

STATEMENT TO COP3 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Mr. Chairman, my name is Gurmit Singh from MALAYSIA and CAN Southeast Asia. I speak to you for the CAN group of environmental NGOs, especially those from the South. We wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the Ministers gathered at such a critical stage of the finalisation of a legally binding GHG reduction Protocol for Annex I parties.

In the limited time available to us, we would like to stress the following points:

1. Climate protection must be the over-riding consideration in these final days of the fulfilment of the Berlin Mandate.

2. Political will must be demonstrated in a positive manner, not to undermine the fundamental objectives of the UNFCCC.

3. The majority of the developing countries will be the worst victims of climate change but the least able to cope because of their limited resources.

4. The insinuation that developing nations are out to free-load on the commitments of Annex I nations must be forcefully put aside as a smear campaign waged by powerful lobbies in the North.

5. There is ample evidence that Southern nations have taken action to start curbing their GHG emissions but it is against the basic principles of the Convention to ask them to assume legal limitations even before the Annex I nations have taken on such commitments and demonstrated their serious compliance. On the other hand, it is the very Annex I nations who have failed to even stabilise emissions that are putting pressures on the South.

6. The Kyoto Protocol for Annex I countries must have reduction targets in the order of 10% or more over the 1990 GHG emission levels to be achieved by the year 2005. These must be free of all loopholes like "hot or superheated air", sinks, etc.

7. The Berlin Mandate must be fulfilled here and now in Kyoto, not transformed into another Mandate that postpones further into the future concrete action on GHG reductions, a course of action that the IPCC considers irresponsible.

8. The speeches from PM Hashimoto and Vice President Gore at the launching of this segment have failed to provide the much-sought leadership. We are forced to look elsewhere.

The war of words that has raged for so long in the negotiations and recently in the mass media must end. But peace can only come through the signing of a strong Kyoto Protocol, that finally puts some teeth in the Convention.

We would be extremely disappointed if you, the Ministers gathered in Kyoto, fail in this long overdue mission. We will not let the World and your constituents forget this global failure. Let the world judge you and hold you accountable!

Thank you.