

*Statement*

*by*

*H.E. U Soe Win*

*Head of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar to the Third  
Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change*

*1 – 10 December 1997*

*Kyoto, Japan.*

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Mr. President,

Thank you very much for the opportunity you have afforded this delegation to make a brief statement on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. President,

Nations of the world have shown their deep concern about the global warming and climate change by adopting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Rio Earth Summit five years ago. Now again, we have gathered here to reiterate our concerns and strengthen our commitments for attaining the objectives of the Convention.

Over the past two decades, we have witnessed frequent occurrences of climatic disasters and extreme weather conditions in many parts of the world. Heatwaves and droughts, severe storms and cyclones, floods and blizzards have claimed lives and properties. The atmosphere is choked with carbondioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases that affect the health of the earth and its inhabitants. The impact of greenhouse gas accumulation in the earth's atmosphere has already become more and more evident nowadays, in

every corner of the world. Drastic measures and prompt actions are therefore urgently needed to reduce and limit the emission of greenhouse gases. If we fail to act now, the future of our children will be at great risk. In the face of all these unprecedented events and the growing scientific evidence about the impending impact of global warming and climate change, it is imperative that additional commitments be made to expeditiously meet the Convention's objectives.

Mr. President,

Climate change is a global problem that requires global solution. The Climate Change Convention is an important instrument for addressing the global warming issue. Each of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with the principle of the "common but differentiated responsibilities", has a vital role to play in making the instrument effective. Cooperation, coordination and understanding of each other's situation is a necessary condition for achieving the long term objective of the Convention. The developed country Parties as the world's leading producers of greenhouse gases should do their best and set an example for the newly industrialized developing countries to follow suit.

In the 5 years since the adoption of the Convention, the international community has made substantial efforts to comply with the obligations and commitments contained in Article 4 of the Convention. Significant progress has also been made in the area of "national communications", "financial mechanism" and "Activities Implemented Jointly"(AIJ). Despite these efforts, it was agreed at the COP 1 that the commitments of the developed country Parties to reduce and limit the greenhouse gas emission level should be



strengthened. The key to the successful implementation of the Climate Change Convention lies to a large extent, with the Annex I countries. At COP II, the contents of the first national communications by the developing countries were also agreed. It will be noted that each of the Parties will have many important tasks ahead and it is crucial that ways and means must be found to undertake the tasks.

The developing country Parties are not in a position to undertake these tasks, unless new and additional funds are available to meet the incremental costs of implementing the Conventions's obligations. The transfer of technology, especially, climate-friendly technology is also greatly required to assist the developing country Parties meet their treaty commitments.

Let me now briefly mention the efforts being made in Myanmar in response to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Myanmar signed the Convention at the Earth Summit and ratified it on 25 November 1994. Although the country has a large extent of paddy land as a source of methane gas emission, forests which cover fifty percent of the country provide an important sink for the greenhouse gases.

The level of industrialization in the country is also relatively low in comparison with other developing countries in the region. On the whole, Myanmar's contribution to greenhouse gas concentration is only minimal and still under control. Nevertheless, Myanmar is well aware of the threat of climate change and being an agricultural country depending on weather condition for agricultural production, Myanmar is making great efforts to stabilize the local climatic conditions by carrying out afforestation and intensive greening projects in the country, especially in the dry zones.



Moreover, to demonstrate our profound adherence to the commitments we have made in Rio, we have embarked on the ALGAS Project, which is "Asia Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy"- a regional programme for inventorization of greenhouse gas emissions, identifying mitigation options and a formulation of abatement strategies in the 12 participating countries of the Asia and Pacific region.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I wish to stress that Myanmar attaches great importance to this conference. The outcome of this session will have far-reaching effect on the global, regional and national level strategies to protect the Earth-atmospheric system and ultimately the sustainability of mankind and its ecosystem. All nations should therefore stand united to the cause of combating the climate change and protecting the environment. The world is watching this conference with great hope. Let us not disappoint them.

Thank you.

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