

**PLENARY STATEMENT
BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

H.E. VLADIMIRS MAKAROV

**AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE
THE HAGUE, 13-24 NOVEMBER 2000**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this important session of the Conference of Parties and to convey the greetings and good wishes of the Republic of Latvia to our host country, the Government and the people of The Netherlands for hosting this Conference. Let me offer congratulations to you, Mr. President, and to your colleagues in Bureau for election. I extend my gratitude also to the Secretariat for the immense task of preparation.

Mr. President,

After regaining the independence, Latvia has been undergoing a processed approach towards the development of a market economy. This process is linked with integration into regional, international and European structures. Latvia is an associated member of EU and mobilizes all resources for prosperous integration into EU. The development of the national economy is program-oriented, and this process is successful in Latvia.

Latvia accomplished the obligations under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for the year 2000 and commenced preparatory work to implement commitments of Kyoto Protocol.

Latvia gained substantial experience during pilot phase for project-oriented activities. There are realised 26 projects since the beginning of Activities Implemented Jointly under the Pilot Phase. The projects of Activities Implemented Jointly are going on heat energy conservation in buildings, switching to the local energy resources particularly to the use of wood fuel, and improvement of separate waste collection and disposal system by recovery of biogas.

The implementation of the first project together with the Prototype Carbon Fund will be started soon. At the end of this year will be signed Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement with the Prototype Carbon Fund for Liepaja Solid Waste Management Project.

Elaboration of the national strategy for Joint Implementation is underway. The basic study is undertaken by support of the Government of the Netherlands. It is recognised that the majority of Joint Implementation projects will be small size. Therefore transaction costs for projects should be low, and guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol should be simple to the utmost.

Allocation of the share of proceeds is not acceptable for small-scale Joint Implementation projects because it will diminish the interest of project implementing companies to take part in JI (Joint Implementation) process. Latvia as Annex B country is interested to participate in the all flexibility mechanisms, but priority is given to the early start of Joint Implementation projects. Project-based mechanism entails environmental integrity and leads to real emission reduction. The projects should be economically attractive to the donor-countries, the managers and population of the host country in order to keep workable Joint Implementation system.

Mr. President,

Capacity building is of the highest importance in Latvia. We are aware that all Parties need strengthening of institutions and enhancement of capacity. But it is the major obstruction for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet commitments of Kyoto Protocol. The work for capacity building is started in my country. Few months ago we established the Environment Agency of Latvia. The Agency will be the main institution dealing with greenhouse gas emission inventory data and responsible for correct results. We have lot of educated experts but there are needs to perfect specific knowledge for climate change issues. Moreover we need financial support for establishment of a national system for the estimation of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases, for computerised national registry to account for and track changes in assigned amount, for unit of experts for preparation of annual greenhouse gas inventories, for elaboration of periodic national communications and realisation of Joint Implementation projects.

Mr. President,

I would like to encourage to explore the possibilities of co-operation in the field of climate change mitigation further and to wish the Conference all success.

Thank you, Mr. President.