

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE HENRY MUGANWA
KAJURA, MINISTER FOR WATER, LANDS AND
ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON
BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP TO THE FOURTH
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE,
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA 12 NOVEMBER 1998.**

UGANDA'S STATEMENT TO THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 12 NOVEMBER 1998 ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP.

Madam President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all on behalf of the African Group and the Ugandan delegation, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Argentina for hosting this important conference, the excellent facilities at our disposal and above all the hospitality accorded to us.

As you are all aware, many of our African Governments, have been participating and will continue to participate actively in the activities of the multilateral environment agreements, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is primarily because of the fragile ecosystem of Africa and hence its vulnerability to climate variability and climate change.

Madam President,

Africa's contribution to the global greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions is negligible and is only about 3%. Despite the low level of emissions of ghgs Africa takes the climate change issues very seriously because the survival of our people depends on effective measures to mitigate ghg emissions. Recent events in Africa and other parts of the World, including the recent events in our sister countries in Latin America demonstrate this point. In view of this, Africa is committed to do its best to meet its commitments under the Convention and also to contribute to the ultimate objective of the Convention by taking a clean development path. However, Africa's efforts in this direction must be supported by developed country Parties through the implementation of their commitments under the various Articles of the Convention and in particular Article 4.5 on transfer of technology. I am informed that there is very little progress, if any, on implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention. This is very serious and We wish to call upon developed country Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention and in particular those under Article 4.5 without further delay.

Madam President,

Turning to the Kyoto Protocol, Africa views the clean development mechanism (CDM) as the only one at the moment which offers a window for sustainable development, namely, a clean development path for developing countries. Taking a clean development path offers an opportunity for developing country Parties to contribute to meeting the objective of the Convention. The CDM is a young child that needs to be nourished and because of this, issues such as equity, monitoring, verification,

certification and transparency need to be given serious consideration. It is extremely important, Madam President, that the *principle of equity and differentiated responsibilities* which are enshrined in the Convention must be the guiding principles in the design of the flexible mechanisms.

Madam President,

Information is an extremely powerful tool in any decision making process. The issue of climate change is surrounded by many scientific uncertainties such as the exact timing, location and intensity of the change. There is need for more work in this direction. However, I wish to add that overtime the systematic observations have deteriorated in quality and coverage. The problem is worse in the African region and it is in this connection that we wish to call upon this August gathering to formulate an immediate plan of action to address this problem.

Another problem which hinders effective participation of African Country Parties is the lack of capacity in various issues such as the flexible mechanisms, technology transfer and research and systematic observations. I am informed that relevant draft decisions have been prepared for our consideration. We, however, wish to call for the necessary political good will to ensure that the relevant decisions are translated into concrete actions.

Madam President,

I wish to conclude by giving an overview of Uganda's efforts in the implementation of the Convention. Uganda has carried out an Inventory of greenhouse gases as well as vulnerability and adaptation studies, and is in the process of preparing its initial communications. It is expected that our initial communications will be submitted by the end of the year 2000.

I thank you for your attention.