

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF MINES, ENVIRONMENT
AND TOURISM OF ZIMBABWE, HON. SIMON KHAYA MOYO
TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE
OF PARTIES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION:
9 DECEMBER 1997 KYOTO, JAPAN.**

CHAIRPERSON

HONOURABLE MINISTERS

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Chairperson,

Since the Convention on Climate Change came into force in 1994 little progress has been made towards the implementation of commitments under the convention by Annex 1 countries, particularly as regards the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000. In fact, some of these countries are ridiculously proposing the same target to be accomplished between year 2008 and 2012. If we are serious in addressing climate change we need to come up with more responsible and realistic

targets. I believe we are all serious on the issue of averting climate change and its devastating consequences. Having said this may I will briefly go over the main issues that should guide further implementation of the Convention. The principle of common but differentiated responsibility has been accepted in AGENDA 21 particularly on the issue of climate change. It is therefore important that Annex 1 countries should take a significant lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions according to their contributions to the global emissions.

The Berlin Mandate has defined the way forward in allowing these countries to take the lead in adopting targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and limitation. It is my hope that this goal of the Berlin mandate will be realised through the adoption of a Protocol with specific targets that make climate sense. The Berlin Mandate is also very clear on the issue that there should be no further commitments for developing country parties. Any attempt to force non-Annex 1 parties to pronounce quantified emission limitation and reduction targets will be going beyond the Berlin Mandate and cannot be acceptable to developing countries.

Again in defining policies and measures to limit, reduce, mitigate, and adapt to climate change impacts, the notion of common but differentiated responsibility should be the guiding principle. The reason for the need for such differentiation is that while developed countries should concentrate on reduction, limitation and mitigation measures, developing countries need to focus on sustained economic growth and adaptation measures. On the question of institutional mechanisms, we would like to see a very close and clear linkage between the Conference of Parties of the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol. This will ensure that the COP of the Convention can monitor and guide the implementation of the Protocol which is focused on implementation of the Convention.

I wish to urge the developed country parties to assist developing country parties in the implementation of the Convention through the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and financial resources. Zimbabwe has just completed its first national communication to the Convention which was presented on the second day of the Conference. Zimbabwe will need to develop a national action plan on greenhouse gas abatement, limitation and adaptation measures. We will therefore require assistance in terms of capacity

building and financial resources in order to achieve this goal. Mankind calls for such assistance.

Chairperson,

Let me conclude by saying to developed country parties that we do not only expect leadership from them but substantive leadership that will result in climate change abatement. You cannot have your cake and eat it. In the final analysis we need to strike a balance between what is realistic economically and what makes climate sense. If we are serious about reducing climate change then we need to make some trade-offs in the form of economic sacrifices. There does not seem to be a shortcut to solving this problem. The issue of climate change is certainly a question of life and death particularly for small island states and for Africa. I hope we will leave Kyoto with a Protocol with clear and meaningful targets that will enable us to reduce the likely impacts of climate change. The world demands that we *move* in such manner. The alternative is catastrophe and I am certain no country wishes to follow such path. Let us therefore capture the moment and do no less than humanity's expectation. Together we cannot fail.

I thank you.