



Statement
by
Her Excellency Dr. Imren AYKUT
Minister of Environment
Republic of Turkey

Kyoto, 9 December 1997

HONORABLE MINISTERS, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU MR. PRESIDENT ON YOUR ELECTION FOR THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF PARTIES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT DURING YOUR ABLE TENURE OF OFFICE, THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ALL DELICATE ISSUES IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER.

MAY I ALSO EXPRESS, THROUGH YOU, THE SINCERE THANKS OF MY DELEGATION TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MR. MICHAEL ZAMMIT CUTAJAR AND THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE PREPARATION AND EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THIS MEETING.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR ITS GENEROUS HOSPITALITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AS WE ARE APPROACHING A NEW MILLENIUM, THE CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENT IS BECOMING AN UNITING FACTOR THAN EVER. IT PROVIDES A COMMON GOAL FOR ALL NATIONS, AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO COOPERATE ON THE BASIS OF A NEW SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY. IN LINE WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, TURKEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF GLOBAL COOPERATION, AND HAS ACCEDED TO ALL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION, VIENNA CONVENTION, AND MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

HOWEVER, AS STATED IN NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, TURKEY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DUE TO UNFAIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BURDENS, STEMMING FROM BEING INCLUDED IN BOTH ANNEXES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WOULD LIKE TO BRING A FEW REMARKABLE POINTS TO YOUR KIND ATTENTION:

- **TURKEY IS THE 80TH COUNTRY AMONG THE CARBONDIOXIDE EMITTERS ACCORDING TO PER CAPITA EMISSION INDICATORS IN 1995.**
- **AS IT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY FIGURES, CARBONDIOXIDE EMISSIONS PER CAPITA OF TURKEY IN 1995 IS,**
 - **ONE FOURTH OF THE OECD COUNTRIES,**
 - **ONE FOURTH OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES,**
 - **ONE EIGHT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND**
 - **HALF OF THE WORLD.**
- **FURTHERMORE, THE CARBONDIOXIDE EMISSIONS WOULD BE 20 PERCENT HIGHER IN 2010, IF TURKEY HAS NOT STARTED ANY EMISSION MITIGATION-POLICIES SINCE 1992 .**

IN THIS CONTEXT TURKEY MAKES A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BY HER BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION.

TURKEY IS STILL DEVELOPING AS FAR AS ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND INDUSTRIALIZATION NEEDS, AS WELL AS DEMANDS FOR RAPIDLY URBANIZING POPULATION ARE CONCERNED. THIS IS SO ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE WORLD BANK, UNDP AND ALSO BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

NEVERTHELESS, FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF MANKIND, AND THAT THIS SITUATION AFFECTS PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TURKEY HAS ALREADY INTRODUCED THE MEASURES ENVISAGED IN THE CONVENTION TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

STIPULATIONS OF THE CONVENTION FORESEE THAT COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON EQUITY AND FAIRNESS BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THESE STIPULATIONS ARE RIGHTFULLY INCORPORATED INTO THE CONVENTION TAKING DUE CONSIDERATION OF THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO SUSTAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THESE SHOULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO TURKEY.

TURKEY IS PREPARED TO DO ITS FAIR SHARE IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION. DELETION OF TURKEY FROM ANNEXES WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR LEGALLY INTEGRATING INTO GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE ASKING FOR THE VALUABLE SUPPORT OF ALL PARTIES FOR DELETION OF TURKEY FROM THE ANNEXES OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION.

ONLY SUCH AN OUTCOME WILL ALLOW TURKEY TO FULLY ACCEDE TO THE CONVENTION, AND TAKE ITS PROPER AND RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN THIS PROCESS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

TO CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THOSE PARTIES THAT HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD. I KINDLY REQUEST FURTHER SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTIES.

THANK YOU.