

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
ARGENTINA, MS. MARIA JULIA ALSOGARAY  
TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE.**

MR. PRESIDENT:

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT FOR THE WARM WELCOME OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE HISTORIC CITY OF KYOTO TO THOSE WHO CONDUCT THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN OUR COUNTRIES.

MY DELEGATION IS PLEASED TO SEE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, CONDUCTING THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. WE ARE ALSO PROUD FOR THE COMMITTED WORK CARRIED OUT BY AMBASSADOR ESTRADA OYUELA .

I ALSO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR THE MAGNIFICENT ORGANIZATION OF THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

WE COME TO KYOTO MOVED BY A CONSTRUCTIVE WILL, READY TO ACHIEVE THE AGREEMENTS NEEDED TO ACT EFFICIENTLY AND AS SOON OUR NATIONAL

CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITS, TO CORRECT THE DAMAGES THAT THE HUMAN BEING HAS CAUSED TO THE ATMOSPHERE AND OUR PLANET.

THE MINISTERS OF THE ENVIROMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN OUR TENTH MEETING, HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN NOVEMBER 1996, HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN FOR THE NON COMPLIANCE OF COMMITMENTS BY ANNEX 1 PARTIES.

DURING THE LAST INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF OUR FORUM, HELD IN MEXICO LAST OCTOBER, WE ALSO DECIDED TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF QUANTIFIED EMISSIONS LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OBJECTIVES OF GREENHOUSE GASES NOT CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. WITHIN TIME FRAMES, AND TO DEFINE COMMON GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFINITON OF SINKS.

THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED ON OUR INTEREST TO CREATE STRONG LINKEAGES BETWEEN THIS CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTIONS ON DESERTIFICATION AND BIOLOGIOCAL DIVERSITY. IN THIS SENSE, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING A REFERENCE TO SOIL RECOVERING AS A SINK, IN THE DOCUMENTS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING.

IN RIO 1992, WE REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THE GLOBAL DIAGNOSIS, AND WE SETTLED OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THEM. FIVE YEARS LATER, THE WORLD IS WONDERING IF WE HAVE FAILED ON THE DIAGNOSIS OR THE STRATEGIES: OUR OPINION IS THAT THE STRATEGIES HAVE FAILED. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT

HAVE TO RESIGN THE RIO IDEALS, BUT TO MAKE A CHANGE IN THE STRATEGY.

UNDER THE TRADITIONAL FOCUS, THE WORLD WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS: ONE GROUP COMPRISED BY THE COUNTRIES HISTORICALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, AND THE OTHER ONE COMPRISED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE THAT CATEGORY OF GUILT BY THE SHEER FACT OF THEIR LACK OF DEVELOPMENT.

IN THAT SCENARIO, THE SO CONSIDERED "GUILTY" COUNTRIES BOUNDED THEMSELVES WITH COMMITMENTS THAT THEY COULD NOT ACHIEVE.

AFTER FIVE YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN THE FAILURE OF THE RIO GOALS, AND WE ARE TEMPTED TO REPLACE THEM WITH LESS AMBITIOUS ONES, BUT THESE WOULD BE UNACHIEVABLE ALSO IF WE DO NOT CHANGE THE STRATEGY.

ARGENTINA SINCERELY BELIEVES THAT THE PROBLEM WILL NOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS OF ALL OF US, AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THESE COMMITMENTS HAVE TO BE BINDING ONES.

WE ARE PROPOSING A SYSTEM BASED ON VOLUNTARY ACCESS AND BINDING COMPLIANCES.

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT COMMITMENTS HAVE TO BE DIFFERENCIATED AND CLEARLY ACCOUNTABLE, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE USE OF TOOLS LIKE THE ONES UNDER NEGOTIATIONS.

THESE TOOLS HAVE TO FACILITATE THE ACTION OF MARKET MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR IMPORTANT SOURCES OF TRANSFERENCE OF TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTMENTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF ONE NATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF ANOTHER ONE.

IN THIS WAY, THE OLD CONCEPT OF TRANSFERENCE OF TECHNOLOGIES BETWEEN STATES -THAT IS SHOWN AS ONE OF THE FAILURES OF THE AGREEMENTS OF RIO- WILL BE REPLACED BY A MORE EFFICIENT AND REALISTIC ONE.

THIS MECHANISM SHOULD ALLOW THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO DEFINE THEIR OWN WAY TO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT, AND TO SET ENERGY SOURCES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION PATTERNS, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN GOALS.

IN THIS WAY, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO IMPROVE NOT ONLY THE GLOBAL SITUATION, BUT ALSO THEIR PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY AND THE WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE. THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE ACCURATELY ACCOUNTED FOR. IN THAT WAY THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO DEVELOP WOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

THIS SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CURRENT EXPERIMENTAL REGIME WITHOUT CREDIT. BOTH MUST BE PROPERLY MIXED AT THE FINAL STAGE OF THE PILOT PHASE BY THE YEAR 2.000.

IN THIS MANNER, WE WILL INAUGURATE A NEW BASIS AND STARTING POINT THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FORMER MISTAKES, WILL PREVENT FUTURE FAILURES.

THIS, MR. PRESIDENT, WILL ALSO HELP TO RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ADOPTED MITIGATION POLICIES. IT MIGHT BE RECALLED THAT THE 1990 FIGURES GIVEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, CLEARLY SHOW THE EFFORTS MADE BY MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO AVOID THE GROWING PATTERNS THAT CARRIED THE CURRENT EMISSION LEVELS.

AS ONE OF THE NATIONS THAT ARE MAKING VOLUNTARY AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS, WE HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY PROPOSALS WHICH RECALL THE ADOPTION OF BINDING AND UNIFORM COMMITMENTS: NOT BECAUSE WE REJECT THEIR ASSUMPTION, BUT BECAUSE WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE TO BE ADOPTED ON A VOLUNTARY AND DIFFERENTIATED BASIS.

WE DO BELIEVE THAT WITH THE VOLUNTARY ACCESS, WE WILL GET BETTER RESULTS THAN ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY COMMITMENTS THROUGH STRONG DECLAMATIONS.

WHILE THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS REMAIN HARD THROUGH PROPOSALS CLEARLY UNACHIEVABLE, THE SMALL DEVELOPING ISLANDS STATES HAVE SUFFERED TREMENDOUS DAMAGES, AND THEIR PARTICULAR VULNERABILITY IS EVIDENT IN THE CASE OF INSISTING ON A WRONG STRATEGY.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO RATIFY OUR CONVICTION THAT THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF RIO ARE STILL ALIVE AND WE WISH TO MANTAIN THEM.

EVEN WHEN IT IS A REALITY THAT THE COMMITMENTS UNDER ART. 4.2 OF THE CONVENTION ARE NOT GOING TO BE FULLFILLED, THESE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE THE LIGHT OVER THE GLOBAL COMMITMENTS. THEY CAN SHOW US THAT WE HAVE MADE VERY LITTLE EFFORT AND HOW MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRES, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA, OUR DEEP GRATITUDE FOR THE CONFIDENCE GIVEN TO OUR COUNTRY FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, IN NOVEMBER 1998, IN OUR CAPITAL CITY OF BUENOS AIRES.

WE WILL RECEIVE YOU WITH THE TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY THAT WE GIVE TO OUR FRIENDS. WE ALSO HOPE THE NAME OF BUENOS AIRES IS PROPHETIC IN REPRESENTING AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THE PRESERVATION OF BUENOS AIRES (HEALTHY AIR) TO THE WORLD.

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT