

Statement by U Kyi Tun
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and
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COP-5, Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany
25 October to 5 November 1999

Mr. President, *Distinguished delegates, ladies & gentlemen.*

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, allow me ~~to join the previous speakers before me~~ to congratulate you on your election as President of COP-5. We are confident that under your wise guidance the meeting would be a success. I also wish to thank the host country, ~~the Federal Republic of Germany~~, for the warm hospitality accorded to us and for the good arrangement made for this important meeting.

Mr. President,

Let me at the outset, express our deep concern for the current extreme climate conditions that have been affecting a number of countries recently. In many parts of the world, weather patterns are constantly changing and local climate changes have become more apparent nowadays. ~~Floods or drought can occur at any place, at any time of the year.~~ All the extreme climate events occurring in many places around the world point to the fact that we must put extraordinary efforts to protect the people, our atmosphere and our environment.

Mr. President,

After some very intensive debate, the Berlin mandate which was adopted at COP1 in 1995 paved the way for further negotiation to strengthen the Climate Change Convention. The Kyoto Protocol adopted at COP3 in 1997, laid down targets and timetables for reduction of emissions of GHGs. We are all aware that the Kyoto deal was very timely which took shape amidst reports of continued deterioration in the state of the global environment.

We are glad to note that the Protocol for the first time in the evolving climate regime provided for legally binding emission commitments for Annex I parties. It is important for these countries to fulfill these mandated targets. The Kyoto deal, in effect was a step towards the acceptance of the principle of primary responsibility of the industrialized countries for global climate change. It is therefore necessary that Annex I countries should set an example by signing and ratifying the Protocol and in taking prompt follow-up action. For the developing countries to engage themselves in the healthy development of the climate regime, should be provided with an adequate financial support and technology transfer. This will no doubt increase their capacity building and contribute in their pursuit for sustainable development. Although the Buenos Aires Action Plan outlined the process for overcoming the difficulties to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, it is time to establish the rules on technology transfer. We believe that this important concern of developing countries should be given particular attention.

Mr. President,

Allow me to briefly mention the efforts Myanmar has been undertaking in respect to the Climate Change Convention. Myanmar is well aware of the threat of climate change and attaches great importance to the UNFCCC as well as to the Kyoto Protocol. As a developing country depending on weather for agricultural production, we are doing our best to stabilize the local climate. Forests cover fifty percent of the total land area in Myanmar. Nevertheless, we are planting millions of trees every year with aims to protect local climate change; to prevent soil erosion; to provide fuelwood for the rural population and to promote habitat and biodiversity.

[A large percentage of the population still have to rely on wood and charcoal for the main source of energy in Myanmar. In order to prevent depletion of forests including mangroves, the Government is making efforts to promote the use of biobriquette and coal briquette in place of fuelwood and charcoal. Low cost fuel-efficient stoves are also developed and distributed all over the country. Alternative energy such as solar and wind energy are gradually being introduced in the country.]

The greening project was launched in 1993 for 9 critical districts in the dry zone area in Myanmar. The project has now been extended to cover 13 districts and a Dry Zone Greening Department has also been set up to implement the greening programmes. Regarding the greenhouse gas emission, I wish to express that Myanmar's contribution to greenhouse gas concentration is insignificant. Because, the level of industrialization is still low and because the forest cover is high, the country provides an important sink for the greenhouse gas. The Government is now promoting cleaner production to prevent greenhouse gas emission, as the country is embarking on industrialization. ~~We welcome technical assistance, especially climate-friendly technology to support us in promoting cleaner production in the country.~~

Myanmar is also part of the "Asia Least Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy" a regional programme for Asia and the Pacific region, aimed at abating greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. President,

In concluding, we hope that various mechanisms stipulated in the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol would be able to control greenhouse gas emission and stabilize GHGs concentration in the atmosphere. Myanmar is ready to cooperate with all nations to combat climate change and protect the environment.

Thank you.