

**STATEMENT BY HON. FRANCIS NYENZE, MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, KENYA, AT THE FOURTH
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC,
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, NOVEMBER, 1998**

Your Excellency, Madame President,
Honourable Colleagues,
Distinguished Guests and Participants, *DELEGATES*.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The manner in which you have steered the business of the COP so far leave us in no doubt of the stewardship of the Convention process in the next one year. We wish you all the best.

Madam President

Through you I would like to thank your Government for accepting to host this important conference and the people of Argentina for the warmth they have shown to us since our arrival.

Madam President

Kenya is in the part of the world that the IPCC has recognised is particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change because of factors such as widespread poverty, recurrent droughts, land degradation and over-dependence on primary production. Although we are in a region that has not been traditionally associated with El Nino, we have been hard hit by this phenomenon in the past two years. There has been massive destruction of infrastructure, loss of lives, and crop failure due to flooding, and I could continue to count more, Madam President. This event, much as it was catastrophic, was quite

illuminating to most of the country as people wanted explanations to these now increasing extreme weather and climate variabilities.

Madam President

The Climate Change Convention is therefore our priority. We are however concerned that very little is being done to enhance observational networks and research to reduce scientific uncertainties relating to the causes, effects magnitude and timing of climate change, including capacity to determine the economic and social consequences of various response strategies and measures.

Madam President

It is now four years since the Convention came into force. That is a long time. However, the question mostly asked is: What is there to show? Apart from working on the Kyoto Protocol we should also be ensuring that Annex 1 Parties are getting on with the reduction of their GHG emissions. There is a growing perception among us Madam President that some Annex 1 Parties are reluctant to actively pursue the mitigation objectives outlined in the Convention. It is disappointing to note that only a few Annex 1 Parties have to date stabilised their GHG emissions at 1990 levels. We would like to see commitment from Annex 1 countries in reducing their emissions. We would also appreciate Annex 1 national communications and action plans containing assessments of the potential impacts of these policies on the economic development of Non-Annex 1 countries.

Equally, there are vital issues of concern in the Convention that some Parties would wish to see forgotten. These include the implementation of Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention which concerns all developing countries including the least developed countries arising from adverse effects of climate change and the impact of response measures. The implementation of these articles relate to the very survival of many of the developing countries.

We therefore call upon Annex 1 countries to begin real technology transfer programmes without linkages being made to the CDM.

Madam President

Kenya is committed to the Convention and we are about to embark on the compilation of our initial national communications. The delay was due to the difficulties that we had and still continue to experience with the operation of the Global Environment Facility. These include:

- ◆ Problems with the Implementing Agencies,
- ◆ Inclusion of too many middlemen in the project cycle - further compounding the already existing complexities,
- ◆ Prescriptiveness of project cycle, and
- ◆ Inadequate funds.

Additional funds promised to developing countries in the Convention through what is availed in the GEF has proved insufficient. Moreover the little that is there is allocated in a system that seems to respond more to the interests of the Annex 1 Parties rather than the needs and priorities of developing countries, particularly, Africa.

Madam President

Apart from providing funding for initial national communications, the GEF should continue to provide financial assistance for subsequent national communications until we are in position to sustain this activity. In these communications countries are able to identify adaptation options. The GEF as an operating entity of the financial mechanism should provide the necessary financial resources to developing country Parties to implement adaptation measures.

There is also need for the GEF to allocate funding to build capacity in our countries to facilitate the eventual hosting of CDM projects.

Madam President

While we welcome the potential of the CDM in meeting the sustainable development objectives of developing countries including its potential to support adaptation projects, we recognise that it is still undergoing an evolution. There is therefore the need for Non-Annex 1 Parties to be assisted in having dialogues in order to assist in the design of an equitable global mechanism. To this end I would also like to call for strong compliance measures to be incorporated in the design of all the three Kyoto Protocol mechanisms in order to avoid potential loopholes which would only serve to undermine the credibility of the Convention and the Protocol. At this point, I wish to reiterate the absolute need to put a cap on the use of all the three flexible mechanisms by Annex 1 Parties in order to maintain the integrity of the Convention and the Protocol.

Madam President, coming from a region which has started to experiencing the impacts of climate change, I wish to strongly reject the call by some Annex 1 Parties for meaningful participation by certain developing countries at this point when Annex 1 Parties have yet to take the lead in combating climate change at home. Any future commitment of developing countries will have to be based on per capita emissions entitlement within an agreed global carbon contraction budget.

Madam President

I wish to recognise the efforts that the Executive Director of UNEP Dr. Klaus Topfer made in bringing together to Nairobi, African experts and their ministers in-charge of environment, under the umbrella of AMCEN, to discuss the synergies among the various environmental instruments just a week before this Conference of the Parties. This meeting also assisted the ministers on coming to a common understanding on AIJ and CDM.

Madam President

CDM is a mechanism with a global reach and it is therefore important that it extends to as many Non-Annex 1 countries as possible. For CDM to be equitable, it should embrace the concept of avoided future emissions as poor countries have nothing to reduce now and are contributing heavily to protecting the environment because of their emissions deficit. The CDM should also not be left to market forces alone as in some regions, markets simply do not exist. We would therefore like to see CDM as an additional financial mechanism for achieving sustainable development and that both the objectives of emissions reductions and sustainable development are accorded equal priority in the conceptualisation and certification of projects.

Madam President

On behalf of my Government I would like to thank the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and his staff for their tireless work and dedication. I would also like once more to thank the people and Government of Argentina, for hosting us.

Thank you, Madam President.