

STATEMENT NO. 12: SAUDI ARABIA⁶

Mr. President, on behalf of Saudi Arabia I would like to express my thanks to you. You have shown in the past, Mr. President, that you are indeed a leader and that you have been directing a vessel which was very difficult to direct. Although we have had certain divergences during the past days and years, nevertheless in spite of all of this we confess and recognize that you have been just and fair in the way in which you have dealt with all Parties, and I am saying that personally. I have a great deal of respect for you and I will continue to have such respect. I should also like to thank the Executive Secretary, Mr. Zammit Cutajar. Unfortunately he will be leaving us at the end of this year. He is a great friend and I am proud to have had his friendship. I should also like to thank all members of the secretariat, the whole team that has been working here with us.

Mr. President, you are the person most familiar with the interests of our peoples. These interests join the interests of this Conference and the topic we are dealing with. You have always sought for them to be taken into consideration to the extent possible. Although we are not entirely in agreement with certain proposals contained in the decision which has just been adopted, we have accepted to join the consensus and have accepted these proposals. We hope that when we begin to discuss details in the future, we will take into total consideration all interests which are sometimes divergent among Parties to this Convention. I can assure you that we will work together with all Parties in order to bring about these common interests which will result in a just sharing of the costs and benefits to all States, so that the developing countries, including Saudi Arabia, will not have to support more than what it is able to and more than would be fair, in order to implement the principle of shared responsibility

I should also like most sincerely to thank the representative of Iran, who has presided over the Group of 77 and China, and who is your rival to the extent that he is chairing a large group, more than 134 countries are in the group he shares, and you Sir, your group of countries is more than 180. I would like to recognize that his direction, his conduct of the work, was excellent in the interests of the developing countries, but also in the joint interests all other countries. Permit me also Mr. President to thank all of those who have worked with us in the Group of 77 and China, the coordinators, and also all of those who have cooperated with you and our colleagues from all countries to make it possible to reach this decision.

⁶ The original statement was delivered in Arabic.