



Statement by

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(Check against delivery)

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Mr. Moderator, Hon. Ministers, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Ten Years have passed since the UNFCCC came into force. Certainly its not a long period of time. As we rejoice the occasion, we have one international instrument, the Kyoto Protocol, coming into force in two months from now. While it's an achievement, undoubtedly, time is now to make the preparations for post-Kyoto Protocol period and the bigger challenge ahead of us now.

Mr. President, we welcome the Russian Federation in its leadership shown in ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Maldives as nation those survival dependent on climate change urgently plead the United States, to come forth, demonstrate and not to shirk its leadership role as well as its responsibilities by ratifying the Protocol.

Mr. Moderator and Hon. Ministers.

We are all confident, a long journey is ahead of us in confronting the challenges of climate change. As we concur the long road ahead of us it is essential and we take the first steps necessary but courageously and boldly. The Kyoto Protocol is minor step towards that direction. Maldives like other LDCs and SIDS whose very existence are in jeopardy by the brunt of the impacts of climate change call upon Annex I parties and competent agencies of the UN system to pace up in their assistance in helping our National Plan of Adaptation actions. We have last, in Maldives held our inception workshop of NAPA with all the stakeholders. We thank sincerely and appreciate the assistance of UNDP and GEF in this regard.

Mr. President, time is of our expression of resolve to demonstrate life in low-greenhouse gas concentration. Time is now for Annex I parties to act upon urgently provide developing countries, particularly the LDCs and SIDS and technologies in combating the grave dangers they face with climate change. In

this light, Mr. Moderator and Distinguished colleagues, I urge all Parties to agree and operationalise the LDC fund as matter of urgency.

Mr. Moderator, what we advocate so eloquently and so expressly is a culture of prevention. But that culture of prevention will and only prevail when we disasters reduction activities as an integral part of our sustainable development policies. We need to encompass the Millennium Development Goals and the 10 year series of the Barbados Plan of Action in this policy.

Mr. Moderator. Hon. Ministers. Time is now for putting our expression of good intend and good will into action. Time is now to make those actions to make a difference in our lives.

Finally, I wish to make one observations: that is, our gracious hosts, the Argentine Republic is not only a leader among worlds footballing nations but a leader in endeavouring hard to meet the ultimate objectives of the Convention. The evident testimony of this is the second COP they are so eagerly diligently. Hosting. Mr. moderator, I offer my unqualified appreciation to the host, the people of Argentina.