

STATEMENT NO. 20: SENEGAL

Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the representative of the Group of 77 and China, and the coordinator of the African Group, in expressing my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the colossal work, the super-human efforts and the unfailing devotion which you have displayed since COP 6, which are the admiration of all and which have brought us to this historic result, which we are all hailing today. When I talk about superhuman efforts, Sir, I am talking about the long sleepless nights that you have spent, despite which you found the energy to preside over the negotiations.

My delegation would also like to pay very special tribute to Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, the Executive Secretary for the Convention, for his effectiveness and courtesy.

My delegation would like to thank the Annex I countries which have announced significant financial contributions to help mitigate the effects of climate change. We welcome the establishment of the three funds in particular, the special fund for least developed countries. Mr. President, the basket is not full, but it is not empty either. As has been shown by the IPPC report, the African continent is one of those most vulnerable, and our populations, which are facing poverty, sickness and environmental degradation due in particular to the harmful effects of climate change, are waiting with special concern but with great hope for the results of our work here.

The political agreement arrived at today after long and arduous negotiations is of considerable ramifications, since we trust very much that it will make it possible to achieve speedy ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all the Parties which may still be hesitating, in order to permit its entry into force in 2002. In conclusion, Sir, I would with all my heart trust that the spirit which is prevailing today in Bonn can be maintained in Marrakesh, so that further significant advances can be made in the negotiating process and in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.