



Australian Statement

Third Session of the Conference of the Parties

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Senator the Honourable Robert Hill

Minister for the Environment

Mr President

Australia's National Response

Australia wants a durable and environmentally effective Kyoto agreement. Our collective efforts must demonstrate leadership and lay a solid foundation for a truly global response to climate change. We must particularly recognise those most acutely at risk - and for Australia, we think of our Pacific Island friends.

In Australia, we are implementing a major new program of greenhouse measures to address all greenhouse gas emissions and sources.

The measures Australia has now adopted will cut our growth in emissions by more than half. This is a real turning point. It means a reduction in Australia's per capita emissions of 4 percent against 1990.

We are boosting the uptake of electricity from renewable energy sources and providing substantial support for the commercialisation of renewable energy technologies. We are establishing a mandatory renewables target for electricity retailers. By 2010 eleven percent of our energy will come from renewable sources.

We are accelerating our energy market reforms, and introducing emissions standards for fossil fuel electricity generation. A broad range of national energy efficiency codes and standards for appliances, equipment and buildings will take Australia to best practice in these areas.

Australia's Environmental Strategy for the Automotive Industry will provide a fifteen percent improvement in fuel efficiency by 2010.

Australia is investing heavily in revegetation. We will treble our plantation forestry by 2020.

Industry is responding strongly to the challenge to cut emissions. We are extending our successful voluntary industry Greenhouse Challenge program to achieve greater uptake by industry. We are cutting emissions in the energy, transport, industrial, and household sectors.

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The participation of some 300 local governments by 2003, will realise major expansion of the international Cities for Climate Protection campaign.

Australia's action on climate change involves all levels of government. Australia's action and the measures recently announced are unconditional. We are not waiting on what others are prepared to do.

Australia is taking this action now. We are going well beyond any greenhouse action previously undertaken in our country and well beyond what is contemplated by many others at this time. It is at significant economic cost. It involves action across the whole Australian community.

With the inclusion of land-use change and forestry in this agreement we will have cost effective opportunities to cut further our net emissions.

A fully comprehensive approach with all sectors, sources and sinks included - just as the IPCC instructs - will allow us to commit to significant reductions below what we have already said we can do.

The International Response

Throughout these negotiations, Australia has maintained that to be environmentally effective the Kyoto agreement must be:

- fair
- realistic and achievable
- cost effective, and
- comprehensive in its coverage of all sources, sinks and greenhouse gases.

To achieve this, differentiated targets which ensure an equitable sharing of the costs of action across the whole of Annex 1 are essential.

For Australia, therefore, providing for cost effective solutions on the basis of a comprehensive approach is fundamental for a durable and effective agreement.

A Global Response

Climate change is a global problem requiring a global response. Developed country parties have agreed to take the first steps.

Developing countries are right to insist that their economies have the opportunity to modernise and grow. However, a lasting and effective global climate change response will involve us all. An essential part of the Kyoto outcome must be a process for commitment by us all.

We want this Kyoto Conference to mark a significant step forward. If we are prepared to make genuine commitments and ensure our commitments are fair to each other, then we can achieve that goal.