

## Statement of the Republic Of Lebanon

Sixth Session of the Conference Of Parties to the  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Presented By

**Dr. Berj Hatjian**  
**Director General, Ministry of Environment**  
**Republic Of Lebanon**

The Hague, The Netherlands  
13-24 November, 2000

**Mr. President,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is an honor and a great pleasure for me to address this distinguished congregation and would like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey the Lebanese Government's warmest congratulation to the Government and People of the Netherlands for their excellent organization and hospitality.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to extend our congratulations on your election as president of the Conference of Parties at its sixth session.

Scientists have confirmed that the planet "*and not our planet*" is becoming warmer, balance of nature is distorted by anthropogenic activities, thus resulting in environmental degradation.

We are all convinced that there is an urgent need to take actions to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

The more developed countries should take the lead in combating Climate Change and the adverse effects thereof. Lebanon affirms that responses to Climate Change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of less developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth.

We hope that more Developed Parties shall take all the practical steps to promote, facilitate and finance as appropriate the integrated transfer of environmentally sound technologies to less Develop Countries.

**Mr. President,**

Implementation of Kyoto Protocol should mean a shift towards more cost-effective and cleaner technologies, more efficient use of energy resources, a major shift to utilising renewable energy resources, sustainable forest management and multi-facit economic approaches to transport, energy, industry and waste management.

Mechanisms pursuant to Articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol should be transparent and clear in order to encourage real progress towards reductions and prevention of GHG emission. Lebanon hopes that consensus would be reached on the consolidated text of principles, modalities, rules and guidelines for an early Operational Clean Development Mechanism that facilitates the transfer of technology and additional financial resources to less Developed Countries to implement sustainable ecological development.

In order to fulfill Lebanon's commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention Of Climate Change, the National Communication Report of Lebanon was submitted to the UNFCCC on October 1999 and experts believe that it is a model to adopt.

Within this context we would like to thank the Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariat for funding the Climate Change Enabling Activity Project in Lebanon, and the UNDP "United Nations Development Programme" for their full support.

**Mr. President,**

Lebanon has a short and narrow coastline, which supports more than 70% of its population and its enthusiastic and cultured tourists. This vulnerable coastline has hosted the world's oldest civilizations. It is where the first alphabet sailed to the shores of the world. Its loss from potential adverse effects of global warming is by no means solely to Lebanon but to the world. *Lebanon does believe in the global village.*

Lebanon represented by all its community, youth representatives, non-governmental organizations, academia, local government, private sector, and The President are all coming together,

**But Mr. President,**

how can our partners expect us to invest in combating global warming when Israeli authorities ignores United Nations National Security Council decisions and allows itself to air raid Lebanese power plants, a hot spot of GHG emissions, three times in a span of less than one year. It is high time the world's community comes together to put an end to these uncivilised actions, in Lebanon, Palestine and other corners of the globe, which are a major threat to ecological sustainable development.

Lebanon believes that Clean Development Mechanism should be truly effective and operational in promoting long-term reductions of GHG emissions and sustainable ecological development, hoping that modalities and procedures be adopted as soon as possible.

We call upon the industrialized countries to fulfill their commitments towards their partners the less industrialised nations, so as to assist them in limiting their GHG emissions and in implementing response measures to adapt to Climate Change.

Finally, I would like to leave my highly distinguished environmental colleagues in this hall with the statement of prominent a German philosopher, who wrote,

*"Civilization Achieved  
Can Be Measured by the  
Degree To Which It  
Can Perform Maintenance"*

Lets try all together to maintain our commitments to future generations.

Globally Yours, Thank you.