

STATEMENT BY HON. HENRY MUGANWA KAJURA, UGANDAN  
MINISTER FOR WATER,  
LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT, TO THE SIXTH CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK  
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THE HAGUE,  
NETHERLANDS 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, -2000

Mr. President,

Allow me on behalf of the Ugandan delegation to express our sincere gratitude to her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands, Her government and the entire people of the Netherlands for the generosity and hospitality accorded to our delegation since our arrival here.

To you Mr. President we express our gratitude for the tireless efforts you have put into the climate change process since COP5. We must capitalize on this momentum.

Mr. President,

The message from the scientific community is clear, scaring and compelling. We, as political leaders, must account not only for our national constituencies but also the global constituency. The entire world is eagerly awaiting the outcome of this conference. The large representation of the media here is a clear demonstration of their anxiety for the output of COP6. The success of COP6 is in the hands of political leaders gathered here in The Hague. By the way, the choice of The Hague is not accidental. This is the center of International Justice for human dignity and equity.

Turning to the implementation of the Convention, I think some very modest efforts have been made in both developed and developing country

Parties. Irrespective of the contribution each country has made, we all must join in the operation "MOP THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE" to ensure that future generations can enjoy what we have enjoyed. I am informed that the youth are participating in COP6 in a parallel process just like the NGO community. This is a very good step and I hope that the participation of the youth becomes a process. The future is theirs and they have all reasons to participate in the climate change process.

Notwithstanding my statement above, developed country Parties who have significantly contributed to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, are not showing the leadership demanded by the Convention. This is clearly evidenced by the rising of GHG emissions and the insufficient flow of technical and financial resources to developing country Parties. The failure of developed country Parties to meet their commitments is clearly reflected in the level of progress the Subsidiary Bodies have made in their preparations for this important meeting. I did make reference to the building up of political momentum in the climate change process, how can we maintain and increase this momentum?

First we must take our burdens under the Convention more seriously by taking steps to make significant GHG emission reductions, showing significant flexibility on the Convention issues, such as development and transfer of technology; adaptation to adverse effects of climate change and capacity building in order to ensure that outstanding issues are quickly resolved. This will in turn lead to good decisions backed by concrete financial commitments. Parties committed themselves under the Convention and it was not the private entities. An attempt to avoid complying with clearly stipulated commitments is not reasonable and

therefore not acceptable to us. It is important to differentiate between commitments and bilateral cooperation. In this context public awareness at all levels can play a very important role in the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The international community, particularly the most vulnerable and least-able people of the world, will rightly put the blame on those who have failed to meet their commitments.

Secondly, turning to the preparations for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, it is regrettable to note that there are efforts to manoeuvre compliance with the Kyoto targets through playing with textual proposals rather than actions to be taken. The Kyoto Protocol mechanisms provide flexibility for developed country Parties to comply with their Kyoto targets while offering an opportunity for developing country Parties to take a cleaner development path. Although the Kyoto targets are relatively small, these targets provide a starting point. The Kyoto Protocol also provides a mechanism to ensure compliance with commitments to reduce GHG emissions under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Thirdly the discussions of the issues under the Kyoto Protocol have taken a strong economic approach forgetting the human face. The cries of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change will haunt us if we fail to deliver at COP6. We must therefore capitalize on the political momentum and provide the political will by giving clear instructions to the technicians so that the outstanding issues can be meaningfully concluded by the end of COP6.

Mr. President,

A successful COP6 will be judged by those outside the decision making process and who are eagerly awaiting the outcome of this meeting. Let us not fail them and those still to be born. Let all of us make a wise decision.

Thank you very much for your attention.