

STATEMENT NO. 5: CHINA³

Today marks a memorable day in the history of the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The political agreement before us represents an important step in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Although every part of it might have some points which are unsatisfactory to some parties, it has created the conditions for the early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and will thus enable the Annex I Parties to take actions to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change. This political agreement also made it possible for the developed countries to support the developing countries in this regard, which represents a major breakthrough. In this connection we would like to welcome the political statements made by the European Community and by some of the other developed countries.

In order to reach this political agreement, all parties have exerted their utmost efforts in the negotiations, and the developing countries have also made some major sacrifices. This serves to demonstrate that, faced with political crises, the international community is able to overcome difficulties and hold to the correct orientation. History will show that all the efforts that we have made today will be rewarded in the future.

Mr. President, I will be as brief as possible so that you can have more time to take a rest. I know you have been working for at least 48 hours without any sleep, whereas we have been only working through the night. I think that, no matter how this political agreement will be evaluated, your leadership in the negotiations process and your unremitting efforts have made you a historical figure in this process. Your efforts in this process will be remembered.

³ The original statement was delivered in Chinese.