

中 华 人 民 共 和 国 代 表 团
Delegation of the People's Republic of China

Statement by H. E. Mr. Liu Jiang,
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at the Fifth Session of the Conference of
The Parties to the UNFCCC

BONN, 2 November 1999

Mr. President,

Please allow me, on behalf of Chinese Delegation, to express my congratulations to you for your unanimous election as President of the Session. We are confident that, under your outstanding leadership and with the sincere efforts of all parties, this session of COP-5 would be crowned with success.

Mr. President,

This session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is a grand meeting at the turn of the century. The last decade of this century will go down in history as having attached great importance to the issue of environment and development. The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has, for the first time in the human history, established the concept of the indivisibility of environment and development, established the new concept of sustainable development and has called for efficient cooperation between the developed and developing countries in the area of environment and development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened for signature at the UNCED, affirms the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" between developed country Parties and developing country Parties, and the principle of equity. In accordance with these two basic principles of the Convention, the developed countries have the main responsibility for combating climate change, while the overriding priorities of the developing countries are economic and social development and poverty eradication. Being major victims of the adverse effects of climate change, the developing countries are fully aware of the importance of developing economy, protecting the environment and conserving resources, and are fully aware of the importance of the realization of sustainable development. They have been making contribution to addressing climate change in their own way. Since the 1980s, the developing countries have had meaningful participation in the efforts of mankind to address climate change, and have contributed to modifying the longer-term trends of climate change by adopting various kinds of national measures in the light of their own sustainable development strategies.

Being a low-income developing country with a large population, China is a victim of the adverse effects of climate change. However, having attached great importance to the issue of climate change, the Chinese Government, in light of China's sustainable development strategy, has made the nation's share of

contribution to modifying the longer-term trends of climate change by taking such national measures as controlling China's population growth rate, energy conservation and large-scale afforestation. At the present stage, poverty eradication, economic development and meeting the basic needs of its people are the overriding priorities for the Chinese Government. Therefore, I wish to reiterate here, on behalf of the Chinese Government, that it is not possible for the Chinese Government to undertake any obligation of GHG emissions reduction before China attains the level of a medium-developed country. However, China will continue to seek to abate the increase rate in GHGs emissions in line with her own sustainable development strategy. China will continue to actively promote and participate in international cooperation. And we hope that the developed countries can provide technology transfer and financial assistance in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, with a view to strengthening China's capabilities of addressing climate change. Failure to implement developed countries' commitments on technology transfer and financial assistance pursuant to Article 4 of the Convention will severely affect the extent to which we will implement our commitment under the Convention.

Mr. President,

During the seven years since the entry into force of the UNFCCC, great efforts have been made by Parties to promote the implementation of the Convention. The last two COP sessions adopted the Kyoto Protocol and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action respectively. The current COP session is faced with the arduous challenge of promoting the implementation of the Convention and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Only a few developed countries have shown good faith in returning their anthropogenic emissions of GHGs to their 1990 levels by the end of this century, with most of the developed countries still increasing their emissions of GHGs. Besides, there is no progress in technology transfer and great difficulty in providing financial assistance to the developing countries, as provided for in the Convention. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted two year ago, but the prospect of its early entry into force is still dim. Moreover, some developed countries have been trying to confuse the responsibilities and impose emission reduction or limitation commitments on the developing countries. Running counter to the Convention, some developed countries are attempting to set up new conditions for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, in the course of elaborating relevant rules for the three

“Mechanisms” of the Kyoto Protocol, a trend is emerging, that is, an attempt to deviate from the established principles and to confuse the different nature and scope of the three “Mechanisms” of the Protocol. Furthermore, in terms of per capita GDP, the gap between the developing countries and the developed countries has been further widening since 1990 , and the developing countries are confronted with more difficulties than ever. All these cannot but cause immense concerns of all the developing countries.

Mr. President,

To alleviate the concerns of the developing countries and to work for confidence-building are important tasks confronting this COP session and the future work. To this end, this COP session should address the following issues: First, urging the developed countries to implement their commitments, as stipulated in Article 4.2 of the Convention, on GHG emissions reduction or limitation, on technology transfer and on financial assistance. Second, urging the early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the developed country Parties pursuant to Article 25 of the Protocol, without introducing any new conditions. Third, all country Parties should broaden the vision to explore various means of addressing climate change in light of country-specific conditions. Forth, the COP should start to discuss ways and means to realize the principle of equity, including prevention or avoidance of perpetuation of the existing inequity between the developed and the developing countries in energy consumption and GHGs emissions. Fifth, the elaboration of concrete provisions of the three “Mechanisms” should be done strictly in accordance with the Protocol.

Mr. President,

It is our hope that the COP should create a kind of new cooperation atmosphere and cooperation mechanism in accordance with the spirit and the principles of the Convention, so as to fully implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and to promote the early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, with a view to fully implementing the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. In this context, let us join hands to exert due efforts in addressing climate change.

Thank you, Mr. President.