

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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STATEMENT

of Mr. A.I. Bedritsky, Head of the delegation of the Russian Federation

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Adherence of the Russian Federation to strict implementation of the commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and on solving the global problem of change of our planet's climate has not a declarative but quite substantive character. It is confirmed by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission reduction by our country since 1990 until the present time by the volume of about 600 million tons of carbon. We expect that by 2000 this significant Russian contribution will increase up to 1 billion tons.

The constructive agreement to be reached in Kyoto on quantitative and other parameters on limitation and reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions for the period after 2000 can be only mutually acceptable, completely free from aspiration to unilateral advantages. Our compromise proposal to achieve just such an agreement is directed according to which the obligations of industrially developed Parties of the Convention till 2010 would be determined, preferably in tons of carbon dioxide, on the basis of their own proposals. In this case the cumulative figure for the Annex I Parties would indicate their real movement towards the achievement of the Convention objective. Course of discussion here shows that the approach offered by us does work for the success of this high forum defining the matter of its substance in the central question on reaching balanced quantitative obligations after Kyoto.

The other approach, brings first of all to the idea of differentiation only for "selected" some ones. Its supporters, as it is well known, have chosen for themselves an average reduction parameter of 15 percents, which according to our calculations based on their data turns to be 10 percents. Such a level is proposed as obligatory for all other Annex I Parties. But for Russia it would mean additional 530 million tons of carbon to proposed by us reduction of emissions for the period from 2000 till 2010. At the same time cumulative reduction of the entire EU emissions would be lower than that of Russia alone. And this is true under condition that EU emissions in the base year were 250 million tons higher than Russia's. It is clear that this "arithmetic" which ignores the real development of situation with emissions, softly speaking, suits the authors but not us.

The similar picture would have place in case of 5-percent reduction. The share of the European Union reduction constitutes then 246 million tons, while the Russian one would

exceed 700 million tons of carbon. And this disproportion is even increased by a number of other conditions, such as ignoring sinks and reservoirs, blocking of emission trading etc.

Meanwhile, both the Convention and Berlin Mandate unequivocally provide common but differentiated responsibility of the states clearly speaking about an opportunity and necessity of the taking into consideration of specific conditions and interests of each Party.

From these fundamental provisions, as we think, should proceed genuine partnership which should be oriented at its nature to equality, attentive attitude to alarms of one another. Only the honour cooperation and real partnership are capable in foreseeable future to attract developing countries to the process of reduction anthropogenic emissions by all participants of the Convention, to stabilize concentration of these gases in the atmosphere in global scale.

The realizations of the purposes of the Convention and the Protocol could help in promoting safe use of nuclear energy playing an important role in satisfaction of growing global demand for energy according to the recommendations of 1992 Conference on Environment and Development and also to results of Moscow Summit on Nuclear Safety.

To ensure that the Protocol works without failures there should be reflected reliably supplied equality, flexibility in all questions in it. In particular, it concerns to the restriction of the list of greenhouse gases by three of them, and also to the right of Annex I countries to choose independently technical policies and measures on emission reduction of greenhouse gases.

For Russia, as well as for other countries with economy in transition, the acceptance of the proposal on quantitative parameters and taking into consideration sinks factor would have major significance.

On our belief, any attempts to accept the Protocol roundabout consensus through voting procedure are destructive and unpromising. For Russia such approach to acceptance of the universal international document is unacceptable. In case of application of a procedure of voting the Russian Party will consider itself free from the obligations formulated in it and will not accept it.

Nevertheless the spirit of constructive cooperation and search for mutual compromises which prevails us in Kyoto to be sure that all Parties gathered here will do their job set up by Berlin Mandate and find solutions which are positive and convenient for mankind.

Seeking to assist to approaching of our common target here in Kyoto the Russian Federation declares its intention to turn the possibility to implement quantitative commitments to the Protocol into practical dimension jointly with all other countries whose interests are restrained by the concept of partial differentiation.

We are sure that the participants of the Third Conference of the Parties will have enough patience and wisdom to find mutually acceptable decisions approaching all of us to the achievement of our common purpose. To this we are obliged by the high responsibility of a task, Japanese hospitality and unicum nature of Kyoto.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.