

BANGLADESH

10/12/2003 PM

Statement of the Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation to the First High level Segment Roundtable Session

Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency and we hope that under your dynamic leadership and skill in negotiation, COP 9 will meet success. My delegation would also like to express its confidence to the Co-Chairs H.E. Yuriko Koike of Japan and H.E. Mr. Tadashi Lomoto of Marshall Islands.

Mr. President,

As the most vulnerable country in the event of climate change, the Government and the people of Bangladesh is looking forward to see progress in this COP for a way forward in operationalization of the Marakkesh Accord.

Mr. President,

Before I go to the country context, my delegation would like to express its solidarity with the views and concerns expressed by Morocco as Group Coordinator for G 77 and China.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned seeing that Green House Gas Emissions in the major Annex-I countries are still on increase, which indicates that more stringent measures and policies are needed even by the Annex-I country Parties who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Failure to mitigate emissions has resulted in the need to increase adaptation measures in the developing countries, in particular for the LDCs including my country, Bangladesh.

Mr. President

We have undertaken our NAPA preparation and also trying to mainstream climate change in our poverty reduction strategies. We would therefore like to see that this COP adopts necessary decisions for operationalization of LDC Fund and Special Climate Change Fund in funding the implementation of NAPAs and in addressing climate change issues in poverty reduction programmers towards achieving sustainable development. In this context we would like to make it a point that there should be complimentarity between the LDC Fund and Special Climate Change Fund for LDCs, and we would like to see a bigger share is allocated for adaptation activities from Special Climate Change Fund.

Mr. President

We have already submitted our first National Communication, where we have prioritized our adaptation needs to enhance food security of millions of the poor and to support vulnerable people reducing their vulnerabilities to extreme weather events, increased flooding and sea level change in the low lying coastal zones, increasing salinity ingress that reduce livelihood opportunities and the drought situation in our northern region.

Mr. President

Although we are not bound in mitigation efforts but to respect the principle of differentiated responsibilities, we are doing our part on mitigation and we consider that the Clean Development Mechanism has opened potential opportunities for strengthening international cooperation, fostering capacity building in the developing countries and creating the significant incentive for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol hopefully by all the Parties.

We are happy to inform you Mr. President, and through you to the Parties that we have established Designated National Authority in Bangladesh for operationalization of CDM. We also have identified a few potential areas for initiating activities under the CDM regime. However, we are aware that there is a lack of institutional capacity within the country that hinders translation of our interest in CDM projects into action. We sincerely believe that our capacity to implement CDM projects need to be enhanced. We therefore require international support and facilitation to enhance capacity for both the national agencies and private sector to implement CDM'ble projects successfully.

Mr. President

I represent an LDC where millions of poor people are waiting for a positive outcome of this meeting. We tend to think we are, given our limited resource and utmost efforts, in the right track. We. However, would like to see that international community would do their part. We would certainly like to see that the Annex-I Country parties to the UNFCCC, as they have taken responsibilities in Rio would, once again do the needful and without wasting any more time ratify the Kyoto Protocol. We would also like to see modalities be developed so that countries like ours can draw resources and increase national capacities in addressing the threat of climate change in a comprehensive manner.

I thank you Mr. President for allowing us time to express our view points.