

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
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**STATEMENT BY**

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**Madam President,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Mr. Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

**I, first of all, take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam President, on your appointment as President of the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**

**Also, on behalf of the President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Alhaji Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, I wish to thank the people of Argentina for the immense hospitality accorded my delegation since our arrival in Buenos Aires.**

**Madam President, by now, we know from the Assessment Reports produced by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that climate change is not an illusion but a hard reality.**

**You will recall, Madam President, that the Third Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention (COP 3), held in Kyoto, Japan, nearly a year ago, discussed the status of implementation of the Convention, in general and, in particular, gave birth to the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol should serve the purpose of enabling the Conference of the Parties to take concrete appropriate action on the implementation, for the period beyond the year 2000. The adverse effects of climate change are already being felt by all nations of the World, as exemplified by the recent climate-related events in**

**Central America; and it is no secret that the developed countries are responsible for the bulk of the emissions causing global warming. I join the other nations of the World in expressing, on behalf of the President of the Republic of The Gambia, our deepest sympathy to the affected nations.**

**Madam President, It is also indisputable that the developing , least developed and small island nations are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.**

**While Annex 1 Parties can mobilise the resources to combat the effects of climate change, non-Annex nations do not have access to such resources. In fact, the bulk of our developing countries can barely provide the basic needs of our people, on a sustained basis. Hence, Annex 1 Parties should , as a matter of urgency, honour their specific commitments to initiate domestic action to mitigate climate change and also pave the way for the review of their commitments under Article 4.2 (a) and (b) of the Convention.**

**Annex 1 Parties should also fulfil, without delay, their commitments under Article 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention. Furthermore, immediate action is required from Annex 1 Parties on practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of technology to non-Annex 1 countries.**

**Madam President,**

**Time is running out and we must accelerate the rate of implementation of the Convention. The Kyoto Protocol provides a unique opportunity for all Parties**

to collaborate meaningfully, as partners, to avert a worldwide catastrophe that can be precipitated by rapid global warming, if appropriate and fast action is not taken now.

The three flexibility mechanisms outlined in the Protocol: Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ), the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Emissions Trading, provide the means for the Annex 1/non-Annex 1 collaboration necessary to achieve rapid progress in the implementation of the Convention. Suffice it to say the CDM offers the greatest prospects for sustainable development for non-Annex 1 countries. The CDM, in Article 12 of the Protocol, is expected to assist non-Annex 1 Parties in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention, and to assist Annex 1 Parties in achieving compliance with their emission limitation and reduction objectives, under Article 3 of the Protocol.

However, for the CDM to achieve the desired objectives, it must be administered on an equitable basis, especially on the sharing of proceeds. An appropriate proportion of proceeds from CDM projects should be allocated to adaptation projects for developing countries. Furthermore, an adaptation fund should be built into each of the three mechanisms. Great emphasis should be laid on adaptation projects, as eligible for funding, based on vulnerability of individual countries to the adverse effects of climate change.

Capacity-building should be accorded very high priority within the Convention as well as in the CDM.

**Emissions reductions or avoidance and sustainable development should command equal attention in the CDM, and the objective of reducing or avoiding emissions should be construed as slowing down the increase in emissions from developing country Parties, not as achieving emissions reductions from current levels. The insignificant emissions levels of developing and least-developed nations, certainly, do not warrant an interpretation to the contrary.**

**Membership of the Executive Board of the CDM and the Multi-lateral Consultative Committee under Article 13 should be based on equitable geographical distribution, as practised in the UN system.**

**Finally, Madam President, my delegation believes that the role of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the interim operating entity for the financial mechanism, is crucial and that the present status of the Facility should , for now, be maintained, while its performance is reviewed on a regular basis. We also feel that GEF should fund national communications beyond the first round; and that it should finance the much-desired capacity-building for CDM, in non-Annex 1 nations, to facilitate a smooth start for the Mechanism in developing nations.**

**I thank you all for your kind attention**