo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications.

continue to rise. The consequences of Climate disturbances as a result of Global Warming on a large scale are hard to predict. However, some effects, such as rising sea levels and changing Agricultural patterns can be clearly foreseen, whilst other effects which may be potentially catastrophic may come as unpleasant surprises, as Climate systems respond to the radioactive forcing which may not be linear.

It is the unpleasant surprises that developing countries fear most, Mr President, since we do not have the means and resources to mitigate or adapt to climate change. In addition Mr. President developing countries are still faced with the problem of poverty elevation, inadequate information and technology and the lack of institutional capacity.

Mr. President, if I may reiterate that at the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention in Berlin, <sup>in</sup> 1995, it became clear that commitments for Annex I Parties under the convention were inadequate, especially beyond year 2000. This led to the launching of the Berlin Mandate; a negotiating process aimed at strengthening commitments for Annex I Parties through the adoption of a protocol or another legal instrument at this conference of the Parties, here in Kyoto.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by: Mr. M.S. Magongo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications.

**The Kingdom of Swaziland would like to put it on record that we strongly associate ourselves with the negotiating position taken by Developing Country Parties, that Developed Country Parties must be faithful and meet their commitments under the convention. And that we must agree here in Kyoto on a protocol or a legal instrument that:**

- a) will not introduce new commitment for developing countries, whilst all efforts are made to advance the implementation of existing commitments under the objectives of the convention,**
- b) Have meaningful quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) with timetables and targets that are aimed at addressing the climate situation.**
- c) Have agreed policies and measures.**

**Developing countries expect Developed countries to take the lead in addressing Climate Change issues. And we welcome the convincing initiative taken by some Developed countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emission in an effort to fulfil their commitments under the convention. We urge those Developed countries which are still hesitant to take the lead, to act now and save us from the potential threat of Climate Change.**

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**Mr. President we also request Developed country Parties to make available,energy efficient technology to developing country Parties and provide appropriate financial mechanism to improve institutional capacity building in developing countries. We believe that this will enhance the contribution of developing countries in addressing the Climate Change issue.**

**We are aware of the difficulties faced by Developed countries in meeting their commitments under the convention, However Mr. President, we want to make it clear that, developing countries will not be blamed for the failure of developed countries to act now and provide the required leadership. Signs are emerging that even though developing countries are faced with numerous problems of survival, lack of resources and institutional capacity, they may have achieved greater carbon dioxide emission savings.**

**I thank you Mr. President.**

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