

5th plenary



**THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB
JAMAHIRIYA**

**THE STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF THE LIBYAN DELEGATION
AT
THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
OF THE UNITED NATION FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me, first of all, on behalf of the delegation of my country, to express my appreciation to the people and the Government of Argentina for their hospitality. May I also congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as president of the Conference, and wish you and your associates all success,

Madam President,

The nations of the world have gathered before in this continent under the UN flag in 1992 in order to consider a decisive moment in their history. They declared their determination to combat poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to reinforce the integration between development and environment. With this sense of firm and sincere determination, they agreed on a number of international instruments for the benefit of peoples of the world. Among which were Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and this Convention which is presently under our consideration.



My country participated in that historic event diligently and enthusiastically. Libya immediately signed the Bio-diversity Convention, followed by this Convention. That is because Libya is a developing country most of whose area is covered by desert. The remaining areas of which are threatened by desertification resulting from drought and water shortages. Its urban areas are centered on a limited narrow coastal strip where the population is concentrated causing high levels of pollution due to human activities. Its eco-system is weak. And Its economy is almost completely dependent on the income generating from the production, processing, consumption and export of crude oil and associated energy-intensive products. In addition to being a transit country for the center of Africa.

It is understandable therefore why my country hopes for combined international efforts to prevent the adverse effects that may arise from climate change in parallel with preventing the adverse effects induced by the implementation of response measures.

Madam president,

The sanctions imposed on my country as well as the technological boycott applied on us by some countries have led to a shortage of equipment, spare parts and technology required for operating, maintaining and developing oil fields, oil terminals, refineries, petrochemical complexes, power plants and other industrial facilities. These shortages have prevented our national experts from running these facilities in accordance with the environmental standards that satisfies us.

The economic sanctions imposed on the poor people of developing countries, Madam president, are the most harmful and destructive tools to the ecology, climate and sustainable development. They are in violation of Agenda 21, Rio Declaration, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Madam president,

Despite this, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is making every effort to take precautionary measures for anticipating climate change and mitigating its adverse effects. In this respect the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is making efforts to lower the levels of green house gas emissions in petroleum industry. We have constructed the Great Man-made River to counter possible Further water shortages resulting from climate change. A railway project extending along the coastal road to minimize emissions in transportation sector is now underway. A high-level National Committee for Climate Change composed of six Secretaries (Ministers) has been formed. We also have started preparation for capacity building in the field of climate and took the necessary steps to ratify the convention so that we may attend the Fifth Conference of the Parties, as a full member, having the full rights and obligations of developing countries.

Madam president,

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stresses the importance of continuing research and studies on the uncertainty of climate change forecasts, particularly with regard to the timing, magnitude and regional patterns thereof.

It should also be mentioned that the largest share of historical and current global greenhouse gas emissions has originated in developed countries, that average per capita emissions in developing countries are still very low and that the share of global greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries should be allowed to increase to satisfy their Socio-economic needs. In this respect, the Jamahiriya is concerned about the attempts by some parties aimed at limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries, which would hinder development process of the later.



My country believes that the time has come to take the necessary steps to implement Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 4 of the convention, consequently Paragraph 3 of Article 2, and Paragraph 14 of Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol. The failure to take such steps, or indeed delaying them, would do injustice to developing countries affected by climate change and by the implementation of the response measures in general, and to countries whose economy depends on revenues from exports of fossil fuels in particular. These countries are the most affected and the first to suffer.

My country demands the abolition of subsidies and tax incentives granted to certain sources of emissions in industrialized countries, and the reform of the tax system so as to reflect the carbon content of these energy sources. The Jamahiriya calls for taking practical steps to implement the provisions of the convention related to the transfer of technology, and to activating and accelerating the financial mechanism so that developing countries can fulfil their obligations under the convention, including its obligation towards sustainable development.

My country agrees with the position taken by the G-77 and China, the African group of nations and the Association of Small Island States, regarding the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. My country thinks that such mechanisms may allow countries with high emissions not to fulfil their obligations in their own territory, which may result in a lower reduction in total global emissions, than the level anticipated should every country fulfil its obligations within its territory. However, Libya does not deny that there are positive aspects in those mechanisms, especially those aspects that lead to enhancing sustainable development in developing countries. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to underline these aspects and see them reinforced.

Finally my country stresses the importance of achieving almost equal progress in all the issues before the COP.

Thank you, Madam president, for your attention.