

Honorable Mr. President,
Honorable Ministers,
Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank You Mr. President for giving the floor to the Albanian Delegation and then to express my pleasure for joining you in this event which is the most important one in the history of climate negotiations.

The political, economic and social changes in Albania during the last years, the orientation toward market economy, the extension of private activities, and the increase of foreign investments put forward the necessity that the environmental protection be treated as one of the most priority issues and their solution be reviewed in consistence with the experience of developed countries and international standards, by applying the important principle *"Sustainable Development"*

The Committee of Environmental Protection, within the structure of Ministry of Health and Environment, which also is the central body, responsible for environmental issues in the Republic of Albania, is showing a serious commitment in its efforts for solving old and present environmental problems, succeeded in identifying the environmental priorities, building the necessary institutional framework and a completed legal framework.

Although Albania is a small country, the variety of environmental problems is as diverse as that of other larger countries. That is why the mitigation or elimination of the consequences of damages and pollution of the environment by previous regime and adverse impacts of economic and social activities require a concrete and continuous commitment.

These commitments are addressed to the National Environmental Action Plan prepared on the basis of National Environmental Strategy, which aims at the integration of the environmental protection in the development programs of economic and social sectors.

This Action Plan constitutes a detailed analysis of this strategy and has defined tasks for Ministries and Institutions whose activity has

an impact on environment and foresees organizational, administrative, legal and technical measures such as establishment of the legal framework, institutional strengthening, prevention of erosion and rehabilitation of soil, reforestation, avoidance of industrial and urban pollution, good management of natural resources, investment for environment, information and public awareness.

The policy of isolation followed by ex-Communist regime deprived Albania of international cooperation necessary for environmental protection. During the recent years, new steps forward were made in this field and the same time the benefits of this cooperation were felt. Thus, Albania is a contracting Party in several important, global and regional international conventions and protocols and their amendments.

At the present we are working in order to implement all the commitments that come out from being Party on such conventions.

Albania, as a developing country and an Non- Annex I Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, since 1992, has shown great interest to this treaty commitments.

We appreciate the Berlin Mandate negotiations which were launched at COP-1 in order to develop a " Protocol or another legal instrument" containing stronger commitments for developed countries after the year 2000, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing country Parties.

We are aware that Berlin Mandate, explicitly states that the process to strengthen the Climate Change Convention is not designed to introduce any new commitment for developing country Parties, but this reaffirms existing commitments in Article 4.1 and seeks continued advancement of the implementation of these commitments.

In this respect, our country despite the fact that we do not have potential sources of greenhouse gases, has implemented and has planned to do so, for a series of measures which directly or indirectly contribute to the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. On this occasion I would like to mention the closure of a number of industrial activities which were responsible among the others for emission in the atmosphere of this gases that cause the

green house effect, putting restrictions on the import of old cars, and especially those working on diesel fuel.

Very soon we will start the preparation for the development of environmentally compatible transport for the whole Albanian territory. One of the main objectives of this strategy will be the development of the transport with a minimal impact on the environment and on the emission of greenhouse gases.

Albania is a country well endowed with energy resources: oil, natural gas, coal, wood and other biomass, peat and hydropower which contribute in different ways to the energy needs of the country. The recent years have shown tremendous developments in Albania's energy sector towards setting the correct institutional and legal framework for the sector of energy, including privatization of many energy supply enterprises, and increasing the energy prices toward fully cost recovery. Because of its limited financial resources, the government of Albania is giving priority to the rehabilitation of existing facilities, power and petroleum subsectors, because this is the more cost effective than building new facilities.

We see the improving of energy efficiency as the main strategy for addressing climate change in Albania.

In a broader perspective I would like to mention the governmental plans for further development in the future of the hydro power generation industry while at the present this industry meets 90% of the needs of all the country for electricity and those plans aiming at sustainable management of forests.

Our country has suitable climatic conditions for the production of renewable energies like solar energy, wind and biomass.

Recently, in collaboration with UNEP, a study on the expected implications of the climatic change in the Albanian Coastal Zone has been finished. According to the Development scenario, the climatic changes favor the use of solar energy.

The coastal zone of Albania might have interesting potential for use of wind as a source of energy. Also Mountain valleys with suitable orientation to major wind directions might provide other opportunities.

In the process of the preparing the inventory of antropogenic sources of the greenhouse gas emissions, we are informing you that GEF has allocated a budget of USD 278,000 for the project : "Enabling Albania for preparing the First National Communication in

response to its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes.”.

The finalisation of this study will offer a clear view of the general situation in Albania ,will serve as a guide for future actions in the field of climate protection, and fulfill one of the commitments of Albania to the convention.

Through this short presentation I tried to show national position of Albania in the context of the Climate change Convention and Berlin Mandate negotiations as well.

On behalf of the Albanian delegation , I really do hope that this meeting will put the efforts of the countries participating to this meeting in bringing about an effective and appropriate international response to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere in a new and advanced phase where a protocol to the Climate Change Convention is sought to be adopted as a result of the Berlin Mandate.

Thank You for your attention.

Maksim DELIANA - Chairman of Committee of Environmental Protection, Tirana, ALBANIA.

HEAD OF ALBANIAN DELEGATION